

THOUGHTS

PROVERBS 4:23 (EXB)

*“Be careful what you think [Above all that you guard, protect your heart],
because your thoughts run your life...”*

**THE BOOK OF PROVERBS WAS WRITTEN...LIKE A FATHER GIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO A SON...
CONCERNING... KNOWLEDGE... WISDOM... DISCRETION... & UNDERSTANDING**

✚ ACCORDING TO MERRIAM/WEBSTER... “A THOUGHT” IS...
**THE ACTION OR PROCESS OF THINKING... REASONING POWER...
OR THE POWER TO IMAGINE!**

✚ NOTICE... THAT OUR “HUMAN THOUGHTS” ARE WHAT... DISTINGUISHES US FROM...
**ALL OTHER CREATED KINGDOMS... SUCH AS... THE ANIMAL KINGDOM...
THE FOWL KINGDOM... THE AQUATIC KINGDOM... & THE INSECT KINGDOM**

✚ OUR ABILITY TO
**MAKE CONSCIOUS CHOICES... BASED ON OUR REASONING POWER...
MAKES US... GOD-LIKE AND UNIQUE!**

✚ IN GENESIS 1:27-28... SCRIPTURE CONFIRMS THIS STATEMENT... MOSES WROTE...
*“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female
created He them (Like Himself). ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful,
and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the
sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”*
(THIS IS REFERRED TO AS THE “IMAGO DE” ... OR THE IMAGE OF GOD WITHIN MAN!)

✚ IN GENESIS 2:7... WE READ THAT...
*“...The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life; and man became a living soul (or a living... Mind, Will, & Emotion).”*
(OUR HUMAN SOUL... MAKES US UNIQUE)

✚ I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT... WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING... COMES...
GREAT RESPONSIBILITY... AS TO WHAT WE DO WITH OUR MINDS!

✚ IN LUKE 12:48b (NLT)... JESUS MADE A POWERFUL STATEMENT... HE SAID...
*“When someone has been given much, much will be required in return;
and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”*

✚ NOW, WE UNDERSTAND THAT...

**WHEN A PERSON TURNS AWAY FROM THIS WORLD
AND DECIDES TO FOLLOW JESUS... THAT DECISION IS MADE WITH THEIR MIND...
IT'S CALLED "REPENTANCE OR A RADICAL CHANGE OF MIND"**

✚ AS A MATTER OF FACT... MUCH OUR EARLY CHRISTIAN WALK SHOULD BE...
FOCUSED ON THE RENOVATING OF OUR MINDS!

✚ IN ROMANS 12:1-2 (NLT)... THE APOSTLE PAUL STATED...

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

IN 1 CORINTHIANS 2:15-16 (AMP)... THE APOSTLE PAUL GIVES US HOPE... BY STATING...

"But the spiritual man [the spiritually mature Christian] judges all things [questions, examines and applies what the Holy Spirit reveals], yet is himself judged by no one [the unbeliever cannot judge and understand the believer's spiritual nature]. ¹⁶ For who has known the mind and purposes of the Lord, so as to instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ [to be guided by His thoughts and purposes]."

WE MUST REMEMBER FOUR THINGS ABOUT OUR THOUGHTS:

1) Our Thoughts will... CONTROL OUR DESTINY.

✚ IN ROMANS 8:6-8 (NLT)... PAUL SAID...

"So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature (or natural mind) is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature (natural mind) can never please God."

✚ THIS IS WHY PAUL SAID... IN PROVERBS 4:23 (EXB) OF OUR SCRIPTURE TEXT...

*"Be careful what you think [Above all that you guard, protect your heart],
because your thoughts run your life..."*

2) Our Thoughts are... NOT SIN, BUT CAN BECOME SIN.

✚ IN 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 (NLT)... PAUL REMINDS US THAT...

"We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ."

3) Our Thoughts will... EVENTULLY SURFACE THROUGH OUR SPEECH.

✚ IN LUKE 6:43-45 (AMP)... JESUS DECLARED...

“For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. 44 For each tree is known and identified by its own fruit. For figs are not picked from thorn bushes, nor is a cluster of grapes picked from a briar bush. 45 The [intrinsicly] good man produces what is good and honorable and moral out of the good treasure [stored] in his heart; and the [intrinsicly] evil man produces what is wicked and depraved out of the evil [...heart]; for his mouth speaks from the overflow of his heart.”

✚ THE GREEK LEXICON DEFINES THIS WORD “HEART” AS...

THE SOUL OR MIND, AS IT IS THE FOUNTAIN AND SEAT OF THE THOUGHTS... PASSIONS... DESIRES... APPETITES... AFFECTIONS... PURPOSES... & ENDEAVOURS

✚ DR. JOHN MAXWELL SAID...

BE CAREFUL OF YOUR THOUGHTS.. THEY MAY BREAK INTO WORDS AT ANYTIME!

4) Our Thoughts are... NEVER HIDDEN FROM GOD.

✚ NOTICE WHAT THE WRITER OF HEBREWS 4:12-13 (NLT) STATED...

“For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the one to whom we are accountable.”

4 THINGS THAT WILL NEGATIVELY OR POSITIVELY AFFECT OUR THOUGHT LIFE:

- 1) THE BOOKS WE READ... Will affect our thought life.
- 2) THE MUSIC WE LISTEN TO... Will affect our thought life.
- 3) THE ENTERTAINMENT WE INDULGE IN... Will affect our thought life.
- 4) THE COMPANY WE KEEP... Will affect our thought life.

✚ IN PHILIPPIANS 4:6-8 (NLT)... PAUL GIVES SOME SOUND ADVICE... WHEN HE SAYS...

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. 8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

