

Divine Thinking Skills

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Henry Ford, the inventor of the automobile, had a tremendously qualified staff. Each member was an expert in his particular field. When Mr. Ford was asked why he had hired those particular people, he answered, "So I can be free for the really hard work—*thinking*."

Thinking is work, and it requires great skill to do it properly. A mind needs to be trained, especially so it can respond rightly in the midst of pressures.

Christians, because they are under constant attack in this world's system, need to make sure that their minds are sharp. Truth and light need to be stored and cataloged so every situation has an answer from the Word of God.

This booklet shows how a mind that is rightly related to the Word of God and to Jesus Christ can be fully equipped in the power of the Holy Spirit. With this kind of mind, a believer's body will function according to faith and not accord-

ing to sight and feelings.

Chapter One

DEFINED BY DIVINE
VOCABULARY

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence.

“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

“In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight” (Colossians 1:18-22).

Our minds can only think on the basis of the words that we know, the vocabulary that we

have, and the capacity that knowledge produces. I have many books and tapes that examine the roots and origins of words. Without understanding the roots of words, books on vocabulary do little good. Words take on more relevance when you search out their roots.

The process of building a vocabulary is challenging and progressively wonderful. It produces amazing capacity within a Christian, and he can learn to think rapidly and fervently. Whenever a problem arises, he has the knowledge to think his way through it.

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).

Imagine receiving directions with a limited vocabulary. Suppose you want to know how to get to Interstate 95 from downtown. If someone were to say to you, "Go three blocks and hang a left. Then go three more blocks and make a right." A problem arises if you have no idea what a "block" is or the names of the streets where you should turn. Just how long is a "block," you wonder? You could end up confused, embarrassed, and probably lost.

Agodly vocabulary should define our thinking process. Instead of being stimulated based upon emotional enthusiasm, our thoughts will

then be based upon the inspiration of God's words in the various departments that dwell in us.

The Head Is in Control

Consider this: We could do nothing without our heads. Thank God for our hands, our fingers, our thumbs, our feet, our toes, our legs, and our arms. Thank God even for our tongues. These parts all work beautifully, but they are all controlled by the head. My head says, "Let's walk down the hall," and my body finds no problem at all with obeying the command from the head.

There would, however, be quite a problem if my fingers had a meeting and decided to let the thumb dictate how to administrate the task. What if my one hand said, "Scratch his back" and the other one disagreed and said, "No, get a drink of water"? Eventually, there would be a committee of fingers and thumbs that would be deeply confused, and all because the head was not directing them.

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

"He that believeth on me, as the scripture

hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38).

"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High" (Psalm 46:4).

Jesus Christ has taught us that it is absolutely crucial for a head to function through the mind, the soul, the heart, and through the river of the Holy Spirit. The streams referred to in Psalm 46 are the streams of awareness. The conscience directs the mind in how to think according to the norms and standards established in the soul. When that is happening, we are being motivated by a most wonderful, powerful thing called the heart. This is why our bodies must have a right relationship to our heads. It is the key to emotional, spiritual, and physical health.

Chapter Two

WORDS THAT GIVE LIFE

“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

“And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

“Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not

“And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him” (Malachi 3:16-18).

The body is habitually sympathetic to its head. As a child, when I hurt my big toe, the pain was transmitted to my head and through

the network of nerves in every member of my body. I ran crying to my mother holding my arm.

"What's wrong," she asked. "Did you hurt your arm?"

"No, I hurt my toe."

"But you're holding your arm."

What I didn't realize then, but I realize it now, is that my arm was sympathetic to my big toe because my head was transmitting the message of pain to every member of my body. My hand and arm received the signal of how much my toe hurt, so they were compassionate members and did what they could to help with the pain, though they were not directly affected by what caused the toe's pain.

One late, great preacher used to say this: "I can only go as far as I think."

Malachi wrote during extremely dark days in Israel. And according to Malachi 3:16, when one of God's people thought about Him, the Lord hearkened. The original Hebrew text indicates that God also had something to say about it: "Hush! Someone is thinking and talking about Me."

The Book of Remembrance

At some hour, the queen may be speaking in London. The president of the United States may be giving an address to the news media. Members of Congress may be having important conversations and debates. The Lord, however, is not necessarily listening to them. But let two or more people start thinking and talking about the Lord, and the illustration in the original text reveals that He bends over and draws near, inclining His ear to listen. In fact, according to James 4:8, if anyone draws near to God, He will draw near.

“They are talking about Me! Hush!” He says.

Beyond all that, God writes down what is thought and said in His book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16). This book will be on display to be read throughout the ages and ages of eternity.

Think about it this way. Four or five people are on their way to outreach. Tears come to their eyes as they talk about Jesus. The Lord makes note of it. He hearkens unto their prayers. He hears what they say, and He writes it down.

A billion years from now, what that group said remains recorded in a book of remembrance. Those moments will be God’s jewels for

all of eternity.

Origin of Fellowship

The most beautiful and precious thing is to be around men and women who fellowship with the Lord. No one can adequately function in fellowship without fellowshiping with God first.

Just a sentence, and there is divine inspiration and compatibility because of the origin of fellowship with our Head, Christ Jesus. Fellowship with Him brings about magnificent fellowship with men in the Light of God.

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple” (Psalm 119:130).

“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour” (John 12:26).

The word “simple” speaks of humility. God’s words come and give direction because they come from the Head. The moment a man or woman has the Word of God flowing through them from Jesus Christ, he or she does not need to be told where to go. We go where God goes, because where God is, is where we want to be.

This represents a beautifully refined relationship between the Head and the members of His Body. It is quite simple for the members of Christ's Body to do what the Head tells them to do. Everything is well with the Head, and the members of His Body find it no problem to be in unison with the Head. The members have no desire to walk contrary to the dictates of the Head. Wherever the Head is, the members of His Body are there in the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).

Chapter Three

SKILLED THINKING BRINGS RIGHT RESPONSES

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

God so desires to give His people divine thinking skills. These skills have everything to do with being successful in business. For example, if I enlarge my capacity to think with God, I increase my vocabulary, and I stay in tune with the Head, Jesus Christ. That way, God can reveal things in the marketplace. He may reveal a tremendous opportunity for a unique business.

There are men and women whom God has blessed with divine thinking skills. They have started businesses that meet demands of the marketplace, and they learn how to close sales, how to do their jobs more effectively, and how to do many things they would never have dreamed of doing without knowing how to think with God.

God is willing to give us opportunities to have the greatest thinking skills we could ever have. When we develop our thought processes through increasing our vocabulary, our capacity is increased. As a result, our social interaction is no longer artificial and our communication is no longer superficial. We have substance as God's subjects and as the objects of God's love.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

The Word of God is the first thing that the mind must receive to experience and enjoy the plan of God. The Word produces faith and equips the soul to utilize its divine assets, its divine potential, and its divine ability in one's humanity. We can, indeed, learn to think literally and actually with God.

Categories of Thinking

Slowly, as we receive the Word of God, the categories of our thinking are built up. These categories are doctrines composed of scriptures, organized and classified by subject. There is, for example, a classification or category of doctrine for marriage that includes Ephesians 5:22-25 and 1 Peter 3:1-7. It details the husband's and the wife's responsibilities and privileges in relation

to each other.

First, each one lives before God individually in a vertical relationship with the Head. This vertical fellowship is the source for divine thinking skills. These skills define what a husband should do as the Holy Spirit brings it to his memory. The Spirit tells him, "You are to love your wife as Christ loved the Church. That is, you lay down your life for her."

The Holy Spirit tells the wife, "This is what you should do: Respond, honor, love, and submit to your husband. Do not manipulate, do not be careless in the way you appreciate his initiations."

Divine thinking functions in the power of the Holy Spirit as He communes with the human spirit. It is something that goes far beyond the letter of the words we read and hear. Our thought processes must develop through the Word of God, so we can grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). We must decrease as God increases (John 3:30). Once we begin to be moved by proper thinking, we will have classified doctrine governing our souls.

Everyone knows how articles in a newspaper are classified. Some items are emphasized

and magnified and put to the forefront, while other items are subordinated. This is what the Holy Spirit does with our thoughts. At certain times, certain thoughts become very important as they relate to our lives. Through properly receiving the Word of God on a consistent basis, we receive the vocabulary and the spiritual life that we can exercise and function in through a divine thought process. We can do a marvelous job of letting the classified doctrine operate in us accompanied by the Holy Spirit. Because of our diligence in receiving the Word of God, the Spirit keeps bringing His words into remembrance exactly when we need them (John 14:26).

Categorical Storage

Categorical storage develops when our minds have grown in their processes, premises, and presuppositions. Through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to arrive at many divine conclusions on serious matters. What's more, we do not fall into decay in terms of knowing how to think.

Many people will be doing well, then something happens in the family and suddenly they are not doing so great anymore. Why? They have not learned how to think things through

with God. But when a tragedy or an accident comes, those divine thinking skills are necessary. In these days, we need thoughts that are inspired and mobilized by grace, by wisdom, by mercy, and by love. When we allow proper information to be stored in our minds through the humility of taking up our cross daily, we will always have proper inspiration, regardless of what we face.

Worry doesn't need to control us. Yes, sad feelings may come. There surely are times when we will be legitimately and completely heartbroken. But by thinking with skills derived from God's viewpoint, we will be able to be inspired and go on in victory in the specific circumstance, detail, or situation. This can happen because of divine categorical storage.

By God's mercy and grace, categorical storage is the reason I can preach every time I am in the pulpit. My messages are drawn from classified doctrine that has its origin in the premise of the Word of God. Those thoughts may not be categorically rooted at first, but they are dwelling richly in my heart. In time, these thoughts are ready to come together through the mobilization of my thought processes, and thinking skills with divine viewpoint are oper-

ating in specific areas of need.

The thought processes in those departments take over the emotions, and out of all of this comes a beautiful thing called security and a godly self-image. Our self-image grows as our souls and minds grow. No matter how deep the problem we face, we have something with God that is so much deeper.

CONCLUSION

“When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;”

“Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee” (Proverbs 2:10-11).

Many people hear teaching upon teaching. Still, they remain spiritually ignorant and rebellious. The things they learn do not accomplish a purpose in the utilization of a thought process that glorifies God to bless and to love people.

Divine thinking skills make a Christian extremely wise. He understands that God who is in him is greater than he who is in the world. He does not give in to his emotions or to the rebellion of another person. He does not give in to reactions and negativity. Instead, he just stays cool with God because he has something very pleasant on the inside.

Operating with divine thinking skills by having the mind of Christ is how we represent God. He died for every man and woman when

we were on our way to hell. Jesus Christ went to the Cross and died, not only to keep us out of hell, but also to bring Himself out of heaven to live inside of men. With Christ on the inside, and the Holy Spirit directing our thoughts, knowledge is no longer used as a head trip, but it reveals just who our Head is.