

# What We Think Is A Matter Of Life Or Death

When the Word of our Creator God, the Christian Bible, speaks about the mind it is referring to the whole personality, our will, moral responses, sympathies, what we set our affection on and what we think and meditate on.

**Genesis 6:5** [King James] *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

When God saw the wickedness of the human beings He had created, He saw more than what was visible by human beings, God saw their thoughts.

**Psalms 139:1-4** [NIV] *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.”*

King David knew well this ability that the Creator God has.

From these scriptures alone we may properly gather that sin has its seat deep within the mind where it pollutes the desires and purposes of the human being, referred to as the “heart” in New Testament scriptures.

**Matthew 15:18-19** [NIV] *“But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean’. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”*

It is significant that when Jesus Christ describes the flow of sin, that it began with the thoughts.

**James 1:13-15** [NIV] *“When tempted, no-one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”*

It is doubtful if any sin is committed until it is incubated in the thoughts long enough to stir the feelings and predispose the will towards the sinful act.

Even sudden flashes of anger are the end product of a person who broods habitually over wrongs and insults they have experienced.

**Psalms 36:4** [Amplified Bible] *“He [the wicked man] plans wrongdoing on his bed, he sets himself in a way that is not good, he does not reject or despise evil.”*

The beginning of evil is in the thoughts the person has in their mind.

An antidote to this chain of thoughts has been ignored, [v1] there was no fear of God in their mind to counter this process into evil action.

**Psalms 4:4** [Amplified Bible] *“Be angry [or stand in awe] and sin not, commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be silent [sorry for the things you say in your heart]. Selah [pause and calmly think of that].”*

As a result of this process we can avoid Satan’s influence.

**Ephesians 4:26-27** [NIV] *“In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”*

To go to sleep angry or planning to take revenge is to open up our mind to Satan who will fill it with rebellious thoughts.

What can this all mean but that moral conduct, good or bad, originates deep within our mind.

**Luke 12:16-21** [NIV] *“And he told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.” “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ ‘But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.”’”*

**The action that this rich fool took was the result of the course his thoughts took** *“he thought to himself.”*

**Proverbs 4:20-27** [King James] *“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.”*

**Godly wisdom is to ensure that our thoughts always proceed any action we take and every path we walk in life.**

**Psalms 119:59-64** [King James] *“I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law. At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.”*

The psalmist gives us all very good advice, even repentance must begin with deep reverent thought.

It is plain that the prodigal son thought things over very seriously before he could get consent of his will to humble himself and say, *“I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto Him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before You.”* [Luke 15:11-32]

**It is a happy paradox that while the thoughts we have deeply affect the will, and go far to determine its choices, the will on the other hand has the power to control our thoughts.**

**Philippians 4:8** [NIV] *“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.”*

A will firmly engaged with God and His Word, the Christian Bible, can influence the way we think.

If we select the things on which we meditate, we can in the end sway our whole inner life in the direction of righteousness.

It is much more important that we think Godly thoughts and will to fulfil what we have been commissioned to do by our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ than to just feel *“spiritual.”*

Religious feelings may and do vary greatly from person to person, and even in the same person one day to another. So much so that they cannot be trusted.

Let us by a determined act of will and faith set our affections on things above and God will do the rest.

**Colossians 3:1-10** [NIV] *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”*

The safest and after a while the happiest person is the one who has *“set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.”*