



Responsible Thinking—Part Two of Two

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

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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 story of Stan McKibbon: When I was young in my faith I struggled with bad thoughts and lust so much that I was beginning to believe that I was demon possessed. So I scheduled an appointment with Stan McKibbon, a man in our church who had a ministry of helping people to become free from demon possession/oppression. I will never forget that day when I walked into his office in a wing of the building where the Christian Education classes met. “I think I’m demon possessed.” “Why do you think that?” “I can’t control my thoughts and lust.” “Okay, bow your head. I’m going to pray and if you possessed or oppressed by a demon the Lord will show me.” After about what seemed like an eternity he looked at me and said, “Son, you don’t have a demon problem you have a flesh problem. I can cast out a devil but I can’t cast out the flesh. You must crucify the flesh.” Oh, how I wanted the root of my problem to be demon possession because if I was demon possessed then I would not be responsible for controlling my thoughts; a simple prayer would resolve the real issue and I would be free.

#1. *Sort Out the Bad Let the Good Pass through* (*Romans 8:5-12* For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against

God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.)

- A. *Pastor Dan:* While attending Southeastern University I got a job working for Kraft Foods in the orange juice plant. My supervisor recognized in me a brilliant and keen mind so she gave me a job requiring about average intelligence—I became a sanitation engineer. During the peak of the fruit season when it was imperative that we got every truck off the yard quickly so the fruit did not rot I would often be called into the sort shack to sort fruit. It was an easy job. Bad fruit and good fruit came through the sort shack and our job was to sort out the bad and let the good pass through**
- I. *Each One is Drawn Away by His or Her own Lust (James 1:12-15* Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.)**
- a.** Your Daddy don’t believe you. Once at the jail my hard of hearing mom came to visit me and I said to her among all the roar of the other inmates speaking through the glass to their visitors, “Mom, I’m never going to get in trouble again because I am a Christian now.” “I know honey but your daddy don’t believe you.” I went back to me cell crushed and asked myself this question, “How do I know I’m really saved.” **John 1:12** and **Philippians 1:6** came to my mind.
- b. *Crandall Miller:*** Conception is the deciding issue. Desire may be strong. The enticement may be subtle and heavy. But the crucial point is the coming together of the two. It depends entirely on the person involved whether or not he or she will agree. Satan cannot move your hands or feet or your eyes. You decide whether you will respond to his suggestion. The devil cannot make you do it. Although he is the source of all evil thoughts, attitudes and actions, he must get you to prostitute yourself to him before the act can be brought forth.
- c. **1 Peter 4:10-14**** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.
- d. *Franco Harris:*** How you look at a situation is very important, for how you think about a problem may defeat you before you ever do anything about it. When you get discouraged or depressed, try changing your attitude from negative to positive and see how life will change for you. Remember, your attitude toward a situation can help you change it—you create the very atmosphere for defeat or victory.
- e. *Oswald Chambers:*** The way the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety was by enticing her away from personal faith in God to depend on her reason alone.

- #2. *Fight Back because—Weakness Invites Attack* (1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing.)**
- A. *John McCullough slapped me at a baseball game and I ran away. Later we fought and I beat him. He never bothered me again.***
- 1. *Go on the Offensive* (Judges 20:17-20 Besides Benjamin, the men of Israel numbered four hundred thousand men who drew the sword; all of these were men of war. ¹⁸ Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of Go to inquire of God. They said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against ... "Judah first!" ¹⁹ So the children of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah. ²⁰ And the men of Israel... and the men of Israel put themselves in battle array to fight against Benjamin at Gibeah.)**
- a. *Basil King:* Be bold, and mighty forces will come to your aid.**
 - b. *Oswald Chambers:* Never submit to the tyrannous idea that you cannot look after your mind; you can ... We have to rouse ourselves up to think, to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Quit—that is the only thing to do with anything that is wrong; to ruthlessly grip it on the threshold of your mind and allow it no more way.**
 - c. *John 8:31-32* If you continue in my Word ...**
 - d. *Crandall Miller:* What you feed grows what you starve dies.**
 - e. *Norman Vincent Peale:* Feelings of confidence depend upon the type of thoughts that habitually occupy your mind. Think defeat and you are bound to feel defeated. But practice thinking confident thoughts, make it a dominating habit, and you will develop such a strong sense of capacity that regardless of what difficulties arise you will be able to overcome them. Feelings of confidence actually induce increased strength.**
 - f. *William James:* The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.**
 - g. *Joshua 1:8* This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth *Psalms 119:11, 105, 165 Proverbs 4:20-22***
 - h. *E. Stanley Jones:* That which is in the mind as thought will pass into the emotions as feeling, then into the will as action, then into the body as result.**
 - f. *Pastor Dan:* Pray your problems out of you, but don't allow your problems to keep you out of prayer.**
 - g. *Ephesians 6:18* Pray in the Spirit at all times ...**
 - h. *Philippians 4:6* Don't worry about anything**

***Closing and Invitation; Enough is Enough:* A lady once told me her story of how her dad began to molest her when she was just a little girl. This practice went on for years until one day he came into her room with the intend of engaging in sexual intercourse with his daughter. The young girl now thirteen years old was angry, frustrated at what was happening to her decided to**

fight back. As her dad began making his way to her bed she told him that she wasn't doing to let him take advantage of her anymore. He kept coming and was intent on having sex with her. She braced her back against the head board and yelled, "Enough is enough!" She kicked him in the ribs and knocked him down. He left the room in pain. She had broken two of his ribs and that was the last time that she was ever molested by her dad. She forgave her dad; he died lost. She had trouble forgiving her mom because she believed that her mom knew what was happening to her but refused to protect her. She would never talk about it.