

Philippians 4:4-8 "Rejoice in the Lord **alway**: and again I say, Rejoice.

5. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (God tells us how to think!)

Romans 12:2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The mind is the seat of our free moral agency! Our ability to choose (free moral agency) was given to us because God's spiritual law is that we must choose our own destiny! (God will not choose for us.) It was so with the first man, Adam, and is still so today.

Adam knowingly and willfully chose his own destiny. He chose to sin and he fell from fellowship with God. But God's grace was offered to him and he accepted it. We were born lost, but God offers us grace to be redeemed! A man can accept it, or reject it. It is our decision.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? "CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT BY WHAT WE THINK"

By C. W. Wood

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Speaking about DECISIONS, we have not understood the drastic importance of controlling what we think! Truth is, it is a matter of life or death! Would you say that is important? God has ordained that we make up our own mind about what we choose to believe. Then we will always receive, or reap, a harvest from the way (or the one) we have believed! We have to choose to believe God's Word, or else believe the Devil's lies. God always leaves it up to us: we must choose! Let me show that to you in the Scripture:

Deut. 30:14-19, "But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

15. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16. In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18. I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death,

blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:"

How glorious a thing is God's Gift of Free Moral Agency to us! Any person on Earth can simply choose to believe God's promises and be saved, healed and filled with the Holy Ghost and go in the Rapture (only believe). God will honor our choice! Can we understand this powerful fact? We can choose our own destiny! We can choose Salvation and Eternal Life, or Eternal Separation. We can choose health, or sickness and death. We can choose poverty or all needs met by our Lord.

We can choose to love and serve the one true God, or we can choose to worship money and what it can buy. No man can serve God and mammon at the same time. We can choose to be popular with the world and the religious church world, or despised with God's chosen few.

Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

16. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods."

1 Chronicles 21:11, "And the Lord said unto Gad, David's seer, saying,

10. Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three things: **choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.**

11. So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, **Choose thee...."**

Heb. 11:24-25, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25. **Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"**

Psalm 119:30-31, "I have **chosen** the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

31. I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O Lord, put me not to shame."

Luke 10:42, "But one thing is needful: and Mary hath **chosen** that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

And so, what are you choosing to think about?

WRONG THOUGHTS

"If I only had the right surroundings." – (The Steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.) (Ps. 37:23)

"Nothing ever goes right for me." – It's not our circumstances, but our attitude toward them. The right mental attitude will bring to pass all of God's promises.

"You never know what the future holds." (God's plan for us is good and not evil.) Jerem. 29:11

"God is very far from me." – But how could this be when we have the Holy Ghost? He is in us.

"If only my family and children would get saved." – (The Seed of the righteous shall be saved.) (Pro. 11:21) The prayers of the righteous people availeth much." (James 5:16)

"I must not be growing in the Spirit. I feel so unspiritual." – (I will cause you to grow up as calves in a stall.) (Mal. 4:2)

Our text scriptures are talking about our mind, and telling us that we must bring our thoughts under subjection to God's Word (His thoughts).

QUOTE: GREATEST BATTLE EVER FOUGHT, PAGE 13-14, "Now, don't get-miss this! When this great battle started on Earth, there had to be a mutual meeting place; there had to be a place selected for the battle to begin, and for the battle to rage; and that battle-grounds begin in the human mind. There's where the battle starts. The human mind was chosen for the place of the battle, where it was to begin; and that is, because that decisions are made from the mind, the head.

Now, they never started it from some organization; they never started it from some mechanical affair; the grounds never started there; therefore, that organization can never, never do the work of God, because the battle-grounds, where you've got to meet your enemy, is in the mind. You've got to make your choice. It meets you.

I want this little girl here that's very sick to be sure to listen now to this real closely.

Decisions are made in the mind, the head. There's where Satan meets you. And the decisions are, because that God made a man that way. Now I have... If you was looking on my note here, a little map drawn out. I had it here not long ago on—used on the board.

Inside of the body is a soul, and that soul is controlled by imagination, conscience, memory, reasons, and affections; that's the thing that controls the soul. But the spirit it only has one sense—the spirit. Oh, let's get it! The spirit has one sense, and that sense is—either dominates it, is faith or doubt! That's exactly. And there's only one avenue to it, that's free moral agency. You can accept doubt or you can accept faith, either one you want to work on." (End of quote)

Free moral agency is the key. We were not made robots; we must decide to believe Satan's lies, or God's Word!

God makes us choose. He made the angels in Heaven choose.

Pro. 4:23, "Keep thy heart (mind) with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life." The heart is the center of a man...the will, the mind, the control tower! The heart (the mind) is what controls the issues (the things that happen to us).

So, God says, "Watch what goes on in your mind with all diligence...because what you THINK will be turned into words, and wrong words become facts in our lives. On the other hand, words that say what God says also become facts in our lives (in the form of blessings).

Let's look at the book of Job for a few minutes. There are some things in that book that are hard to understand! God said in Chpt. 1 that Job was, "Perfect and upright, and one that feared God." What did God mean by that statement? Did He mean that Job was above any sin? No! Only one man (Jesus) was above all sin!

I John 1:8, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

So, Job was perfect in his heart, because he desired to be like God his Father! But he had a flesh body in whose members was "a law of sin." (Rom. 7:23) We know that Job had a secret fear. Job 3:25, "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me." Job had been worried about his family (It is wrong to worry about our unsaved family.) Prov. 11:21, "The seed of the righteous shall be saved." Job acted right by offering up sacrifices for his family, but apparently he was still worried about them!

Do we understand that God looks at our worry as a sin? It is unbeliev! Why? Because it is the opposite of faith, and the Scripture says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." (Heb. 11:6)

To apply Job 3:25 to our lesson, Job had been having some wrong thoughts about his lost family. This is his testi-

mony! He had been *afraid* of what might happen to them, and to him. This fear (fearful thoughts) confirms our teaching in Pro. 23:7, “As a man **thinketh within, so is he.**”

Job 3:25, “For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of has come unto me.”

QUOTE: FROM HEALING THOUGHTS BOOK, “But what does it take to believe? It begins with a thought. The mind is a battle ground where Satan strives to dominate the human spirit by sowing seeds of doubt and fear. The only way to win this battle is by taking the Word of God into our minds and hearts, thereby, “**bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**” (II Cor. 10:5) When we allow nothing but the Word of God to correct and control our thoughts, then His thoughts will become our thoughts.

His thoughts will bring confidence.

His thoughts will ignite our faith, and drive away all fear.

His thoughts will create in us a spirit of believing that will overcome all uncertainty.

When God's thoughts become a reality in the heart of a believer, the Spirit of God can be manifested. He challenges us to take Him at His Word. “...ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

God always keeps His promises.” (End of quote)

Look at II Corth. 10:3-5, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

Look at this Word in your Bible! The Holy Ghost saying, “We must con-

trol our thought life! Casting out every thought that comes that is contrary to God's thought (God's Word).

We have often heard it said, “I can't control my thoughts! I have wrong thoughts, and I can't control them!” That is the teaching of demon spirits. The Scripture we just read commands us to cast out wrong thoughts!

Question—did God tell us to do something that we can not do? No! He tells us how to get rid of all our wrong thoughts. We do it by opening our mouth and quoting God's Holy Word. We replace wrong thoughts with scriptural truths. It will not be easy at first! We will have to break life-long habits of accepting wrong thoughts and then speaking them.

Those people that deal with the mind tell us that our lives can be turned around in a period of 30-40 days by the changing of our life-long ways of thinking. The Bible teaches that this is true. We must bring our thought into captivity.

QUOTE: GREATEST BATTLE EVER FOUGHT, PAGE 16, “It can't be artificial; it's got to be real. And there's only—one avenue that that can come down, and that's by the way of free moral agency, come into the soul by your thoughts. “As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. If you say to this mountain ‘Move’ and don't doubt in your heart, but believe that what you have said will come to pass; you can have what you said.” You get it? There you are. See? There's the battle ground.

If you'd only get that started first.” (End of quote)

QUOTE: GREATEST BATTLE, PAGE 17, “It must be accepted in the mind, then it's believed with the heart; then the Word of God becomes a reality; then every senses of soul and body is just scoured out with the Holy Spirit. Then you're sense of God; you're conscience of God; everything that's godly flows through you. There's not a doubt anywhere. There's nothing can rise up.” (End of quote)

QUOTE: GREATEST BATTLE, PAGE 20, “Your mind either opens up and accepts God's Word as not being a lie, or it rejects the Spirit of God.” (End of quote)

QUOTE: GREATEST BATTLE, PAGE 22, “Listen, it can battle against you, but it can't get to you unless you accept it (in your mind).

Let's look at some more wrong thoughts we have that bring wrong things into our lives.

WRONG THOUGHTS

“I can't.” (We can do all things through Christ...) (Phil 4:13)

“I am so worried.” (Take no thought for your life.) (Matt 6:25)

“It's not working for me.” (He that trusteth in the Lord shall never be deserted.) (Ps. 32:10)

“There is nothing I can do about my situation. There is just no way.” (I am the way, and the truth and the Life.) (John 14:6)

“I am afraid to get my hopes up.” (That they might see their hope in God.) (Psalms 78:7)

“God must be angry with me.” (Nothing can separate us from the love of God.) (Rom. 8:38-39)

“I just can't hold it together.” (I can do all things through Christ.) (Phil. 3:14)

“I am so dissatisfied with my circumstances.” (The Joy of the Lord is my strength.) (Neh. 8:10)

We change from the inside out! Not from the outside in. It is from inside our mind that we change and there is no other way. We must win the battle of the mind. Worry is a habit formed in the mind that actually brings to pass the things we worry about! As we exchange our wrong thoughts for the thoughts from God's Word, then we will find ourselves changing from the inside out. The way we think controls every aspect (part) of our lives. This is a revelation! But not many people have seen this. But in these last hours God is

giving His Bride this revelation. It is so exciting to really know that we can change our lives from one of defeat to victory, by simply changing the way we think, then speak.

Pro. 16:27, "An ungodly man (one who thinks wrong is not God-like) diggeth up evil, and in his lips there is a burning fire."

Before we can speak wrong, we have to first think wrong.

Pro. 12:18, "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is health."

Pro. 4:10, "Hear, O my son, and receive My sayings (into your mind and heart) and the years of thy life shall be many."

Pro. 18:7, "A fool's mouth is his destruction (talking wrong will kill us) and his lips are the snare of his soul"

The Scripture telling us over and over that we are going to speak the wrong thought that we think. So we must break the evil habit of thinking wrong. We are perhaps all wrong to certain degrees, but thanks be to God, we can change our minds by putting His Word into it.

Pro. 18:20-21, "A man's belly shall (have to be) satisfied with the fruit (words) of his mouth.

21. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it (love to talk) shall eat the fruit thereof." (You will get whatever your mouth testifies to!)

Prov. 21:23, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue (and speaks right) keepeth his soul from trouble.

Prov. 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart (mind), so is he."

This is a spiritual law of God! It will always work, either for good, or evil.

QUOTE: GREATEST BATTLE, PAGE 25, "The greatest battle ever fought, she's going on right in here now (yes, sir!) between life and death, between sickness and health, between faith and doubt (oh, my!), between liberty and bondage. The battle is on. Shine your spears, soldiers, polish up the armor.

God's getting His soldiers ready. Amen! God anoints His army. America dresses their soldiers in the best that they can have to dress with, steel helmets, and armors, and whatever they

got, armored tanks, and whatever they go in. God dresses His army. Hallelujah! What kind of equipment do we use? The Spirit of the Sword, the Word of God. Amen! The Word of God's sharper than a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4), piercing even to the asunder of the bone, even to the -marrow of the bone, even a -the discerner of the thoughts of the mind, the Word of God. To believe His Word, and that's the way God armors.

That's what He give Eve to arm herself with, and she broke her armor down. How'd she do it? By opening up her mind to reason. You don't reason with God's Word." (End of quote)

And so, our question, "What do you think?" is a vitally important question! To think right, we must think according to God's thoughts, which are recorded in His Word. Thoughts contrary to God's Word are wrong thoughts, and must be cast out. We cast them out by replacing them with God's thoughts (His Word). We think and speak what has already been written. Amen!

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