

Changing Your Thought Patterns

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I. Introduction.

- A. More often than not our thinking is wrong.
- B. Jesus grew mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. (Luke 2:52)
- C. We need to grow and think straight. (Proverbs 23:7, Jeremiah 6:19, Proverbs 18:15)
- D. The wicked man has his thoughts on evil. (Mark 7:21-23, Genesis 6:5)
- E. It is a truism that we are to enter the narrow gate. (Matthew 7:13-14)

II. The Scripture commands right thinking patterns. (Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:23-24)

- A. Renewing our minds is a process that takes work.
- B. How does it work? (Colossians 4:10)
 - 1. We need to put off and put on.
 - 2. God has given us another Spirit that makes this possible. (John 14:16, 14:26)
 - 3. We have the Spirit within to give us the will to do God's will. (Philippians 2:13)
 - 4. The love of God is action in our life that exemplifies the life of Jesus, but His commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)
 - 5. Kindness nourishes the soul. (Proverbs 11:17)
 - 6. We take time each day committed to Him. (Romans 6:13)
 - 7. We need to deal with seed thoughts that attack us daily. Nothing can be hid from God. (1 Chronicles 28:9)

III. Wrong thoughts often come into our minds.

- A. We need to stop these thoughts. One of the best ways is early in the morning finding a place to spend time in the Word.
- B. We are to not let our minds be conformed to the world. (Romans 12:1-2)
- C. The solution is to let your mind be renewed.
 - 1. The mind is to be like that of Christ's.
 - 2. The principle is to treat others as we would want to be treated.

IV. What is most in our hearts and our minds is what we need to change.

- A. It is not the quantity of what is in the heart, but the quality. (James 1:20)
- B. All the Old Testament hangs on loving the Lord and loving one's neighbor as oneself. (Matthew 22:36-40)

V. The battle is in the mind and we are to press toward the goal. (Philippians 3:14-15)

- A. Paul forgot the wrong that he had done and pressed on for what God had for him.
- B. We do not need to dwell on the wrong things we have done in the past.
- C. We become slaves of those who control us. (2 Peter 2:19)
- D. Sin does not need to control us. (Romans 6:14)
- E. We are not to presume. (Psalm 19:13-14)
- F. We need to know the facts of the Bible and act on them. (Romans 6:14, 2 Corinthians 5:14, Galatians 2:20)

VI. We also need to be in prayer. (1 Peter 3:7)

- A. We need to make restitution before we pray.
- B. There is no break from prayer. (Psalm 1:2)
- C. The result is peace. (John 14:27)
- D. We must wait. (Psalm 27:13-14)

VII. Thinking differently affects all areas of life.

- A. What is related to finances. Do what you want to do but not what you have to do.
- B. What is practical. (Philippians 4:8)

Application questions

1. How is one to go about thinking rightly?

2. What is at the center of thinking rightly?

3. What will you do today that can get you on a path of positive thought patterns?
