

## THINKING

One of the most common statements I hear from people facing life's challenges is, "Pastor, I can't get it out of my mind; I can't get my thinking right! And I know this has something to do with me not getting blessed." Proverbs 23:7 says, "***For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.***" Therefore, we do become what we think in our heart. Notice, this proverb doesn't say, "thinks with his heart," but; "thinks in his heart!" How do you think in your heart? This is a process of meditation and contemplation. When you have thought about something long enough for it to drop down into your heart, then your heart accepts what you have been thinking about as a reality. That is why you become what your heart has believed. We could say, "As a man believes in his heart, so he is!" This principle lines up with Luke 6:45, "***A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***"

Therefore, your thinking is very important because it directly influences what comes out of the heart. Think good thoughts and you deposit good things in the heart! As a result, your heart will possess a treasure of good and it will bring forth an abundance of good confessions and good actions. You are what you think in your heart! You can't get away from this truth. And notice how it works for either good or evil. This principle is highlighted in other verses throughout the Bible. Psalm 119:130 states, "***The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.***" Let me ask you, "Where do God's words enter?" They enter into and aluminate the heart! Once this happens it brings understanding – which is a function of the mind. Here we see the same process, but in reverse. When God's word enters into the heart, it brings forth light (revelation), this light then shines onto the conscious mind and affects your thinking. This is why we are told to renew our minds by the word of God. A renewed mind has renewed 'thinking' and renewed 'thinking' produces what was brought forth out of the heart. As a man thinks in his heart so is he!

We must learn to control what the heart is thinking. For when we do, we will know for certain what we shall become. If you want to change, change your thinking! And I sincerely recommend you think on these things... "***Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is excellent or praiseworthy***" (Philippians 4:8). When you get into the habit of thinking right, in accordance with God's word, your heart will be full of good treasure. And it's from that treasure that you can draw when life's storms are raging. Yes, in times of trouble you need to make a powerful confession (from the abundance of your heart) - you need to speak words that will change your situation immediately. And nothing can come against faith-filled words that come forth from the treasure of the heart. This is a major key to living a victorious life.