

Christian Thinking

There are two types of thinking:

Conscious – What you choose and control to come to mind

Subconscious – This is triggered through the flesh or through the Spirit

*Two things we must understand

1. **EVERYONE has bad thoughts. Either through flesh triggered subconscious, or out of control conscious.**
2. **Everyone thinks different when not of the same mind**

Let's first clear something up...

Is this really talking about how a man thinks? - Prov 23:6-8 - 6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: 7 For **AS HE THINKETH IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.** 8 The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words. KJV

No, it does not, it is talking about a stingy man - Prov 23:6-8 - 6 **Do not eat the food of a stingy man**, do not crave his delicacies; 7 for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," **he says to you**, but his heart is not with you. 8 You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

It's not the thoughts that make the man, it is the man that make the thoughts –

Prov 15:26 The Lord detests the thoughts of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him.

Prov 21:29 A wicked man puts up a bold front, but an upright man gives thought to his ways.

Thinking wrong could lead to disastrous outcomes - 1 Cor 10:12 So, **if you think** you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Our thinking about ourselves must be based on what God says about us - Rom 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Thinking you are something, does not make you that something, it just deceives you - Gal 6:3 If anyone thinks he is something **when he is nothing**, he deceives himself.

Things to be aware of with thinking

God DOES NOT think the way we think, His thoughts are superior to ours - Isa 55:8-9 - 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The wrong relationship with God will distort our thinking - Rom 1:21-23 - 21 For 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. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Our thought will cause anxieties at times and could distort our purpose –

Ps 13:2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?

Ps 55:1-2 - Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; 2 hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught

Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

God give the remedy for anxieties caused by thoughts - Phil 4:6-7 - 6 **Do not be anxious about anything**, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds IN Christ Jesus.

Dealing with Bad thinking

The worlds way of thinking is worthless and dangerous –

Eph 4:17-19 - 17 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. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them **due to the hardening of their hearts.** 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Ps 94:11 The Lord knows the thoughts of man; he knows that **they are futile.**

A fleshly purposed person will have Evil conscious thoughts - Matt 15:17-20 - 17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But **the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'** 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"

UnGodly people live and think based on their desires - Eph 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Christians must not try thinking both worldly & Godly, we must commit all of our thinking to God - James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Our goal is for our deepest thought



This is why the wrong relationship with the world and THINGS of the world will dangerously distort our thinking - 1 John 2:15-16 - 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — **COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD.**

We should not tolerate evil thoughts, whether conscious or subconscious - Matt 9:4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"

God empowers us to control how our subconscious affects us - 2 Cor 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive EVERY THOUGHT to make it obedient to Christ.

To be clear, "Lustfully pursuing" is an ACTION of the flesh that can be a product of thinking but is not the thinking itself

Matt 5:28-30 - 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Job 31:1 - "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

Desires (of the flesh) are stirred in our minds and are extremely dangerous when we succumb to them - James 1:13-15 - 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Enhancing Good thinking

The Bible is what we MUST use to get and keep a clear mind - Heb 4:12 For 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.

We allow deception by not thinking through the Word - 2 Cor 11:3-4 - 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

We must allow our thinking to be led by TRUE Wisdom - 1 Cor 3:18-21 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves.** If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.** As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Our thinking must be based on God using Godly wisdom

Prov 16:3 Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established. NKJV

Prov 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Prov 14:15 A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

We must be in control (based on God) of HOW we think of things - 1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

We need to strive for our deepest thoughts to be pleasing to God - Ps 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

We must ask God to check our thoughts that are affecting us - Ps 139:23-24 - 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The key is not what we think, but that we love God - 1 Cor 8:1-3 - Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet KNOW AS HE OUGHT TO KNOW. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

God gives guidance to what we are to think about - Phil 4:8-9 - 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.