

## Thinking

God gave us the ability to think. It is a blessing when we use that brain for Godly thoughts and action. Not so much when we think and do selfish and bad things.

I sometimes wonder if the story of Adam and Eve was more a lesson about thinking than it is about the creation of the world. When they thought they could be like God, and yielded to temptation in that quest, they showed us that the lines between good and evil are very close.

There are valiant attempts by people who use their minds as much as possible to find meaning in life. We can do great things that fall short of the truth that God can reveal, but they only go so far.

Governments can help people. They can also control and destroy people. Though their concept is good, the temptation toward corruption combined with the limited thought patterns which humanity is capable of falls far short of the complete picture.

Jesus came to earth to reveal the mind of God to people who think they know everything. He came to teach us how to think and act differently. In fact, we can have the “mind of Christ” as a benefit of being a Christian, and understand and accomplish Godly things when God is showing us what they are.

God does not tell us not to think. He calls us to think and dream the impossible, for anything is possible with God. Certain things are possible with our human efforts and abilities, but with God nothing is indeed impossible.

Dr. Seuss calls us to “Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!”

I’m for thinking. There are mountains discovered and worlds transformed by thinking. But only when God guides and enables that thinking are the wonderful and all inclusive possibilities revealed.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the fall of man happened. What we must understand is that because of that fall, our minds are limited and darkened because of that human condition. Only God’s holy spirit can help us understand and think the way God first created us to be.

Christians must be careful not to appear to be know-it-alls. Even though we know the One who has all the answers, most of what is to be known we will never know. If we have reached the point in our lives that we realize that there is much more than we can ever know to be known, then we are beginning to have a little perspective.

“People who think they know everything, “writes Isaac Asimov, “are a great annoyance to those of us who do.” He was a prolific writer, a member of Mensa, and describes some members of that group as “brain proud and aggressive about their IQ.”

Sadly, he was a humanist, and while organizing many good organizations and helping many people, he was limited by the very brain which allow him to accomplish much. His brain, like many in today’s world, got in the way of faith rather than making it possible.

God’s love makes eternity possible. His power is available to all who seek him. He gives our minds the ability to think higher than we ever thought possible.

But we must not think that thinking is all God wants us to do. His love is rooted in action. Christ came to earth to save us. That is an action. And that action of reaching out to others is what our brains must be fixed upon and come to fruition again and again.

“Some think love can be measured by the amount of butterflies in their tummy. Others think love can be measured in bunches of flowers, or by using the words 'for ever.' But love can only truly be measured by actions. It can be a small thing, such as peeling an orange for a person you love because you know they don't like doing it.”~ Marian Keyes

Individual Christians, churches, and faith organizations can think all they want to. But it is the doing of good, the sharing of the gospel of life, and the feeding of the hungry that God wants each day.

We as Christians must be careful to not seem like we know everything. We don’t. We do, however, have an answer to the question that all of humanity is action. Choosing our words carefully is key.

“It is better to keep your mouth closed,” writes Mark Twain, “and let people think you are a fool, than to open it and remove all doubt.

Thinking with all the wonder that God makes possible, keeping silent at the right times, and speaking up at the right ones. These are great gifts that God our Father gives us.

We must be careful not to let what others think of us paralyze us. Chip Kelly, a successful pro football coach, said this of the media. “I don’t think about what I think as much as you think about what I think.”

Others will surely think about what we do and say. Hopefully, they will see good things because of God’s influence in our lives.

It all begins with thinking.