

The One Who Always Has a Good Word

We've been told that if you tell a child something negative about himself or herself enough times, he or she will come to believe it. We are told further that if negative reinforcement goes on long enough, a child will indeed become what he or she has heard again and again, be it dumb, stupid, ugly or whatever.

We've also been told that we become what we say. And what we say usually comes from what we think. So it seems correct to say that you will become what you think.

Proverbs 23:7 - For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

We become what we think about all day long.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

We are shaped by our thoughts; we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves.

Buddha (563 BC - 483 BC), *The Dharmapada*

Proverbs 23:7 - For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

If what I think in my heart makes or breaks me, how can I come to think "well" of myself truthfully so as to create a positive environment for my inner man to grow into someone truly beautiful? Is there any value in thinking about all of this?

I think so. Everyone who is alive in Christ has two natures, a fallen one that can do no good, and a redeemed one which can do no evil. When we become a disciple of the Lord, our old nature doesn't roll over and die for us, thus freeing us to be the beautiful redeemed person the Lord made us to be.

Add to that the fact that we are all keenly aware of our shortcomings; we are ever so familiar with our "bent-ness," with the duality of our lives. So it is that we hear conflicting messages in the inner places of our spirits, and our mind hears a lot of this stuff day and night. Things like "I am really awful", contrasted with "You are really beautiful"; or "I am so broken by choices I have made in the past" with "You are perfect in Me!"

Beyond all this, there are others who are quick to whisper their opinions of us into our ears. The author Joyce Landorf once wrote a book about those who believe their “vocation” in life is to never approve of others, to always find something to criticize in others, who seem to build themselves up by tearing down everyone else. She calls these kinds of folks “Irregular People.” And lastly is the enemy of Jesus, the father of all lies, a specialist at whispering condemnation and negativity into our spiritual ears day and night. Whether negative remarks that would plunge us towards despairing of God’s mercy, or compliments that would tempt us to sinful pride, not to mention our own inner thought life, we’re really pounded in our thought life, aren’t we. So what is a person to do?

I would like to challenge you to consider that the only person whose opinion of you is one hundred percent accurate is our Lord’s. If you and I would live a truly victorious, healthy spiritual life, we must form our opinion of ourselves upon what the Lord says of us.

I recently heard someone say that in no place in Scripture does God condemn one of His own who falls. Never does He say, “Boy, you sure messed up! One more time, and I’m going to tar and feather you!” Rather, we see such an OTHER heart reaching out to us as we walk into the fullness of His light and grace. Let’s simply listen to some of the things He says about you:

2Ch 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord look to and fro throughout the land that **He might strongly support** those whose hearts are set on Him

Jer 31:3

Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "**I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.**"

Song of Solomon 1:5a

The Shulammitte’s introspection causes her to say, “Dark am I”
The King’s take on her causes her to add, **“but lovely”**

Song of Solomon 1:5b

The Shulammitte likens herself **as dark as the tents of Ishmael’s descendents.**

The King’s declaration about her causes her to add **“like the curtains of Solomon.” (resplendent with white linen) (see Rev 19:8)**

Song of Solomon 1:8

After the Shulammitte's negative self-image is expressed, **the first words in this book spoken by the King to His first lady** are to call her

“O fairest of women.”

She sees herself as flawed.

He sees her as she will someday be revealed in all of her glory.

This is a miniscule number of quotes. I could go on and on and on. Why don't you take up a pencil and paper, and take a good look at the way He deals with those who really love Him. Listen to His heart as He gently woos, and leads, and saves, and rescues, and forgives, and restores, and heals, and delivers, and loves, and loves and loves and loves.

If you and I would decide to agree with God's all-knowing opinion of us, we could say in truth with the Shulammitte,

**“I'm my Beloved's,
and He is mine.**

His banner over me is love.”

Let's kill all the untrue stuff we poison our souls with as regards our real worth, and let's literally put on the mind of Christ.

We can only do this when we are content to accept our position in Christ based on **His** goodness, **His** grace, **His** gift of salvation. We can only do that when we give up any hope of gaining grace or approval from Him based on our performance.

The amazing thing about all this is that He has cast His glance upon you and me, He has His affections poured out towards you and me since before the beginning of the world. Is it any wonder that He truly is

The One Who Always Has A Good Word.

Think on these things.....and would you talk to Him about this?
I will too!

