

**I have continued to think about the discussion we had earlier on how we consider ourselves as either sinners or saints. If you've already forgotten, you might want to re-read last week's meditation. As I have pondered how God calls us to embrace His grace when we come into a truly quickened relationship with Him, some further thoughts have come to mind.**

**God teaches us a particularly thought-provoking truth about the way we humans "tick," about how we respond to what our minds believe. He caused Solomon to pen this thought:**

**"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7**

**What does this mean? Simply put, it means that the mental messages we listen to in our heads (our thoughts, the values we come to embrace) are capable of causing us *to become what we think!* As a man thinks; "As" means "in the way that" or "what a man thinks." It means that all of us have a kind of programmable mental tape recorder that plays messages back to us. These messages can be good or they can be bad. They can be truthful or they can be lies. They can build us up in Christ or they can tear us down.**

**One of the interesting things about our "thought tape player" is that we can "program" it ourselves! If you are in relationship to Jesus, you have the ability to program what HE SAYS ABOUT YOU into this little tape player. How do you do that, you say? Simple! Just look up what He says about you and memorize it. If you don't have it memorized, write it down or type it up, or brand it with a blow torch to a piece of tree bark and carry that around with you! What I'm trying to say is, just get the truth out in front of your eyes and your brains. When untruths present themselves to you, whip out the truth and replace that "defective tape" with a good one, a "redeemed" one authored by the Lord in His Word! As you continue practicing this replacement spirituality, you will be filling your mind with God's mind; in reality, you will be obeying His very command to "have this mind in you which was in Christ Jesus!"**

**Now mind you, there is someone who would much prefer you would not do this. He has a vested interest in keeping your mind on negative thoughts, on how often you fail the Lord, on how you ought to "try harder" (as though you are sanctified by trying harder!!!). If he can keep you distracted by lies and half-truths, those**

lies and half-truths will self-fulfilling prophecies themselves, and keep us from being the beautiful jewels of grace Jesus purchased for His glory. It is interesting to note here that, even if our “thinkers” embrace lies, Solomon’s observation stands true; “As a man thinks.....so is he.” So how important it is for us to re-program our thinking to align itself with the Word of God.

Doing this is actually just one application of the commandments in Paul’s writings to “Put on” certain things in our walk with the Lord Jesus, and to “Put off” other things.

So – you and I have a choice here. What we choose to think on, what we choose to believe is going to directly affect what we become. I’m sure you know that in the natural, if a parent or a teacher tells a young child, “You’re stupid,” or “You’re ugly” or “You’re dumb” or “You’re worthless,” that child will pick up that message and will in fact come to act out the very thing he has been programmed to believe about himself. Our words and our thoughts, both about ourselves and about others have power to sow life or to sow death.

So which do you choose? If you continue to reinforce by your mouth, “I am a sinner, I am a sinner, I am a sinner.....” you are training your heart to believe that is exactly what you are. That in turn will cause you to confirm your beliefs by actions; and then your actions will assure you of the truth of what you have been confessing or saying about yourself in your thoughts and/or words, namely, “I am a sinner, I am a sinner, I am a sinner.....”

Or if on the other hand, (as Tevia in Zorba the Greek says), you train your mind to believe what GOD SAYS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, YOU ARE GOING TO BE FILLING UP YOUR THINK TANK WITH THE PURE OCTANE OF THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD! And incredibly, Solomon’s proverb is going to work a wonderful result in you! “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he,” is going to bring forth a harvest of glorious redeemed thinking in you! Listen, dear friend! Think about what is written below; every phrase is taken from what GOD SAYS ABOUT EVERY DISCIPLE OF JESUS. Are you His? Does He know you? Do you know Him? If so, then this is the song you can sing from Him!

**I AM a believer.  
I AM saved.  
I AM righteousness.  
I AM an overcomer.  
I AM full of the Word.  
I AM healed.  
I AM God's child.  
I AM an heir with Christ of all of God's kingdom  
I AM Christ's brother.  
I AM rich and prosperous.  
I AM not of this world.  
I AM made strong in the Lord.  
I AM what the Word says I am.  
I AM born again.  
I AM a new creature.  
I AM God's property.  
I AM just like Christ.  
I AM seated with Christ.  
I AM filled with God's Spirit  
I AM reigning in life.  
I AM free, free, free!**

**Oh God, you really have redeemed me! You really have made me a saint! You have saved me by your grace! How can I begin to thank You for Your kindness and mercy to me? "I will take up the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord! Praising will I call upon the Name of the Lord, and I shall be saved!"**

**As we continue "putting on the mind of Christ", as we embrace His thoughts for for old unredemptive ones, we will find others being drawn more and more and more to this One who has SO LOVED US. You will find yourself thinking more and acting more like Him every day. You will find yourself being asked, "How did you "become so alive, so joyful, so at rest?" You can assure others that it was not through some nefarious 'higher power,' nor was it through "positive thinking" or pop psychology. It was through a most particular Person. It was and is through The One and only One who has exercised His power completely**

**and totally in your life - - - -and through whom and in whom you now live - and move - and have your being. And this same One whose name is Jesus the Christ would love nothing better than to liberate and fill up to perfection every person you will ever know, like, dislike, be related to, be unrelated to, etc. etc. etc Wow!**

**So how about it? Let's go for the whole enchilada!**

**Father, You are wonderful in all Your ways. By Your power, Father, by Your grace, by Your mercy, and by Your love, You have given me Your life in exchange for mine. Father, through Jesus You have taken my sins upon Yourself and on the cross You executed Your full judgment for my sin. In place of my sin, You have given me Your righteousness as a robe to wear. Father, today I purpose to embrace Your view of me. Lord, redeem my thinker, my mind, with the life-giving truth of Your Word. I embrace what You say about me and am going to begin filling myself with Your mindset. Holy Spirit, bring to my mind what Jesus says about me. Lord, I revel in You and thank You for the fullness of Your redemption. I pray in the Name of Jesus Your Son and my Savior. Amen.**