

Thought Life: What Are You Thinking About?

Are we sinfully thinking?

·Even after conversations, small group, sermons, and community we still discover that our thoughtful thinking is still stuck on sinful thinking.

God renews our mind.

²*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2*

When we are saved God gives us a new spirit but that doesn't mean that we are instantly mature in the Lord.

·Development of Godly Character will continue for the rest of our lives.

We use our mind and our will every day:

·We think about something » develop an attitude towards the thought » our thoughts and attitude together produce an emotional response » then we act out our thought.
·God has created us in such a way that our actions follow our thoughts.

What's inside?

-The way we think is the way we are.

Proverbs 23:6-7

⁶ *Do not eat the food of a stingy man,
do not crave his delicacies;
⁷ for he is the kind of man
who is always thinking about the cost.
"Eat and drink," he says to you,
but his heart is not with you.*

On the outside we can seem to be Holy and Righteous but the true test of where your heart lies is where your thoughts are.

Getting stuck in a thoughtful routine

The failure to discipline the mind will ultimately produce bondage to bad habits both in thought and action.

·The wrong thoughts we entertain over a period of time become easier to dwell on.

Behind every action, there is a thought.

Matthew 5:27-28

²⁷*You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'*²⁸*But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

-To God even the thought of committing sin is already considered sin.

·Letting your minds go the wrong way will lead your life to go the wrong way.

He knows what you're thinking.

⁹*"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. 1 Chronicles 28:9*

¹¹ *The LORD knows the thoughts of man;
he knows that they are futile. Psalms 94:11*

- Our thoughts can either be a source of joy or source of grief to God.
- What kinds of feelings are **YOU** producing in your Father's heart?

Why worry?

³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
Matthew 6:34

Fears of worry and doubt are enemies of Faith and will hinder spiritual growth.

³³*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33*

- The Kingdom of God is a worthy subject for your thoughts - worry is not.

Careful what you listen to.

- The input our mind receives does affect us, even though we might not realize it at the time.
- The mind is like a sponge.
- Whatever the sponge absorbs will come out when it's squeezed

The mind and the temptation that comes with it.

¹⁴*but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death James 1:14-15*

During temptation there is always time to stop and think about the consequence of giving into self or God.

Satan is smart enough to tempt us where we're susceptible. Because Satan isn't a creator but rather an exploiter, he can only use something which already exists and twist its proper use.

- Unresolved sin allows a place for the enemy to place his footholds.

There should be a three-fold response to sin:

1. Submit to God [**James 4:7a**] by responding to His conviction of sin.
2. Resist the devil [**James 4:7b**] by taking authority over him

⁷*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7*

3. Flee temptation and pursue righteousness

¹¹*But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11*

²²*Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22*

You cannot flee from what you still hold in your mind. You can't just make your mind go blank or fight against the thought.

- Instead you have to replace those thoughts with thoughts that will edify and lift your soul towards God. (ex: worship song, prayer, bible verse, etc.)

Discipline

⁸*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8*

-Dilute the past and cover it with God's word

²⁶*to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, Ephesians 5:26*

-Primary way to discipline our mind is by learning to focus our thoughts on God.

¹³*Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:13*

²*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2*

USE YOUR WEAPON!

The bottom line is this: There's a battle for our minds, and we cannot be passive spectators assuming that God will take care of it all - while we do nothing. God is already doing His part to convict, expose, and bring healing.

·He has committed Himself to bring us victory if we will follow His instructions. It is now time for us to wage aggressive action.

-God's word gives us no excuse for not developing a renewed mind.

⁵*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5*

-God gives us all the weapons we need to win the battle in our minds, but the weapons are rendered useless unless they are used!

-Victory can be accomplished if we will simply give ourselves to God's Word and His Spirit.

·**God is more than able to overcome the enemy's tactics against us.**