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 The Dominate Thought

 “Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his

 servants you are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of

 obedience unto righteousness?” Romans 6:16

Before a man is saved by the grace of God, he lives life continually being influenced by the fallen world around him because of his corrupt nature according to the deceitful lusts which he inherited from Adam. No one in his unregenerate state has to be taught how to sin, nor does he have anything besides the ways of this fallen world to govern his thoughts by, thus his thoughts are vain because of his nature. The wickedness of his thoughts comes without any realization that they are indeed evil; therefore, his life is governed by these thoughts which affect his emotions, decisions, actions, attitude, and words, which will lead him away from God’s path of righteousness. He will only live to satisfy his lustful desires which proceed from the thoughts he has within.

A man’s life is governed by the way he thinks. Proverbs 23:7 says, “for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” You cannot separate a man from his thoughts. Everything in life comes from a thought: where you go, what you do, how you treat others, all begins with what you are thinking, and before a man receives salvation and the truth of God’s Word and ways, his thoughts are wicked, and an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 15:26). Then, at salvation, which is an instantaneous work of God, man enters into a continual process of transformation called sanctification. At salvation we receive the Spirit of God into our once dead spirit and as 2 Corinthians 5:17 states, we are new creations, but we still have our negative and sinful thought pattern that needs to be changed. So, we learn that our minds need to be renewed by the Word of God (Romans 12:2), and set out to achieve this by studying and learning what the Word says. Now what we have is two thought patterns which we must choose from daily. Galatians 5:17 tells us that “the flesh lusteth against the Spirit”, meaning there is a war in your mind to control your thoughts, and the dominate thoughts will be the one that govern your life. Our thoughts determine our direction in life; where we will end up.

Once a man is saved there are two thoughts he must live with and make decisions from every day of his life. There are the thoughts which come out of his flesh, and these are selfish, lustful, sensual, devilish, and attempting to lead him down a path of destruction. Then, there are the thoughts which are influenced by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Most people are so spiritual that they refuse to acknowledge that they are in a constant tug of war in their thought life because they feel it sounds like an area of defeat, when in all actuality, this is the life of faith. The Holy Spirit was given to us for this purpose; to lead and guide us into all truth (John 16:13). God gave us the ability to choose (Deuteronomy 30:19), and the Spirit to guide and minister His Word to us so that we have the ability to make the right choice. But ultimately we must choose. Life then becomes a series of decisions a man must make, and these decisions will come from the thoughts which dominate his life. Mark 4:24 starts out by Jesus saying, “take heed what you hear.” The thoughts which govern your life will come from what you give the most attention to. If you spend the majority of your time listening to the influence of the world: television, talk shows, secular music and entertainment, and the enticements of the world, and little to no time with the Word of God, then it is safe to say that your flesh will dominate in your thought life. A saved man must be careful to be watchful and guard his mind at all times. If he continues to leave himself open to the ways of the world, these worldly values will creep in and influence his life. That’s why Romans 12:2a warns us to “be not conformed to this world”, or as the Amplified states it; don’t be fashioned by or adopt its ways. Proverbs 4:20, 21 gives us some helpful instructions to help in our thought life: “My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart”, because Jesus continued in Mark 4:24 Amplified by saying, “the measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you.” When you give your attention to the Word of God consistently you are renewing it from that old corrupt way of thinking, to a new way which now lines up with the Word of God and will lead you to make decisions in life according to the purpose and will of God. What will dominate your thought life is what you give the most attention to. Sadly, but truthfully, most Christians spend little to no time with the Word of God and continue to experience repeated failure over and over because their life is being governed by the negative thoughts which are dominating their life. But God said in Isaiah 26:3 that He will keep you in perfect peace when your mind is stayed on Him. When you give your attention to the Word of God you will experience a thought life that believes God is able and willing to do all that He promised. These will be the thoughts which allow you to yield to the guidance of the Holy Spirit rather than those negative thoughts you will have about any given situation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit you can say no to thoughts that don’t belong in a believer’s life because you have hid the Word in your heart (Psalms 119:11), and now can follow and say yes to the appropriate thoughts which will dominate once you begin to spend time in the Word while at the same being very careful to block out the worldly influence. You then are the one who determines which thoughts will dominate in your life by what you give your attention to. If you deny the worldly influence which leads to sin and death, and fill your mind with the Word of God, and yield to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, then godly thoughts will dominate and cause you to choose the truth, and your obedience will lead you to righteousness.