

**Daily God Walk**

**The Christ Walk**

**Thoughts**

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International  
Version (NIV). All other translations used will be credited  
using these abbreviations:

(KJV) – King James Version  
(NKJV) – New King James Version  
(NASB) – New American Standard Bible  
(NAB) – New American Bible  
(NRSV) – New Revised Standard Version  
(RNT) – Rheims New Testament  
(TLB) – The Living Bible  
(TM) – The Message  
(AMP) – The Amplified Bible

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## **Our theme for the Daily God Walk - The Christ Walk devotional is “Thoughts”**

Thoughts are the seedbed for all that we are and all that we have. Virtually everything we understand and all that we accomplish first began as a thought.

Our heart and our mind are intrinsically intertwined with our thoughts. We will be looking at some scripture that include those as well as other references to our life which involved thoughts and thinking.

Proverbs tells us “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). All actions begin with a thought and all feelings, or emotions, begin as a thought. Those things we think about become the things we believe and the things we believe are what we become. As we think so we become.

This promises to be an enjoyable month as we look at the subject of thoughts.

You can get more information, or just explore our materials by going to the website: [www.dailygodwalk.org](http://www.dailygodwalk.org)

Day One

## *God's Been Thinking About Us*

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. - Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

Imagine that. God is thinking about us humans. We should never think that God doesn't know us or that he doesn't think about us. He does. His whole plan since the fall of Adam and Eve has been to restore us to right standing with him and to reestablish the close relationship he had with man before sin entered into the human race.

The entire record given us in the Bible is of God's attempts to bring man into relationship with him. This particular passage is referring to the time that God would restore the Jews to their homeland, but the promise extends to all who will call out to him. God has been thinking about how to bless us.

In the very next verse God says, "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will find me when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you," declares the Lord.

The Hebrew word translated, "think" literally means to devise a scheme or plan. It refers to cunning imagination; the ability to develop thoughts with purpose, or simply to think upon. The reason that is important to us is because his thinking about us drives him to come up with a plan for us.

The word translated "thoughts" actually means a plan. In fact in the NIV this verse reads, "For I know the plans I have for you." God says, "I've been thinking about you and your situation and I have come up with a plan."

What kind of a plan does he have for us? "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God's plan for us is to listen to us when we call and to respond to our hearts cry with a firm hope for a blessed future.

**Prayer:** Lord, it is easy to get discouraged when I look at my present circumstances. Help to learn to call upon you with my whole heart and to realize that your plans for me include a secure future. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** What kind of a plan does he have for us? "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God's plan for us is to listen to us when we call and to respond to our hearts cry with a firm hope for a blessed future.

**Affirmation:** I know that God has a plan to bless and prosper me and I have purposed to listen carefully as he speaks to me instructions which will guide me in releasing those blessings.

**Reflection:** Give some thought to the idea that God thinks about us and has come up with a plan for our life. That should make you feel pretty special. Now, here is a question: If God has been thinking about you and has a plan for you, then shouldn't you pursue him to discover how to unfold that plan? Think of some ways you can discover and unfold God's plan for you.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Two

## *God's Thoughts Are Higher Than Ours*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” - Isaiah 55:8-9

Have you ever wondered about the kind of thoughts God has? We can be assured that his thoughts are on a different plane than ours because his perspective is so different than ours. God thinks in terms of the eternal and we think in terms of the temporal.

I remember a time many years ago that I visited Chicago. Now, Chicago is a huge city and when you are down on the streets you can't see much. Tall buildings obscure the skyline and people are everywhere.

While in Chicago I visited the Sears building. That building has an observation area that is over 100 stories above ground level. That is over 1000 feet. From that observation deck you can see for miles. From that perspective there is an entirely different view of the city.

God is telling us in this passage that he sees from a different perspective than we do and that his thoughts are from his view point not ours. When he thinks about us he does so being able to see the whole picture, not the view we have that is obscured by everything around us at ground level.

That is why we should trust God, even when we aren't so sure about the future. We make the best choices we can based on the knowledge we have, but God's knowledge of the situation is much more complete than ours because he view it from a better view point.

We must remember that his ways are higher than ours and that his thoughts are from a much better position than ours. When we keep that in mind it is much easier to trust him.

**Prayer:** Lord, when I look at my circumstances from ground level I become fearful for my future. Grant me the grace to trust you and give me eyes to see what you see. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** God sees from a different perspective than we do and that his thoughts are from his view point not ours. When he thinks about us he does so being able to see the whole picture, not the view we have that is obscured by everything around us at ground level.

**Affirmation:** I am committed to seeking God for his view of my life and my future because his view is from a higher perspective than mine.

**Reflection:** God views our life from the perspective of eternity and we view it from the perspective of our limited knowledge. How does that make God's perspective better than ours?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Three

## *We Need God to Think of Us*

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The Lord be exalted!" Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer, O my God, do not delay.

- Psalm 40:16-17

We are all victims of the human condition. On one hand we are aware of the glory of the Lord and his salvation, and we praise God for his goodness; on the other hand we are very aware of our present need.

In this psalm David is praising God for his deliverance, but he is also addressing his continued need for God's help. He begins this psalm with, "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry." David knew the God of deliverance, and he seemed too often get himself into situations where he needed deliverance.

David continues to reminisce about God's help in his life. He writes, "He lifted me out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God" (v2-3). He goes on to speak of God's faithfulness, love and truth. Then he appeals to that love: "Do not withhold your mercy from me, O Lord; may your love and your truth always protect me" (v11).

He goes on to declare that, "Troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see... Be pleased, O Lord, to save me." It is in this state of contrite calling upon the name of the Lord that he cries, "Lord, think of me."

This is familiar territory to all of us. We acknowledge the grace of God, his love, truth and mercy; it is to those attributes



that we appeal as we cry, "Lord, think of me." When we are overwhelmed by our humanness and we are aware of our need for divine intervention we agree with David, "I am poor and needy, may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer. O my God, do not delay."

**Prayer:** It's me again Lord, and I need you to think of me. Remember me in my humanness and delivery me from my sin. Don't delay Lord, I need your grace today. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** When we are overwhelmed by our humanness and we are aware of our need for divine intervention we agree with David, "I am poor and needy, may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer. O my God, do not delay."

**Affirmation:** When I am overwhelmed by life I cry out to God, "Lord, think of me" - and he does.

**Reflection:** God has deliverance for us because he is thinking of our situation, but he desires that we should call upon him as a sign of our trust in him. Reflect on how David shows his trust in God as he writes this psalm. It would be good to record your thoughts as you consider how David responds to his troubles.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Four

## *Futility of Human Reason*

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. - Ephesians 4:17

Chapter four of Ephesians calls for peace and unity in the body of Christ then gives instructions on how to accomplish that. He speaks of spiritual leadership which has the purpose of equipping believers to serve so that the body of Christ can be built up and grow to maturity.

To accomplish the goal of unity, peace and maturity believers must have the right way of thinking. In fact, Paul, in this passage insists that believers follow a different path of thought than the unbelievers. He says, "You must no longer [think] like unbelievers think because their thoughts are empty and futile."

Over the past couple of years I have looked at several of the major religions of the world including Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism. I found a few commonalities among them. They all agree that mankind is messed up and needs to be reformed. And, each of them, as does Christianity, has a solution to the problem, but here is where Christianity is different.

Every major religion teaches a moral code as a standard to reach toward, but Christianity is the only one which tells the truth: Man cannot reach this standard of righteousness on his own. Every religion teaches a code of conduct and a way of thinking that is supposed to enlighten one and transform them into a holy person, but we know the truth.

Friends, we who have come to know Christ as Lord know that it is futile and empty thinking to believe that we can change our corrupt nature by our own means. We have come to know that it is only by the grace of God and through faith

in Christ alone that our inner man can be changed. As Paul has said, “We live, move and have our being in Christ” (Acts 17:8). True inner holiness comes only through faith in Christ.

**Prayer:** Lord, every time I try to change my inner person using human reasons and methods I fail. Grant me the grace to trust Christ alone to live a righteous and holy life. Amen.

**Message:** Every major religion teaches a moral code as a standard to reach toward, but Christianity is the only one which tells the truth: Man cannot reach this standard of righteousness on his own.

**Affirmation:** I have learned that I cannot be righteous on my own and that is why I have accepted the righteousness of Christ. I know that it is only through faith in Christ that I am made righteous.

**Reflection:** Give some thought to the idea that when we try to be holy, or righteous on our own we fail, but when we are trusting in Christ for his righteousness we can live the life he calls us to live. Think on how you do that.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Five

## *Man is Enemy to God In His Mind*

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior - Colossians 1:21

It all started in the Garden of Eden. God had created a paradise for Adam and Eve and he gave them only one rule. They weren't allowed to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Everything was peaceful in the garden. There was no sin, no brokenness, and no evil.

The problem was in the way God created man. You see, God could have created man without the ability to think, plan or devise schemes. He could have created man with only the ability to be obedient and to serve at his whim. If we were God we probably would have done that because we like being served.

God didn't want mankind to serve him because he had no other choice, but he wanted to create an environment that would show man his love and God's hope was that man would return that love, receive his favor, and honor his gift of life.

With the entire garden at their disposal Adam and Eve were intrigued by the thing they could not have. The tempter saw their interest and appeared before them one day and began to talk to them about a new way to think.

The serpent got them to thinking about the reason God didn't want them to have knowledge of good and evil. He made it sound like God was afraid that if they knew what he knew they would then be like him.

In that line of thinking a new god was born. This new god, born in the mind of man, became the object of worship for every person who has lived since. This god is enemy to the Lord God and has alienated man from God.

Who is this god? It is the god of ego, self will - it is the god in our own mind which says, "I am as god. I am the master of my own destiny. I don't need another god."

Only through Christ can our alienation from God be resolved his mind become our mind.

**Prayer:** Lord, Give me the desire to submit my mind to you and Grant me the grace of having your mind. Amen.

**Message:** Man has created a god in his own mind. It is the god of ego, self will - it is the god in our own mind which says, "I am as god. I am the master of my own destiny. I don't need another god." Only Through Christ can we put aside our own god and begin to trust the Lord God.

**Affirmation:** My little god, ego, does not have the ability to fill me with peace or righteousness. It only serves to alienate me from the Lord God. That is why I have submitted ego to the Lord God and called Christ to be Lord of my life.

**Reflection:** Have you thought about why it is that the mind of man is enemy to the mind of God? Do some research in Scripture and record your findings then meditate on it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Six

## *Man is Enemy to God In His Mind Part Two*

The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. - Romans 8:7

We've got a serious problem. We are born with the god of ego in control of our life that has alienated us from God. Even though we try to do good the god inside us draws us into selfish behavior.

Some folks might feel that calling our ego, or self-will a god is a little extreme, but is it? What was the true temptation in the garden? It was this: "God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God" (Genesis 3:5).

The fall of man was very similar to the fall of Lucifer. This angel of God, created to be in the presence of God forever, became deceived by his own mind. He said, "I will raise my throne above the stars of God... I will make myself like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14).

Lucifer, this arch deceiver, who knew that nothing or no one could replace the Lord God, was still fighting that battle when God placed Adam and Eve in the garden. His goal was to turn man against God and thereby get his revenge against God.

It was no casual temptation that the serpent offered Eve that day. It was a great battle in the war of the universe. The question to be settled: Who would be god - the Lord God or man?

When Eve looked at the fruit and "saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it" (Genesis 3:6), she went down the same road Lucifer had gone before.

The mind of Adam and Eve, created in innocence, was now polluted with the knowledge not only of good but of evil. They had entered the battle and they were on the wrong side.

The mind of man was now in competition with God. Since that time man has attempted to find a way to be his own god, but has failed in every way. We can only find God by surrendering the god of our mind to the God of creation. Only then will we find the peace God intended man to have.

**Prayer:** God, I have realized that in my natural state I am at war with you. That is not your fault, it is mine. My mind fights against your will. Grant me the gift of having your mind. In Jesus name. Amen.

**Message:** Since the time of Adam and Eve mankind has attempted to find a way to be his own god but has failed in every way. We can only find God by surrendering the god of our mind to the God of creation. Only then will we find the peace God intended man to have.

**Affirmation:** I have found God, and he is not me. Ego has been dethroned and Christ is now on the throne of my life.

**Reflection:** Scripture, and experience, has made it clear that in our own mind we are at war with God. We seek our will and our way and want God to approve it. Do you understand how all of this began? What similarities are there between the fall of Lucifer and the fall of man? Think about it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Seven

## *Man Walks After His Own Imaginations*

All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations.

- Isaiah 65:2

Isaiah is prophesying about Israel and her relationship to the God who had called them to be a separate people. He begins this passage by reminding them that they did not seek him but he sought them.

The history of Israel parallels the journey all of us seem to take as we are developing a faith to live by.

God says through Isaiah, “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’” God was reminded them that it was his choice to call them to serve him.

Every one of us who have come to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior know what it is to be pursued by the Holy Spirit. It begins with our lives being darkened by sin and our hearts are for our own desires with no regard for him. Then he begins to call us to himself.

The Holy Spirit begins to convict us of our lifestyle and we begin to be uncomfortable with who we have become. Then at some point it is like we heard someone knocking at the door of our heart and we open it to find Him waiting there to come in and give us comfort.

That is the way it should happen, but unfortunately, too many of us are like Israel. God said, “All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations.”



Aren't you glad that he stood at the door of our heart and knocked until we opened? And when we opened the door he changed our heart and our mind so that our imaginings were no longer about our desires but his desires.

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for continuing to knock at the door of my willful heart until I opened it and invited you in. Amen.

**Message:** God said, "All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations." He is waiting for people to humble themselves, take his hand, and follow him rather than their own imaginations.

**Affirmation:** I have realized that my own ways are not the way to release God's blessing therefore I have chosen to take His hand and let him guide me into his way.

**Reflection:** The problem Israel had is the same problem all of us face. We tend to get sidetracked and begin following our own vain imaginations. Give some thought to how you can stay focused on following Him and not get drawn away by your own imaginations and "good ideas" that are not God's ideas.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Eight

## *Man's thoughts lead to Excusing Himself*

With the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.

- Romans 2:15 (KJV)

Have you heard of self-talk? That is what we all do when we are thinking of ourselves in a given situation. Much of our self-talk is innocuous like, "I wonder if this shirt goes with these pants." Other self talk can be limiting to us, like when we see two friends whispering and we think, "I wonder what they are saying about me."

Can you remember a time when you may have done something wrong and you thought, "If I am caught I will just tell them that I (fill in the blank)." I think most of us have had that kind of self-talk.

This passage is referring to people who know to do right but who justify, or excuse their actions through their own thoughts, or self-talk. I remember a time when I was dealing with a very persistent sin in my life. After a long time of dealing with my inability to live above that sin I finally reasoned in my mind, "Well, everyone sins a little bit and this is just my sin."

My classic self-justifying thought was, "Everyone has their cross to bear and this sin is just my cross to bear." I don't really think I'm the only one to think that way, you have probably had your bouts of self-justification too. Probably the most common is, "Everyone is doing it."

The problem with excusing ourselves is that we are not the one to do the excusing or justifying. The scriptures teach that we are justified through faith and that is the only way we have peace with God.

The next time you feel like self-talking yourself into believing that you are excused from questionable behavior just remember that you aren't the one who does the excusing. God is.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me not to try to excuse my own behavior with self-justifying thoughts. Grant me the grace of forgiveness and the strength to walk consistently before you. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** The problem with excusing ourselves is that we are not the one to do the excusing or justifying. The scriptures teach that we are justified through faith and that is the only way we have peace with God.

**Affirmation:** There is no excuse for sinful behavior but I can be justified by faith in the righteousness of Christ. I am now justified through faith in Christ and I have peace with God.

**Reflection:** Have you ever found yourself making excuses for the things you do? I think we all have. It is easy to talk ourselves into justifying our behavior because only we know what is really going on inside us. Give some thought to the way "self-talk" influences our behavior and how we can properly direct self-talk.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Nine

## *Futile Thinking Leads to Darkened Hearts*

Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. - Romans 1:21

The more we try to deny the glory of God and think of ourselves as being the master of our destiny, the darker our hearts become. When we deny God his rightful place in our life the best we can do is what can be done in our limited abilities as humans.

I know a young man who is often depressed over the circumstances of his life. He has been unemployed for a long time and has no prospects of getting a job. He has no true friends and the friends he has he found at a local bar.

I have talked with him many times about turning to God and allowing him to guide his life. He complains about having no friends and I encourage him to find a church that has people his age and he'll be certain to find friends there. Yet, he continues to seek solace in the same places that have always disappointed him.

Why is it that way with so many? Paul said their foolish hearts have been darkened by their futile, or empty, thinking. Turning from God leaves one empty and nothing one tries to do will fill that emptiness until they turn back to God.

All of us have doubting thoughts on occasion, but many of us have learned how to deal with those errant thoughts. We must be convinced that Christ the Lord is sovereign and that he is the only one worthy of praise and worship. Once we have settled that issue doubting thoughts are not nearly as distracting.

We must guard our hearts and take captive every thought that argues against the truth of God (2 Corinthians 10:5). We

must realize that to entertain those thoughts is to bring darkness to our hearts.

Let us purpose to think God-thoughts and to glorify him with thanksgiving and praise. Let us not turn to our own devices but rather continually turn to the only one worthy of our hearts.

**Prayer:** Lord, it is so easy to begin thinking doubting thoughts and to fail in giving you glory and praise. Help me to stay focused on your majesty and to receive your grace. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** We must guard our hearts and take captive every thought that argues against the truth of God (2 Corinthians 10:5). We must realize that to entertain those thoughts is to bring darkness to our hearts.

**Affirmation:** Thoughts generated by human desire lead to a darkened heart. Therefore, I will take captive every errant thought and make it obedient to the truth of God.

**Reflection:** There are two core values related to consistently living the Christ life mentioned in this devotion. They are guarding our heart and taking captive every thought that argues against the truth of God. Give some careful thought to what this means to you personally and record one or two action steps toward growing in those areas.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Ten

## *The Wicked Don't Think of God*

In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak who are caught in the schemes he devises. He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord. In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. - Psalm 10:2-4

I know a young man who is very unhappy. In fact he seems a good deal depressed most of the time. All of his thoughts are about himself and how he can gain an advantage with others.

If this man hears that someone has come into some money he will think they should spend it on him. He is not married and is constantly thinking of his next girlfriend, not in terms of what he can do for her but in terms of what she can do for him.

I have talked with him about his unhappiness and he wants to blame everyone else for his state of being. I once suggested that he use some of his time to volunteer for a worthy cause and invest himself in others. His response was, "Here we go again..."

That is the kind of person the psalmist is writing about. The sad thing is that this person cannot see that they are their own worst enemy. They are so self absorbed that they cannot think of anyone except in terms of how they can use them.

The psalmist writes, "in all his thoughts there is no room for God." What a tragedy. The Sovereign God of the universe offers himself to all who will come humbly and give themselves to him in faith, but they can't see it.

I remember an old revival song from my childhood. Some of the words are these; I went there to fight, but oh my that night, something got a hold of me." God can get a hold of the most difficult people.

Do you know someone who is like the young man I described? Take heart, God can surely get a hold of them. Our job is to love them and continue to bring the opportunity of knowing Christ before them while we pray passionately for God's intervention.

**Prayer:** Lord, I pray that your Spirit will deal with the heart of those we love who are not serving you. Convict them of their waywardness and bring them to faith in Christ. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** Our job is to love the difficult ones in our life and continue to bring the opportunity of knowing Christ before them while we pray passionately for God's intervention.

**Affirmation:** I will continue to pray passionately for those in my life who are resistant to God and I will continue to bring before them the opportunity to accept the Christ Life.

**Reflection:** Some of the most unhappy people I know are the ones who are continually seeking happiness. That seems to be a paradox, and it is. Seeking pleasure and expecting that to bring happiness is a mistake. If happiness is not found by seeking it, how then does one become happy? Think on that and when you come up with some solutions record them and devise some action steps to implement those solutions.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Eleven

*Spirit Controlled Mind  
Produces Peace and Life*

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. - Romans 8:6

What is it in the mind of man that leads him to death? Allow me a little speculation. Man, in his fallen state, is the anti-thesis to God. That is, man is everything God isn't. Man is concerned for himself, God is concerned for others. Man will lie, cheat and steal in order to get ahead; God will sacrifice even his own son so that man can have abundant life.

Can you see the picture? Man lives in a temporal world and his thought processes are guided by temporal thinking; God is eternal and all about him is eternal and his thought processes are guided by eternal values.

The fall of man began with thoughts that were contrary to God thoughts. God said, "Don't eat the forbidden fruit!" But man said, "It sure looks good, I wonder what it tastes like." God said, "Eat the fruit and you die." Man thought, "God just doesn't want me to know what God knows because he doesn't want me to be like him."

Those thoughts are not unique to man in the garden. Man thinks that way today. The natural man, the Bible calls him the "carnal" man, or the man of the flesh, still tries to be a god using the powers of his own mind. Through reason and logic he seeks to master his world.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "What the mind of man can conceive he can achieve." That is not a new thought. Genesis records a group who tried to build a tower up to heaven and in response to them God said, "Nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them" (Genesis 11:6).



If that is true why didn't man succeed? Because God had other plans. Why are people striving for life and peace today and not finding it? Because man's way always falls short of what God offers. Only through the Holy Spirit can man achieve lasting life and peace.

**Prayer:** Lord, I thank you for allowing me to see that your way is better than my way. Keep me on the right road. Amen.

**Message:** People are striving for life and peace today and not finding it. Why? Because man's way always falls short of what God offers. Only through the Holy Spirit can man achieve lasting life and peace.

**Affirmation:** I want peace and happiness in my life and I know that can only be achieved by pursuing God and allowing Holy Spirit to grace my heart with his peace.

**Reflection:** This devotion gives some examples of how the thinking of the natural man and God are different. Can you see that in the lives of some people you know? What about in your own life? Do you sometimes find yourself thinking about how things affect yourself rather than how others are affected? Give some thought to how you might be more consistent in having God thoughts and develop some action steps around that.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twelve

## *Faithful Works Produce Faithful Thoughts*

All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established. – Proverbs 16:3 (KJV)

Every once in a while we come across someone who thinks so highly of themselves that they feel they can do no wrong. We sometimes say of those people, “They are a legend in their own mind.” Why does that happen? Our scripture text for today answers that question, “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes.”

Man weighs things differently than God. The typical person will weigh his life on a balance scale and will try to keep the “good” side just a little stronger than the “bad” side. Thus, his conclusion about himself is something like this: “That’s not so bad, look at what so and so did.”

There are a few among us who have the ability to live a very moral and upright life; at least it appears that way. They have the discipline and self control to always act in such a manner that others can look at them and say, “They are a real jewel.”

That may be the way other people read them, but God’s measure of a person does not end with their actions, God measures people by their spirit, or inner person. What kind of thoughts go on in their heads? What motivates them to prove to their value to the world? God knows those things.

This passage in the NIV reads this way: “All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.” God seems to be telling us that having the right motive produces right thinking and right thinking produces right living.

God is not calling us to act righteously, he is calling us to be righteous. And we can be righteous by committing our ways to the Lord and allowing him to instill the right motivation in our hearts and that will produce right thinking.

**Prayer:** Lord, help not to act righteous to impress others, but by your grace make me righteous on the inside. Establish my thoughts in righteousness. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** “All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed” (Proverbs 116:3 NIV) God seems to be telling us that having the right motive produces right thinking and right thinking produces right living.

**Affirmation:** I consistently ask God to cleanse my heart so that my thoughts are God thoughts coming from a pure heart. I know that right thinking produces right living.

**Reflection:** Most of us have many plans for our family, our life, our work and our relationships. The question all followers of Christ should ask themselves is this: "Are my plans a reflection of God's plan for my life, or are they simply my plans without regarding what God desires?" Think about it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Thirteen

## *We Have the Mind of Christ*

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 2:16

This passage is rich with the concept of "God Thoughts" becoming our thoughts. Paul tells us that a man's thoughts are only known by the one who thinks them and God is that way also. God's thoughts are known only to him, but there is a difference; God has chosen to reveal his thoughts to man.

In the verses just before these we are considering Paul writes, "We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him," but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit."

God chose to give us his mind, the mind of Christ so that his thoughts become our thoughts and as long as we allow the

mind of Christ to rule in our mind we will think God thoughts.

Thinking God thoughts is good because his thoughts lead to life and peace.

**Prayer:** God, help me fully submit my will to you so that you can instill in me the mind of Christ. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** God chose to give us his mind, the mind of Christ so that his thoughts become our thoughts and as long as we allow the mind of Christ to rule in our mind we will think God thoughts.

**Affirmation:** I have chosen to allow the mind of Christ to rule in my mind so that my thoughts will be God thoughts.

**Reflection:** The Scripture passage for today reveals that man's thoughts are not God's thoughts. It also reveals that God will give his thoughts to followers of Christ. This passage is rich with concepts about receiving thoughts from God. As you reflect on this passage ask yourself how you can influenced more by God thoughts. Develop some action steps to help you do that.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Fourteen

## *Think Like Christ Thought*

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose... Your attitude [mind or thoughts] should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. – Philippians 2:5

Unity is often a theme in Paul's writings. To the Romans he writes, "Do not think more highly of yourselves than you ought." He writes that in the context of each member of the body being different, but necessary, for healthy existence and that we should honor each member.

Paul writes to the Ephesians, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." To the Corinthians he writes, "I appeal to you brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

If Paul had to appeal for unity to all of the churches he addresses, it would appear that the issues which divided people in that day weren't much different than today.

At the core of strife and broken relationships is the attitude that I am going to get my way because I am right! Paul was addressing that very thing in our passage for today. He calls the body of Christ into unity with the same love and the same purpose. How are we going to achieve that?

The answer is in verse five, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What was the attitude of Christ? He did not consider his position in heaven (v6) as important as his mission which was to be obedient to the will of the Father (v8), even unto death.

If we all served a higher purpose as did Christ we would not have any attitude problems. Something to think about.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to be committed to being united with the body of Christ in love and purpose. In Jesus name, amen.

**Message:** Christ did not consider his position in heaven (v6) as important as his mission, which was to be obedient to the will of the Father (v8), even unto death. If we all served a higher purpose, as did Christ, we would not have any attitude problems.

**Affirmation:** Having the same attitude as Christ is a core value I hold. Therefore, I purpose to think thoughts which promote serving a higher purpose.

**Reflection:** It is easy to say that we want to have the mind of Christ, but it is much harder to do. To have the same mind as Christ in this matter we must surrender all our personal goals and ambitions and submit completely to the will of the Father. If you were to do that what would change in your life? Give some careful thought to that question then consider what action steps you would take to change those things in your life.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Fifteen

## *Looking Forward Thoughts*

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. - Philippians 3:15 (KJV)

The Apostle Paul had learned the secret to being perfect in Christ, and he gives us the formula for perfection in Philippians three. He begins in verse 12 by declaring that he is not perfect but he is pressing on toward Christ.

In verse 13 he explains the process by which he pursues Christ. He writes, "One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." That is the simple formula for perfection.

Let me break it down for you. First, he realizes he is not perfect. In fact he has this whole load of yesterday's failures to prove he is not perfect. But, he has learned a secret. He doesn't have to carry yesterday's load today. So he puts his yesterdays behind him where they belong and forgets them.

He doesn't just put away yesterday and leave a hole in his life but he replaces those failures with a new purpose. He said that he presses on toward the prize that is ahead. His secret to being perfect today is not looking at the imperfect days of the past but looking toward the perfect prize that is in Christ Jesus.

When we follow the simple steps of putting away our past imperfections and get a focus on the future in Christ and press toward the prize God has offered, something spiritual happens. Suddenly we are, in that moment, perfect. We remain perfect as long as we continue to walk with our mind and thoughts focused on Christ and the prize God has offered us. Focus on the prize.



So, how is it with you? How was your yesterday? Do you have some nagging thoughts about your past performance? Put those things behind you! Forget them. Quit looking back and look forward to the prize for which God has called us heavenward - then go for it!

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to keep my eyes and my mind on the prize.

**Message:** When we follow the simple steps of putting away our past imperfections and focus on the future in Christ and press toward the prize God has offered, something spiritual happens. Suddenly we are, in that moment, perfect. We remain perfect as long as we continue to walk with our mind and thoughts focused on Christ and the prize God offered us.

**Affirmation:** I am perfect in this moment because I have put my past behind me and have gotten a focus on the prize before me.

**Reflection:** Perfection is God's plan for all of us, but it can only happen within us as we surrender our past, both the good and the bad, and focus on the Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future God has planned for us. Think about how you will become perfect minded and begin to take steps toward being perfect in the moment.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Sixteen

## *Focus Your Thoughts on Jesus*

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. – Hebrews 3:1

When we are first converted it is not hard to keep our minds focused on Jesus. Our relationship with him is fresh and he is constantly on our minds. Then the realities of the world around us begin to crowd into our thought processes.

In time our mind begins to become entangled with such thoughts as jobs, insurance, home, family, entertainment; the list is long. Most of these things are good, but they all must be kept in perspective. It is certainly a good thing to think of how we can care for our family, but we must see our family and their needs through our commitment to Christ.

A few years ago someone come up with the idea of making bracelets with the letters WWJD on them. WWJD stands for, “What would Jesus do.” In a way that question is saying the same thing as our passage. When we have our minds focused on Jesus then our thoughts are going be, “What would Jesus do,” or maybe, “How will this affect my relationship with Jesus?”

Paul was writing to the church at Colossae and penned these words, “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” (Colossians 3:1-2).

In the Colossian passage Paul is contrasting having our minds and hearts fixed on heavenly, or eternal, things with having our minds and hearts fixed on earthly, or temporal things.

The message is clear. We cannot have our minds, hearts and thoughts fixed on the world and Christ at the same time. We must remember that Christ is always there, but he will not push his way in. The world on the other hand, because we are flesh and our flesh is of this world, is constantly pulling us toward it. That is why we must fix our thoughts on Christ.

**Prayer:** Lord, it is so easy to let my mind be entertained by the things of this world. Help me to fix my mind on Jesus. Amen.

**Principle:** We cannot have our minds, hearts and thoughts fixed on the world and Christ at the same time. We must remember that Christ is always there, but he will not push his way in. The world on the other hand, because we are flesh and our flesh is of this world, is constantly pulling us toward it. That is why we must fix our thoughts on Christ.

**Affirmation:** It is only through knowing God, through faith in Christ and the power of Holy Spirit that I can be who God has ordained me to be. That is why I fix my thoughts on Jesus.

**Reflection:** It is very easy to get side tracked by the world and loose our focus on Jesus. In this devotion we are instructed to fix our thoughts on Jesus. Think of some practical steps you can take to do just that.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Seventeen

## *Right Thinking Produces Right Living*

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

- Joshua 1:8

God had given to Israel, through Moses, a pattern of living that would release the blessing of heaven upon them. When God gave Israel the law it was not to give them a burden to bear but rather to show them a lifestyle that would make them prosperous and successful.

When we look carefully at the Law given to Moses we learn some interesting things. I have found that the law is really about respect. That's right, respect. When we respect God, his creation, each other, and ourselves as being created in God's image, we then will have fulfilled the law.

There are laws about how we are to treat the earth and the creatures which roam the earth. There are laws about how to be in right relationship with our neighbors and even our enemies. If we simply followed the common sense instructions God has given us our earth would be constantly replenished, there would be no cause for war and we would be at peace with God as well as man.

That is why God told Joshua to constantly keep the law in his mind. Continue to think about it and talk about it. Daily meditate upon it. In Deuteronomy six Moses tells the people to keep the law constantly before their eyes. He said to tie them as symbols on their hands, and bind them on their foreheads; write them on the door frames of their houses (v8).

God knew the principle that the things we think about become the things we do. When we fill our thoughts and

imaginations with God thoughts we will begin to live as God intended us to live. When we live as God intended for us to live we will be prosperous and successful. I think we should give it a try, what do you think?

**Prayer:** God, grant me the grace of being able to make the commitment to meditate upon your ways and to ever keep thoughts of you in my mind. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** When we fill our thoughts and imaginations with God thoughts we will begin to live as God intended us to live. When we live as God intended for us to live we will be prosperous and successful.

**Affirmation:** I daily work to fill my mind with God thoughts so that my life will become a reflection of His life and my will become the reflection of his will.

**Reflection:** We have made the God given law such a mountain to climb that we have missed the whole point in God giving. The law is God answering the question, "How do I live a blessed life?" And he gives some simple instruction based on the principle of respect. Think that through and record your thoughts.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Eighteen

## *Purge Your Thoughts of Anger*

In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah - Psalm 4:4

I have a friend who is chronically homeless. He isn't homeless because he can't find work, in fact, he lived with us for about a year and he had at least five jobs during that time. He would get a job and work about two or three weeks then he would have an explosion of anger and get fired or just walk off the job.

Here is a man whose life is controlled by anger. You know what the crazy thing is? He is angry at his father that he hasn't even seen in about 30 years. He doesn't even know if his father is dead or alive, but he is still angry with him.

He has kept careful record in his mind of the bad things his father did to him. His most commonly repeated story is the time his father locked him out of the house for three days in the winter. He not only tells that story to whoever will listen but it is a tape which plays over and over in his mind.

I have talked with him many times about forgiving his father and moving on with his life, but he won't even consider it. Not only did this man's father control his youth, now, from the grave, he controls his senior years.

David writes, "In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent." He is talking about getting a hold of our thought life. When we are in our bed we should examine our heart to see what kind of thoughts have gotten put there throughout the day.

Do you spend time thinking about the wrongs others have done to you? Do you think about things you wish would happen to them? Maybe you even think what you would do to them if you were sure no one would ever find out.

This passage is calling us to consider the things that have made us angry and wash them out of our heart through prayer and forgiveness. The other person may never acknowledge your forgiveness but at least you will get a good nights sleep.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to not allow angry thoughts to dominate my thinking. Give me the grace to forgive and let go. Amen.

**Principle:** This passage is calling us to consider the things that have made us angry and wash them out of our heart through prayer and forgiveness. The other person may never acknowledge your forgiveness but at least you will get a good nights sleep.

**Affirmation:** I have chosen to not carry the burden of anger toward another. I will do my best to be reconciled and I will move on without harboring ill feelings.

**Reflection:** Continuing anger flows from unforgiveness. It is not wrong to become angry, but it is wrong to not resolve the anger. Think about anyone you might be angry with; a friend, a spouse, a co-worker and even yourself. Anger is nothing more than carrying the burden of unforgiveness for a perceived wrong and it only hurts the angry person. Think about it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Nineteen

## *A Willing Mind Toward God*

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.

- 1 Chronicles 28:9-10

David, the king of Israel, wanted to build a temple for God. It would be a house where God would place his name, and a place where people would come to worship the Lord Jehovah. But God would not allow it. He told David that he had blood on his hands and was not qualified to build Him a house.

In this passage David is passing his hope for the temple of God on to his son. He is challenging Solomon to follow wholly after God so that he would be found worthy to build a temple for God. It is in this context that David is instructing Solomon knowing that God knows the motives and thoughts of man.

We should take notice that God never intended for man to build a permanent house for him. God had other plans. His plan was to have a house not made by hands, one that he only had formed. The house that God intended was in the hearts of man.

God allowed Solomon to build a house for him, but even then God knew that wasn't his permanent home. Today, that temple does not exist, but God's permanent dwelling does.

Now we know, some three thousand years after the era of Solomon, that God indeed has chosen a permanent home not made by the hands of men. Paul, preaching in Athens, said, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands" (Acts 17:24).



Paul later clarified what he meant when he wrote to the church at Corinth. He wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:19, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?”

Today God calls us to a wholehearted devotion with a willing mind because he has chosen us as his dwelling place. You and I are the earthly dwelling place of the Almighty God.

**Prayer:** God, by your grace, give me a willing mind and a heart that serves you alone. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** Today God calls us to a wholehearted devotion with a willing mind because he has chosen us as his dwelling place. You and I are the earthly dwelling place of the Almighty God.

**Affirmation:** I am a house of God. My body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. I will respect and honor the temple God has chosen.

**Reflection:** Man chose a place to build a house for God, but it was God's plan to dwell in a temporary house until the right time when he would take up residence in his permanent home on earth - in the hearts of mankind. Give some thought to the question of when God told man to build him a house, and when did God tell Israel to move from the Tabernacle tent to a more permanent home.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty

## *Diligent Thoughts Produce Prosperity*

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of everyone that is hasty only to want. – Proverbs 21:5 (KJV)

Good thoughts alone do not produce prosperity. I have known many people who have had great ideas, but who have never put feet to those ideas.

I have a childhood friend who was his Father's assistant pastor for many years and when his Father retired he became the senior pastor of the church.

When we were young I can remember him explaining the great plans he had for the church when he became the senior pastor. They were good plans, but they were just plans. There was no diligence in pursuing their implementation. My friend has been senior pastor of that church for many years now and he has not yet implemented those plans. They were good plans, and they would be a blessing to the community as well as to the church, but they remain locked away in the safety of his mind never to be put into place.

Many years ago, when my oldest son was in high school, I wanted to start a business that would help support him throughout his life. I knew a good deal about carpet cleaning because I had owned such a business in the past so I developed a plan to build a small business for my son.

I worked on a full time job but my plan included going out to market the business every day after work. I had a set route I worked and a set time to work the route every day. After a few months of diligently applying my plan my son was making a very good living for a young man still in high school.

Do you have some good plans hidden away in your heart? I challenge you to take the risk, put those plans in action and see if they won't produce a good result. Thinking and

planning are integral to the success of any enterprise, but without the diligent implementation of the plan there will be no success.

**Prayer:** Lord, I tend to make plans that look good on paper but never implement them. Grant me the grace of diligence that I might fulfill the plans you have put in my heart. Amen.

**Principle:** Thinking and planning are integral to the success of any enterprise, but without the diligent implementation of the plan there will be no success.

**Affirmation:** I have chosen to be a person of purpose. I am committed to discovering God's plan and implementing that plan as I live with the purpose of serving in his kingdom.

**Reflection:** It has been said that a person without a plan is a person with a plan to fail. What is your life plan? How have you integrated God's desire and plan for your life into your own ambitions? Give some thoughts to the passage from Proverbs, "The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of everyone that is hasty only to want."

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty One

## *Thoughts That Divide*

When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.” Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. – Matthew 12:24-25

These supposed religious leaders, the Pharisees, had seen the miracles Jesus performed and instead of recognizing him as one sent from God their thoughts carried them in the opposite direction. What kind of thinking would lead a person to call evil what is good?

The problem these men had was that if they admitted Jesus was who everyone was saying he was then they would be wrong about him and they would lose the respect of the people. They couldn't allow that because their objective was not to lead people to God, but it was to secure their own place as a religious authority.

I have seen the same attitude in the religious world of today. Many of us have been raised with the belief system of a particular denomination, or if we weren't raised that way we came to Christ in a particular church and we adopted their belief system. Our problem comes when we see someone who is not of our particular denomination manifesting miracles and great works in the name of Jesus.

We begin to think, just like the Pharisees, that these people must be of the devil because they are not acknowledging our particular belief system or doctrine. I know the process because I used to have those kinds of thoughts.

Jesus answered this line of thinking with a simple bit of logic. “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?” (v25-26).

The Pharisees had thoughts that divide and we must be careful not to foster the same kind of thinking. Let us be careful lest we ascribe to darkness the good deeds of the light.

Rejoice in the works of others when Jesus is given the credit and God receives the glory, even if we don't have complete doctrinal agreement.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me not to judge others in my thoughts just because they don't understand everything just the way I do. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** The Pharisees had thoughts that divide and we must be careful not to foster the same kind of thinking. Let us be careful lest we ascribe to darkness the good deeds of the light.

**Affirmation:** I have chosen to rejoice in the works of others in which Jesus is given the credit and God receives the glory, even if I don't have complete doctrinal agreement with them.

**Reflection:** Most of us have been guilty of discounting the works of others who are not in doctrinal agreement with us. That is human nature. But we are to rise above human nature and be guided by our new nature - the Christ nature in us. Rejoice in the good works of those you might not be in complete agreement with on doctrinal issues and give God the glory.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Two

## *We Become What We Think*

As he thinketh in his heart, so is he. – Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)

Most of us have yet to understand the power of our thought life. Our thoughts actually have the power to affect the way we act, our relationships and they even have the power to determine just how far in life we go.

I recently spoke with a man whose marriage was on the rocks and one of the contributing factors was that he was always thinking his wife was having affairs with his friends. His thoughts would drive him to leave his job to go check up on her which would lead to verbal confrontation and even turn violent. This man and his marriage was being destroyed by his thoughts.

On the other side of that I have known those who have been affected by poverty in their youth and had purposed to never allow themselves to be poor. Their entire thought life was about what they could do and how they could succeed and they became successful.

Thoughts which affect our life come from the area of our being we call our heart. The heart consists of our mind, our will and our emotions. Our thoughts are affected by each of those three.

This passage in the proverbs, “As he thinketh in his heart, so is he,” is not making a positive statement. The reference is to an evil person who is trying to seduce us into evil. His evil heart has led him to evil behavior.

It is true, the thoughts we have in our heart has formed the person we are and has the potential to reform us into a different kind of person. How can we be truly “reformed?” The Apostle Paul calls it “transformed,” and instructs us, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

To become the person we have been called to be we must go through the transformation of being born again and we must have a transformed thought life by the renewing of our mind.

The way we have thought has made us what we are - but the way we think from today forward will determine what we become.

**Prayer:** Father, grant me the strength of commitment to focus my thoughts on you and your plan for my life. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** The way we have thought has made us what we are - but the way we think from today forward will determine what we become. God has given us plenty of his thoughts about us to think upon.

**Affirmation:** I have decided to use what God has said about me as food for thought concerning who I am and who I am becoming.

**Reflection:** Do you agree with the statement, "We become what we think?" If you do then you would have to agree that who and what we are now is the result of our own thinking and not what anyone else has said or done. That is a hard confession to make, but once we get there then we can begin to change our future by changing the way we think from today forward. Think about it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Three

## *Arrogant Thinking Leads To a Fall*

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! - 1 Corinthians 10:11-12

Over the years I have ministered to many people whose lives have been destroyed by drugs, alcohol and other destructive behaviors. One thing I have noticed in working with them is that when they begin to believe that they have gotten their addiction whipped and believe that they are strong enough to stand on their own, it is then that they are getting ready for a fall.

That is what Paul is warning about in this passage. He is saying that when we begin to think that we are strong enough to handle our weaknesses on our own then we are setting ourselves up for failure. In the beginning of our walk of faith we needed God to get us on the path and now that we have walked with God for a while we still need him to keep us on the path.

In the previous verses Paul was giving examples of how Israel had failed God time and time again while he was bringing them through the wilderness. In fact, it was their failure to follow God wholeheartedly that kept them wandering for 40 years.

The warning to believers today is that the way we think is going to affect the way we walk. If we think we don't need God to guide us, or if we think we've gotten all we need for our journey, then we are likely headed for a fall.

In the next verse he writes, "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."



Take note of two things in that verse. First, we will have temptations, but if we trust God he will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can stand. And second, this passage declares that it is God who will provide a way to stand, not ourselves.

Trust God and excel - trust ourselves and we fail.

**Prayer:** Lord, grant me the humility to realize my inability to live righteously and grant me the grace to trust you to help me stand firm in the faith so that I will not fall. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** The warning to believers today is that the way we think is going to affect the way we walk. If we think we don't need God to guide us, or if we think we've gotten all we need for our journey, then we are likely headed for a fall.

**Affirmation:** I know that the way I think affects the way I walk, therefore I have chosen to trust God and follow close to him. I know that when I trust God I excel and when I don't trust him I fail - I choose to excel.

**Reflection:** Our passage for today is followed with the often quoted verse, "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." It is only when we believe that truth that we are going to be able to trust him. Something to think about.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Four

## *God Scatters Those With Proud Thoughts*

And Mary Said: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. - Luke 1:46, 51-52

Mary was pregnant with Jesus and she was visiting her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant with John who would be called the Baptist. While they were talking Elizabeth was moved by the Holy Spirit to prophesy over Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear... Blessed is she who has believed what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished."

Following that prophecy we are given what is commonly called "Mary's Song." It is in this song of Mary that we have our passage for today. As she is rejoicing in the Lord she declares, "His mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation."

This young woman had the faith to accept the destiny which had been given her while maintaining a humble spirit. She speaks of the mercy extended to those who fear the Lord and in the next verse she speaks of the mighty deeds the arm of the Lord has performed and contrasts that with those whose inner thoughts are proud and egotistical.

We should learn from this young woman whose faith and humility prepared her to be the bearer of the savior of the world. God has given believers today a precious gift. The Spirit of the child she bore in her womb is the same Spirit we are given in our hearts and we must bear his Spirit with the same faithfulness.

God will still scatter those who have become proud in their thoughts, just as Mary said in her song. We must be

Careful to not only appear humble to others but our most personal thoughts must also reflect humility.

We sing as Mary sung, “My soul glories the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Amen and amen.

**Prayer:** Lord, you have given us such a gift in the Holy Spirit that is in our hearts. Grant us the grace to walk humbly before you and not to let our thoughts become proud. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** God will still scatter those who have become proud in their thoughts, just as Mary said in her song. We must be careful to not only appear humble to others but our most personal thoughts must also reflect humility.

**Affirmation:** God has given me the Spirit of the child Mary bore and the good in me comes from Him not from myself. I can never become proud because I know the source of my righteousness.

**Reflection:** In this portion of Mary's Song there is a contrast between the proud and the humble. What are some marks of pride in a person? What are some marks of humility in a person? When you examine yourself which side do you land on?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Five

## *God's Word Discerns Our Thoughts*

The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12

Have you considered the purpose of the word of God? There are many ideas about God's purpose in giving us his word, but I'm only going to give you my idea today. I see the word of God as coming from his knowledge of the nature of man and for the purpose of restoring man to the place of blessing he had originally intended for man.

God knows the heart of man and he knows that man, in a general sense, is in rebellion against his plan. God said, "Don't eat the forbidden fruit!" Man said, "I wonder why God doesn't want us to know the benefits of that fruit." God said, "Here is the tree of life, eat from it, but leave the other fruit alone." Man said, "Why is God always trying to steer me away from that tree?"

That may be a bit simplistic but I am convinced that it is very close to the truth. Because God knows the thoughts and intents of man he seeks to reveal to man a better way. God's words are life and they are given to man to lead man into eternal life through faith in the provision he has given us in Jesus our Savior.

God knows the thoughts and attitudes of our heart and that is why his word is often piercing to us. He is trying to separate us from living after our soulful nature and draw us to living after his Spirit nature. That is what he meant by, "The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit."

Let us not try to convince ourselves that by doing good works we can nullify what is in our hearts. God is not impressed by our works, but he is moved by what is in our hearts. We will never be without times of failure as long as we are in this body of death, but God looks past that and sees our heart. He is after our heart.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to treasure your word, even when it is painful to me, because I know your goal is to separate me from my soulish nature and lead me into your Spirit life. In Jesus name.

**Principle:** God knows the thoughts and attitudes of our heart and that is why his word is often piercing to us. He is trying to separate us from living after our soulful nature and draw us to living after his Spirit nature.

**Affirmation:** God knows my thoughts and the desires of my heart and that is why I am constantly examining heart and my thought process to be sure that God's thoughts are my thoughts.

**Reflection:** If God judges the thoughts and attitudes of your heart, as Hebrews 4:12 says, then what is his conclusion about your thoughts and the things you have in your heart? Examine your recurring thoughts and measure them by Philippians 4:8. How do you measure up?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Six

## *Love Produces Virtuous Thoughts*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

The phrase rendered, “keeps no record of wrongs,” is translated, “thinketh no evil,” in the KJV. The original Greek word that is translated here is *logizomai*. It means to make an inventory, or literally to think upon something.

The idea being conveyed here is that when a person is driven by agape, God’s love, he will not keep a mental record of the wrongs others have done and he will not contemplate taking revenge for those wrongs.

When we continue to think about the wrongs done to us we tend to foster anger toward the offender. Paul precedes the statement of keeping record of wrongs with, “[love] is not easily angered.” He seems to be referring to thoughts of getting even.

We are being admonished in this passage to live with a love driven purpose to our lives. When we are motivated by agape, God’s love, our purpose is to pursue the benefit of others without regard to our own desires. Love does not keep record of wrongs.

Some of the other translations give a little more insight into what is meant by, “thinketh no evil.” The NASB reads, “does not take into account a wrong suffered.” And the NAB reads, “does not brood over injury.” I think we begin to get the picture.

The NRSV adds another perspective. It reads, “it is not irritable or resentful.” Interesting. If we are not thinking about how we have been wronged and how we have been injured by others we will not be irritable and short tempered.

The only way we can have these expressions of love flowing from our inner person is to be immersed in the very Spirit of love - the Holy Spirit. We will love in this way when our thoughts are on Christ and his righteousness. Virtuous thoughts come from being immersed in God's love.

**Prayer:** Father, I tend to remember the hurts I have endured from others. Help me to keep no record of wrongs done to me but to be patient and forgiving of others. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** The only way we can have these expressions of love flowing from our inner person is to be immersed in the very Spirit of love - the Holy Spirit. We will love in this way when our thoughts are on Christ and his righteousness. Virtuous thoughts come from being immersed in God's love.

**Affirmation:** Virtuous thoughts come from a pure heart and I work diligently to keep my heart pure by regularly washing it with Holy Spirit.

**Reflection:** Love flows through virtuous thoughts. When we love our thoughts about others will be guided by Holy Spirit. When our thoughts about others are about how we can use them for our own purposes then we are not guided by love. Examine yourself to see if your thoughts of others are virtuous.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Seven

## *What is Meditation Pleasing to God?*

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

- Psalm 19:14

Psalm 19 is rich with a consciousness of the majesty of God and his Word. The psalmist begins with, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge,” and he concludes with, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight.”

The psalmist uses the first six verses to demonstrate how the heavens declare God’s majesty then in the next five verses he declares the majesty of the Word of God. His great respect for God’s law is shown in these verses:

- Verse 7: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
- Verse 8: The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.’
- Verse 9: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.
- Verse 10: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.
- Verse 11: By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.



When we meditate upon the grandeur of creation and the splendor of his word then the words of our mouth will be pleasing in his sight. Look to the heavens and recognize their revelation of the glory of God, then meditate upon God's radiant word.

**Prayer:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing in your sight. In Jesus name, amen.

**Principle:** When we meditate upon the grandeur of creation and the splendor of his word then the words of our mouth will be pleasing in his sight.

**Affirmation:** I choose to meditate upon the grandeur of creation and the splendor of God's word so that the words of my mouth will be pleasing in his sight.

**Reflection:** It is evident that David must have spent a lot of time meditating and thinking upon the Word of God. We know that by this psalm which psalm which gives his many reasons for acknowledging God's Word. I would challenge you to start a daily routine of memorizing and meditating upon passages from God's Word.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Eight

## *What Do You Think About the Christ?*

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ?”

- Matthew 22:41

We conclude this month of devotions on thoughts and thinking with the question: What do you think about the Christ?

The fame of Jesus had spread far and wide. People from many countries had come to Jerusalem for the Passover. There were some there from Greece and they came seeking to see Jesus.

John records, “Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request, “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus” (John 12:20-21).

Everyone had an opinion about Jesus. The Pharisees and other religious leaders tried to convince the people that he was at best a fraud and was probably demon possessed. But the people were filled with awe when they saw him and cried out, “Who is this?”

Matthew chapter 16 records Jesus himself asking his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” The disciples had heard the rumors and comments by the people. “They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’”

Then Jesus made the question personal to his disciples when he asked, “But what about you? Who do you say I am?” That is the core question today: Who do you say that Jesus is?

Many religions of the world think of Jesus as a great teacher, some even concede that he was a prophet, but only Christianity declares that he is the Christ, the Son of God.

What do you personally think of Jesus? What does he mean to you? As Christians, our entire relationship with God is based upon what we think of Christ. Paul wrote in Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." What do you think of Jesus?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I believe that you are the Lord, and that you were raised from the dead, and that it was your sacrificial death that purchased for me the right to be born into the family of God. Thank you Jesus. Amen

**Principle:** As Christians, our entire relationship with God is based upon what we think of Christ. Paul wrote in Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

**Affirmation:** I do call Jesus my Lord because I believe he is the Christ, the Son of God and that he rose from the dead giving all believers the hope of resurrection.

**Reflection:** Every religion has an opinion about Jesus, but only Christianity recognizes him as the Christ, the Son of God. It would be good to give some time to reflect on your own thoughts, feelings and ideas about him.

**My Thoughts:**

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## Some Things to Think About

It is true: We have become what we believe about ourselves. Our thoughts about ourselves become self-fulfilling prophesies. We are occasionally inspired to change but our efforts to change all too often have little effect because we have not changed our belief system about ourselves.

Our challenge is to begin to see ourselves as God sees us. How do we know how God sees us? Because he has told us in his word.

In the following pages there are many confessions of faith in what God has said about us. Each confession is followed with the Scripture which tells us how God thinks of us and what He has called us to be.

Take the time to read, study and meditate upon these confessions and when you begin to believe them you will find that you are living according to the way God sees you.

**Having received Christ in my heart and life –through Faith, repentance and Confession- I acknowledge who I am (my identity):**

**1. I am His most wonderful Creation.**

- ❖ **Ephesians 2:10** – For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

I am God’s creation, God doesn’t make any trash;  
I am made in his image for his glory

- ❖ **Psalm 139:13-14** – For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

The hand of the almighty has created me a unique specimen of his creative love – I will not cease to praise him for what he has done.

## 2. I am in Christ, and Christ is in me

- ❖ **John 14:20** - “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

We have become one with Christ. If I can accept it, I am Christ to those in my world.

## 3. I am a Child of God.

- ❖ **John 1:12** - “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

God has given me the right to become anything that a child of divine lineage can become.

- ❖ **1 John 3:1** - “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”

We are both born and adopted by our Father; every promise he has given and is recorded in his word, is ours.

#### 4. I am a living Temple of God.

- ❖ **1 Corinthians 3:16** - “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

Religions around the world have built temples to house their gods and God has chosen to take up residence on the inside of his people; we are not only the people of God, we are the house of God.

- ❖ **1 Corinthians 6:19** - “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.”

We made a trade. We were living in a house of decay with no eternal hope; God chose to give us a house not made by the will of man, or the hand of man, one that is eternal. As the temple of God we are blessed with eternal life.

#### 5. I am a Partaker of His Divine Nature.

- ❖ **2 Peter 1:4** - “Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

As children of God we participate in the divine nature. We have been given access to the resources of divinity - to the extent that it is possible in the flesh, we have divine power.

**6. I am an extremely significant as a person.**

- ❖ **Ephesians 2:10** - “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus...”

All of the creative craftsmanship of God has been brought to bear in the creation of man, in his very image.

- ❖ **Psalm 139:14** - “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”

Not only was the hand of God evident in the original man, he watches over the formation, birth and life of every person who comes into this world; there are no insignificant no-bodies to God.

**7. I am a joint-heir with Him of the Glory of the Father.**

- ❖ **Romans 8:17** - “Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

In this becoming process as the children of God we are also becoming heirs and co-heirs with Christ. As we grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ God releases more of his glorious inheritance into our lives.

**8. I am a new person.**

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:17** - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”

Thank God I am a new creation; I am not what I want to be, neither am I what I was and I am not what I am going to be. I am a new creation that is becoming like him.

- ❖ **Ephesians 4:24** “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life: to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

The only way we can progress in this journey of becoming is to “put off” and “put on.” As we put off the old attitude, and adopt a new attitude we are becoming righteous and holy.

#### 9. I am dead to sin.

- ❖ **Romans 6:8-11** - “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Just as Christ through his death defeated the hold of sin, so we through

#### 10. I am victorious over fear.

- ❖ **2 Timothy 1:7** - “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

My confidence is in the power of God and I am not intimidated by this world



**11. I am full of goodness, knowledge and able to counsel.**

- ❖ **Romans 15:14** - "I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."

God's word rests in me, therefore it is has made me good and complete and able to counsel others.

**12. I am being conformed to His image. I am a prince in life.**

- ❖ **Romans 5:17** - "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in and through the one man, Jesus Christ."

**13. I am justified by faith.**

- ❖ **Romans 5:1** - "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Justified: just as if I'd not sinned. What a thought.

**14. I am not ashamed of the gospel.**

- ❖ **Romans 1:16** - "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile"

God's grace and power in me has taken shame and fear out of my life. I am confident in him.

**15. I am born again.**

- ❖ **John 3:3,5** - "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

**16. I am His Ambassador.**

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:20** - "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."
- ❖ **I am an earthen vessel of God's treasure.**  
**2 Corinthians 4:7** - "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

**17. I am a servant of the new covenant.**

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 3:6** - "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

## **Characteristics of Being In Christ:**

**1. I am forgiven of all sin**

- ❖ **1 John 2:12** - I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
- ❖ **Colossians 2:12** - When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

- ❖ Ephesians 1:7-8 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

## 2. I am loved immeasurably

- ❖ John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## 3. I am accepted in the Beloved

- ❖ Ephesians 1:6 - To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved (KJV).

## 4. I am pleasing to God

- ❖ Colossians 1:10 - And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

## 5. I am complete

- ❖ Colossians 1:28 - We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect (complete) in Christ.
  
- ❖ Colossians 2:10 - You have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

**6. I am righteous by His blood**

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:21 -God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**7. I am holy and blameless**

- ❖ Colossians 1:22 - Now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

**8. I am sanctified in the truth of God's word**

- ❖ John 17:17 - Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

**9. I am a saint**

- ❖ Colossians 1:2 - To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

- ❖ Philippians 1:1 - To all the saints In Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons.

- ❖ Ephesians 1:1 - To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.

**10. I am as He is in this world**

- ❖ 1 John 4:17 - In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

### **11. I am Victorious over Satan**

- ❖ James 4:7 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- ❖ Luke 10:19 - I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.
- ❖ Revelation 12:11 - They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

### **12. I am Victorious over sin**

- ❖ Romans 6:14 - Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.
- ❖ Romans 6:18 - You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

### **13. I am more than a conqueror**

- ❖ Romans 8:37 - In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

### **14. I am an overcomer of the world.**

- ❖ 1 John 5:3-4 - This is love for God: To obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

### **15. I am Free from all condemnation.**

- ❖ Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

## **16. I am a resident of Christ's Kingdom**

- ❖ Colossians 1:13-14 - He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **17. I am bold and confident. Eph. 3:6**

- ❖ Ephesians 3:12 - In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- ❖ 1 Timothy 3:13 - Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

## **18. I am able to do all things. Phil 4:13**

- ❖ Philippians 4:13 - I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

## **Where I Am Positionally in Christ:**

### **I am saved by His grace**

- Ephesians 2:8 - It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
- Acts 16:31 - Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.

### **I am eternally chosen**

- Ephesians 1:4 - He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

### **I am secure**

- Hebrews 13:5 - God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
- John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

### **I am received into God's family**

- John 1:12 - To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
- John 17:9 - I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

### **I am protected from the evil one**

- John 17:15 - My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

### **I am crucified with Him**

- Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- Romans 6:3 - Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

### **I am buried with Him and**

#### **I am raised to walk in newness of life**

- Romans 6:4 - We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

### **I am Free from the law of sin and death**

- Romans 8:2 - Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

### **I am enthroned in heavenly places**

- Colossians 3:1 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
- Ephesians 2:6 - And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

### **I am delivered from the domain of darkness**

- Colossians 1:13 - He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

### **I am reconciled to God**

- Colossians 1:22 - Now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.
- 2 Corinthians 5:18 - All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was



reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

### **I am provided for according to His riches**

- Philippians 4:19 - My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

### **I am sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**

- Ephesians 1:13 - You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

### **I am bought with the Highest Price**

- 1 Corinthians 6:20 - You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

### **I am inseparable from God's love**

- Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble, or hardship, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **As A Consequence of Who I am, What I am and Where I am:**

### **I am enjoying His peace.**

- John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

### **I am walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.**

- Colossians 1:10 - We pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

### **I am considered worthy to suffer shame for His Name.**

- Acts 5:41 - The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

### **I am authorized to have power over demons.**

- Luke 9:1,2 - When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach to kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

### **I am filled with power of the Holy Spirit.**

- Acts.1:8 - You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

### **I am being guided by the Holy Spirit of Truth.**

- John 16:13 - When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

### **I am walking by faith, not by sight.**

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 - We live by faith, not by sight.

### **I am a sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ.**

- 2 Corinthians 2:14 - Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

### **I am being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory.**

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 - We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

### **I am being renewed in the inner man day by day.**

- 2 Cor. 4:16 - We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

### **I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.**

- Eph 1:3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

## **I am healed by His stripes.**

- Isa. 53:5 - He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
- 1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

## **His Word Declares That I AM...**

### **1. A child of God and led by the Spirit**

Romans 8:14-16 - Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship and by him we cry "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

### **2. Redeemed from the hand of the enemy**

Psalms 107:1-3 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this - those he redeemed from the hand of the foe; those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

### **3. Forgiven**

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

#### **4. Saved by Grace through Faith**

Ephesians 2:8 – It is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

#### **5. Justified**

Romans 5:1 – Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **6. Sanctified**

Romans 15:16 – A minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

#### **7. A New Creature**

2 Corinthians 5:17 – If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

#### **8. Partaker of His Divine Nature**

2 Peter 1:4 – He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

#### **9. Redeemed from the curse of the Law**

Galatians 3:13 – Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is every one who is hung on a tree.”

#### **10. Delivered from the powers of darkness**

Colossians 1:13 – He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.