



### ***Responsible Thinking—Part One of Two***

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

By: Pastor Dan Turpin [WestCoastChurch.com](http://WestCoastChurch.com)

**Objective and aim:** *Everyone can learn how to deal with their thoughts by learning four keys pertaining to the proper management of the mind .*

**Introduction:** When I first became a follower of Christ I was very much disappointed because I thought I would never have to face struggle and temptation with evil ever again. I was expecting a Magical Transformation; not a growing walk with the Lord where I would encounter, fall, be empowered and overcome the flesh by walking with the Lord. So after receiving Jesus Christ as my Savior I was tormented with thoughts that I had entertained throughout my life and didn't want to entertain them anymore. For twenty years I had entertained unwholesome thoughts because I was an unwholesome person; there was no reason not to think about unwholesome things. So after I became a follower of Christ I didn't want to entertain bad thoughts but I found out that they wanted and were determined to entertain me. So every time I thought a bad unwholesome thought, I would hear something like this in my mind, "If you were really a follower of Jesus you wouldn't think like this." So a hundred times a day I would kneel, ask for forgiveness and invite Christ back into my life. I didn't understand what was happening to me but thank God for **Phil. 1:6**.

- #1. *Whatever Gets Your Attention Gets You*** (**Proverbs 4:20-22** *My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. <sup>21</sup> Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;<sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. <sup>23</sup> Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*)
- A. *You are transformed into the image of that on which you habitually concentrate*** (**2 Corinthians 3:18** *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of*

*the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

1. **The Ancestor of every act is a thought. If your thinking goes wrong, then your life goes wrong.**
  - a. **Proverbs 23:7** For as a person thinks in his or her heart so is that person.
  - b. **Steven Covey; *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*:** Sow a thought—reap an action; sow an action—reap a habit; sow a habit—reap a character; sow a character—reap a destiny.
  - c. **1 Peter 2:1-3** Get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave the pure spiritual milk of God’s word so that you will grow into a full salvation experience. Cry out for this nourishment, <sup>3</sup> now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness
  - d. **Fred Price:** The life span of a thought is determined by how much attention you give it. Strength or weakness—attention is the fuel causing thoughts to live.
  - e. **Ralph Waldo Emerson:** A man is what he thinks about all day long. The key to every man is his thought. With our thoughts, we make our world
  - e. **Mark 12:30** Jesus said that we should love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; so does that mean if we with hold just a portion of ourselves from Him that we have sinned? Yes, and this is the reason why. It is the withholding of ourselves, even just a portion, that is responsible for every act of sin, perversion, rebellion, and atrocity done by mankind.
  
- #2. ***You are not responsible for every thought you think but you are responsible for what you do with everything you think (Ephesians 2:1-3 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.)***
  
- A. ***Capture Time; (Responsible Thinking June 24): Everyone has a desire or weakness that can be exploited by criminal influence. The exploitation process leading to temptation begins with a thought that is attractive to our taste for wrongdoing. (?????Where Do Thoughts Come From?????)***
  
1. **God influences our thinking (Matthew 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. )**
  - a. **You Need to Pray:** It was Thursday morning August 12, 1971 when was released from the Indiana State Farm and was taken to the Greyhound Bus Station in Indianapolis. While waiting for the bus to arrive I went inside one of the public buildings and walked down the hallway. I was carrying a bag which contained letters from my unfaithful girlfriend and two Bibles the Chaplain gave me when I attended chapel one Sunday. Neither of the contents in the bag held any special significance for me at that moment, so I threw the bag in a trash can and started to

walk away. But I couldn't leave that bag in there, not because of the letters, but because of the Bibles; I didn't have the heart to put God in the trash. Later that night I staggered into the house and flopped down on the couch. Previous to my release, I had been praying each night my sinner's prayer: God help me to do the right things and want to do the right things. So as I lay on the couch in a drunken stupor, I heard the Lord speak to me, "You need to pray!" "I can't pray like this." So I got up off the couch, went into the bathroom and puked my guts out.

- b. *Wiley Tomlinson*: God has more confidence in his ability to speak to us than in our inability to hear him.
- c. **John 6:44-45** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

**2. Satan has the ability to influence our thinking** (*John 13:2, 27 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him. <sup>27</sup> Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*)

- a. **Matthew 16:21-23** From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You! <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- b. *Pastor Dan*: What you put in your mind is not always what you get out of your mind and what you get out of your mind isn't always what you put in it.
- c. *Pastor Dan*: Satan cannot control or even read our mind but he does have the ability to influence our thinking.
- d. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
- e. *Pastor Dan*: Satan does not always blind us by evil perverted things he hypnotizes us by dangling attractive and appealing things before us, causing us to lose sight of all else as we gaze at them.
- f. **1 Kings 22:19-23** Prophets
- g. *Eva Arrington*: You live with your thoughts; so be careful what they are.

**3. People have the ability to influence our thinking** (*Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man or woman who walks not in the council [advice, plans, purposes] of the ungodly or stands in the way [actions] of sinners or sits in the seat of the scornful [ridiculers, mockers, sarcasm].*)

- a. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness. And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a

believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

- b. Thorns in your side **Numbers 13:55; Joshua 23:11-16; Judges 2:1-4, 11-23; 3:1-6**
- c. **Romans 16:17-18** And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them.
- d. **1 Corinthians 15:33** Bad company spoils good manners.
- e. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Galatians 3:1; Colossians 2:6-8**

#### 4. **The natural desires of the flesh influence our thinking**

- a. **2 Timothy 2:22** Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

#### 5. **Circumstances influence our thinking**

- a. **Luke 18:1** We should always pray and not faint
- b. **Galatians 6:9** Do not become weary in well doing
- c. **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials
- d. **Psalms 10:1; 13:1-6** *Pastor Dan:* It is okay to pour your honest feelings out to the Lord and to manage them by standing on the promises that God has made to you in His Word.

#### 6. ***The World influences our Thinking* (1 John 2:15-18** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. <sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the<sup>[a]</sup> Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.)

- a. **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- b. **John 15:19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.
- c. **2 Corinthians 6:17** Come out from among them and be separate, say the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.

***Closing and Invitation; Vision concerning Blessings and Battles:*** Supernatural activity is responsible for our blessings and our battles. Many adversities occur when the Prince of Darkness attempts to negate the blessings God is preparing for us to receive. When I first began walking with Jesus it was so difficult for me to understand how I can love the Lord and yet

struggle in my spiritual walk with Him. The Lord gave me vision that helped me discern the nature of my trials. When God intended to bless my life, the angels and the power of the Holy Spirit created a stir in the spiritual world surrounding me. Satan, the enemy of all good, is running to and fro on the earth, monitored what God was getting ready to do in and for me. When he observed blessing activity, Satan immediately launched an attack against me. Many times I would fail and God still blessed my life but His blessing brought guilt and shame in my life because of how I failed the Lord. But after my vision I stood the test of trial and was blessed by the Lord. It brought joy to me. Satan's goal is to destroy and steal every blessing the Lord desires to give us (John 10:10). The good news—if we remain faithful to Christ and resist the enemy, God will bless us with His best. We will stumble at times, but falling does not make one a failure; quitting is what causes us to fail the Lord.