

2 Peter 3:1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.

If you can distinguish where thoughts come from you can deal (quickly). Statistics show that we think up to 40,000 thoughts per day... 80% can be negative and 80% of what we worry about never comes to pass: Thinking wholesome thoughts is critical.

Matthew 9:1-8 (key verse, verse 4)

¹Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ²Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." ³At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" ⁴**Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"** ⁵Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷And the man got up and went home. ⁸When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

(Note: Jesus knows the motivation behind our thoughts. Amplified uses word 'harbour' for entertain)

means to amuse, treat as a guest, give attention/consideration to

'entertain' – from Latin 'to hold': - from Greek 'to treat as guest'

Matthew 12:34-37 – 'what we speak comes from the overflow of the heart (what is stored up)'

Proverbs 23:7 – 'as a man thinks in his heart so he is'

Scriptures that speak of setting our minds:

Daniel 10:12 "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

2 Corinthians 4:18 – fix eyes on things not seen

Hebrews 12:2 – fix eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 3:1 – fix thoughts on Jesus

As New Testament believers: we confessed with our mouth what we believed in our hearts.

THOUGHTS: Where do they come from?

- **Satan:** accuser of the brethren Rev.12; John 10:10 (steal, kill, destroy); Ephesians 6:10 ff – schemes; adversary

- Colossians 2:9, 15: ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
- **Flesh:** sinful nature – Romans 12:2; Romans 8:5-14 (death, decrease, depression, demoralised, disillusioned, disappointed); Romans 12:2 – not conformed but transformed by the renewing of the mind
- **Spirit:** Holy Spirit: Romans 8:6 ‘for the mind controlled by the Holy Spirit is life and peace’ John 16: Counselor, He, personal; convictor; v12 – He will come, guide, show you things to come, bring glory to Jesus (beautiful)

Romans 12:2 - Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Think differently!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Thoughts – arguments – strongholds (sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap an habit; sow an habit, reap a lifestyle)

HOW ARE WE TRANSFORMED? *Take every thought captive*

LED BY THE SPIRIT

What is more powerful than a thought? An argument? Or a stronghold? The Word of God; the Sword of the Spirit; our offensive weapon.

You have 3 seconds to renew a thought.

REVELATION: THERE IS ANOTHER THAT KNOCKS AT THE DOOR – Jesus; ‘if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him’ amen.