V

Renew Your Mind

We are all created by God as spirit beings. As such, we are *thinkers* of *thoughts*. Thoughts make us who we are. *Proverbs 23:7* states, "for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Further, no person can hold us back from success in life; thoughts do it. Thoughts are active. They do two critical things inside us: (1) they direct our speech; we literally speak thoughts – harsh, fearful, hateful thoughts, etc. These are sinful. If we do not think a thought, we cannot say a word. (2) Thoughts control our behavior. They drive us to action, good or evil. Example: before a person commits robbery, he or she thinks, with intention, to do it.



Types of Thoughts

Three types of thoughts operate in the earth realm: (1) God's thoughts; (2) Satan's thoughts, which are evil and (3) our thoughts which are <u>natural</u> and tied to the natural world. God's thoughts in our hearts connect us directly to Him. They are higher than our thoughts and Satan's. They have **dominion** or rule over the others. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Through daily thinking, our future is being affected positively or negatively based upon the source of our thoughts – God, Satan, or mankind. Notice carefully: thinking produces depression, fear and anxiety only if we dwell on negatives thoughts.

Role of the Mind

Thoughts exist inside "knowledge." Our mind is a "thinking" mechanism. It actively "processes" thoughts that it receives from knowledge, first making us **aware**. Then, it sends those thoughts to our heart for "storage" and "use." As we breathe, our mind actively receives thoughts and sends them to our heart, or it receives stored thoughts from our heart to go to our mouth for <u>talk</u>. For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. (St. Matthew 12:34)

When we are "Born Again" by the Spirit of God, He gives us a new mind and Heavenly thoughts to think through His knowledge. We must be transformed into "fearless thinkers" by renewing our mind with His knowledge. Transforming power is already in His thoughts. The Holy Spirit, who is the "Spirit of Truth," imparts God's thoughts to us primarily through teaching.

Spiritual Warfare

Our "battleground" is not people, but our mind. Since Jesus defeated Satan at Calvary's cross, Satan does his evil work against us by tricks only. He seeks to intimidate us and trick us into yielding to him. Remember, we connect to God through His thoughts. Satan manifests "negatives" to move us away. With those manifestations, he shoots "thought darts" to our mind. Using God's dominion thoughts, <u>learn</u> to cast down every wicked imagination and capture every evil thought. *You can do it!*