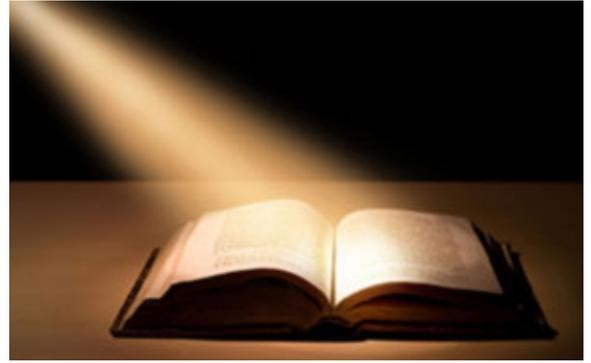


“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,’ saith the Lord, ‘I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.” Hebrews 10:16 KJV



Heart and mind is emotion and thought. Love is first a thought. Why do we love WHAT we love? Why do we love WHO we love? Thought produces action which produces consequence. If the consequence is pleasing, it is a pleasure. Take food for example: We are enticed to partake by any number of sensations from aroma to appearance. Once tasted, we then decide/choose to like or dislike. They now make wax food for advertising that “appears” lifelike, but have you ever tasted it? It only entices, because of memories of past pleasure; thought. What you choose to allow in your heart and mind shapes your character. *“As he thinketh in his heart, so is he!”* Character is who you are when no one sees; what you do in secret; who you are to yourself. You may hide secrets from men and even lovers, but God knew them before you were born – before time began! *“O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.”* You cannot and will never fool nor hide anything from God! You may delude yourself into denial of His omnipotence, but you only deprive yourself of eternal pleasure! That thought that flits through your mind when someone cuts you off in traffic, criticizes, or ignores you, God knows! Those secret thoughts of malice and anger you harbor towards others, God knows. When you deceive yourself into believing what you think and do is OK because “everyone else is doing it,” or “there’s nothing wrong with it,” – when you KNOW God is against it, but pleasure is more important than your eternal soul, God knows! He knows when you ignore Him, neglect Him, or deny Him! He offers exquisite ecstasy to anyone who will be His friend and walk with Him in Truth! *“At Thy Right Hand are PLEASURES for evermore! Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”* Think of that which pleases you most and then consider it in light of what you just read! God offers pleasure AND eternal life: Unending bliss, but few heed His call! Is there some good thing you really want in life that seems to elude your grasp? Then trust and obey God’s Word, because *“NO GOOD THING will He withhold from them that walk uprightly (obey Him).”* Some, after professing faith in Christ, fall right back into disobedience as if nothing ever happened! Jesus said, *“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”* Fruit is the purpose of a plant; be it flower, fruit, or both. What “fruit” is your thought-life bearing? What displays your purpose to the world? If you were accused of being a disciple of Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Are you so involved with trying to fit into the world and its ungodly system, you seek and esteem their favor more than God’s! You feel hurt and rejected when they mock your faith, but feel no remorse whatsoever for ignoring God! We ask God to remove the pain of trouble little realizing that we brought it upon our own heads! When you begin to realize that what you consider a nagging conscience is really the Voice of God Himself directing your path, you will begin to hear God! If your conscience no longer nags you, God may have given you over to a reprobate (evil only) mind. *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a REPROBATE mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the Judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”* Before you

determine what is evil with human reason and comparison, remember this; it won't matter a whit on Judgment Day what men think! God classifies even man's "good deeds" as "*Filthy Rags!*" When we "hear" God in our thoughts by recognizing the Truth of His Word as His Voice; we can begin to overcome evil! If you never read or remember God's Word, you will never hear His Voice and you will not hear Him when He returns!

Inscribed in us by God's own hand,
The Word of Truth whereby we stand,
Bestows on us eternal peace,
And blessed joy twill never cease! ~CGP

When you talk with a friend do you pause to listen to their response? Of course, you do! When is the last time you paused during prayer long enough to hear God's Voice in your heart and mind? His Word is what you will hear as He comforts, instructs, and teaches "*thee in the way which thou shalt go.*" Know God's Word distinguishes His Voice from the cacophony of thought that courses daily through our hearts and minds! Knowing God's Word enables the "*hearing*" ear; however, not only must you HEAR God, but you must stop and ponder: it is Eternity's Sovereign who stoops to whisper to you! Are you listening?

"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Acts 28:27 KJV

C.G. Palmer