

Holy Thinking

“Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter.” Satchel Paige

The older I get the less I remember. It is the curse of many moons upon this great earth. But the wonderful part of this is if we can choose to remember and think on good things, our lives will be better than they have ever been.

When we are young we think we know everything there is to know, when the reality is we know nothing. When we are older, we realize that there is more to know than we could ever possibly know. Only then are we beginning to understand.

So the choice is to find the good things. The humor, the love, the thoughts which make wonderful things come to be.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft it sank...proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

Now that's funny! No pun intended, but sure floating out there!

Looking for the smiles, the laughter, and the light-heartedness which life can offer will make us happier. It will give us a spring in our step. We will be on our way to finding the joy that heaven can bring.

The true joy which heaven can bring will come from walking with God from whom all blessings flow. And we are given a wonderful outline of what and how to think from God's word.

“Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” ~Paul the Apostle

Do you need an adjustment in your thinking? Are we so set in what and how we think on a daily basis, that special moments are sometimes made antiseptic by lapsing into what we might think or say when we are somewhere else?

In the middle of a wedding ceremony, a jewelry store manager exchanged rings with his soon-to-be spouse. As he slipped the ring on to his bride's finger, he said, “With this ring-- we guarantee a full refund if the customer is not completely satisfied.” His sales pitch was so deeply ingrained in his mind that the words came out automatically.

If certain things are not changed about our thinking, we will miss the special moments God has prepared for us. The people of Israel were in bondage for over 500 years. When they

were finally set free, many wanted to go back! To cruelty, hunger, and captivity? That's worldly thinking, not the plan God has for us.

Perhaps our thoughts can be determined by just how we approach others. Look for hope in everything we do, and we will find boatloads. Look for Eeyore moments, like the Winnie the Pooh Character of that name, and we will always be down and discouraged.

The mind is a terrible thing to waste. It is such a gift of God. We can look down, and concentrate on worldly, dark, selfish thinking. Or we can look up, forward, with hope and faith that God will do great things.

Let us be wary of how we think. It is not long before our thoughts become what we do. We want to choose wisely just what direction we go, rather than be consumed with what others force us to be and do. Here is a good outline for good result-oriented results below.

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. Frank Outlaw

Maybe from time to time we should stop thinking, and simply let God fill our minds with good and result-oriented thoughts. Perhaps, in our moments of education, thinking, and striving always to understand, we must just stop and look at the instructions. The Bible has all the instructions we need to live on this earth, and to find our way to heaven.

A man had bought a new gadget-unassembled, of course--and after reading and rereading the instructions he couldn't figure out how it went together. Finally, he sought the help of an old handyman who was working in the backyard. The old fellow picked up the pieces, studied them, and then began assembling the gadget. In a short time, he had it put together. "That's amazing," said the man. "And you did it without even looking at the instructions!"

"Fact is," said the old man, "I can't read, and when a fellow can't read, he's got to think."

As one with upper level degrees from college to the doctoral level, I can somewhat appreciate both the blessings and the interference that too much thinking from the worldly point of view can have. Sometimes, we must stop, put every thought aside, and be still and know God. That just may be the kind of holy thinking we need.