

*The Lord Knows  
Our Thoughts*



Dear Child... ☺

**I** know  
**EVERYTHING**  
you are  
thinking...

Psalm 94:11      Love,  
Your Father

## The Lord Knows Our Thoughts

So far in this series of studies on the great challenge David offered his son Solomon, we have considered what it means to really "Know God" and how to "Serve Him Faithfully." After David impresses upon his son the importance of this relationship, and how faithful service must be the result, he then tells Solomon that God will know if he is a true servant. In 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28:9, David tells him, "For the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts." Imagine Solomon as he listens to his father David and is told he will be working for the one true God, who knows his every thought and detail of his heart. That had to be very sobering! As you and I "know" and "serve" the same God, the One True and Living God, what is our motivation? The very fact that God knows everything we think, and every little detail of our hearts, should be very sobering for us as well!

In Jesus' earthly ministry we find examples where He knew exactly what was in the heart of man. Matthew 9:1-4, is but one occasion where Jesus is either questioned, or accused of something. In this case he is thought to be guilty of blasphemy, and verse 4 tells us, "But Jesus,

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God knows everything we think.

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knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts?'" In Revelation 2:23, to the "Angel of the church in Thyatira" Jesus said, "I am He who searches the minds and hearts." When God looks at our hearts, what does He see? Is it a heart that praises Him, no matter the circumstance in our lives? We must be people who are thankful for life itself, and the great opportunity we have to serve Him.

ingitis that left her in a coma for 2 weeks and blind for 6 months. She once celebrated two birthdays in a row in the hospital without going home in between. There were several times that she was not expected to live. Despite all of these setbacks, this lady was one of the most vibrant, grateful, happy and cheerful persons you would ever meet. She told everyone that her mission field was in the hospital, just like she had always hoped and planned. However, she said that instead of serving God as a doctor she serves him as a patient. This is a woman who is blooming where God planted her.

The Apostle Peter wrote to the "pilgrims of the Dispersion" who were scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, and who were undergoing some struggles of their own: "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ..." (1 Peter 1:6-7)

You may be undergoing some trial by fire in your own life. Perhaps the plans you had made seem to have gone up in smoke. Let the genuineness of your faith shine through. Someone has said that we should write our plans in pencil and remember that God has the eraser. He may erase some things but with our faithfulness he always writes something even more beautiful in its place.

*"There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand." Prov. 19:21*

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## Blooming Where God Plants Us

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*"A man's heart plans his way,  
but the Lord directs his steps."  
Proverbs 16:9*

There is certainly nothing wrong with making plans. In fact, sometimes we fail to arrive anywhere because we do not plan ahead. However, we often learn the hard lesson that the best laid plans of mice and men are often brought to naught. Robert Burns wrote a poem "To A Mouse" about this very accurate appraisal of men's proposals. It was Thomas a Kempis who wrote in *Of the Imitation of Christ* (Book 1, Chapter 19): "*For the resolutions of the just depend rather on the grace of God than on their own wisdom; and in Him they always put their trust, whatever they take in hand. For man proposes, but God disposes; neither is the way of man in his own hands.*" James reminds us in James 4:15, "Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'"

So what do we do when we have laid the best of plans and things don't work out like we planned? In Acts 16:6 we read, "Now when

they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia." Evidently Paul had his sights on the province of Asia and was making plans to go that way. However, the spirit directed him toward Macedonia and he planted a church in Philippi that became a great supporter of his ministry over the years.

We have all heard of the saying "bloom where you are planted". It is good advice and there is much speculation over where the saying originated. Someone said that he thought it came from a Hallmark greeting card! Some say that although these exact words are not found in the Bible, yet the idea is taught in 1 Corinthians 7:7-24.

I read a story about a lady who wanted to become a doctor and work as a medical missionary, taking the gospel to sick people in all parts of the world. At age 14 she developed chronic health problems that required her to be hospitalized for major surgery several times a year. She survived bacterial men-

Early in Jesus ministry He began to perform miracles, such as turning the water to wine in John the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, and as a result great crowds began to follow. Soon after that first miraculous event, He went to Jerusalem during Passover. What He found was upsetting! Some had taken part of the temple over, and were selling things such as

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But Jesus did not commit Himself to them because He knew all men...

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doves, oxen, sheep, and some were even money changers. These activities upset Jesus and He begins to run them out of the temple, and says, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house, a house of merchandise!" The Jews then ask why He did so, and He replies, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. But He was speaking of the temple of His body." The crowds continue to follow, and as impressed as they were with the miracles, many, including His disciples, were confused with things He said. John 2:23-25, tells us, "Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them because

He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man." So, we may ask, "Why would He not "commit" to them? Why didn't He just come out and tell the whole story of His earthly mission? We are very plainly told why. "He knew all men" and "He knew what was in man." He knew their heart and just what they were thinking. Many were simply attracted because of the miracles and He knew it. He knew most would follow, if He continued to heal and do these wonders. But He also knew that if the message suddenly turned to service, self-denial, a cross, or carrying their own cross, that many would have simply looked at Him and said, "I can't do this!" Jesus sensed that many of them were not yet committed enough to follow Him to the end. How committed are you? Whatever may come in life, will you remain with God until the end? Before you answer, remember, you cannot hide your heart from God! He already knows your level of commitment!

When you read David's Psalm, it's obvious that he grasped the fact that God knows everything about him. Notice: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sit-

ting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether" (Psalm 139:1-4). God knows every little detail of our lives. Psalm 94:11 tells us, "The Lord knows the thoughts of man." As I said earlier, it is very sobering to me! He knows whether I have the right attitude when thinking of my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, my wife, children, or parents. Am I sincere in my preaching? Shouldn't the fact that we cannot hide anything from God give us more than ample motivation to serve Him, and be happy to do so?

No doubt, at some point in each of our lives, there have been thoughts on our part that we later regretted. If we think that is a problem area of our lives what should we do? God's word plainly tells us to "think about better things!" Paul tells the Brethren in his Colossian letter, "If you then were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right of God. Set your mind on things above not on things of the world" (Colossians 3:1-2). We need to feed our minds with good things. The

best and only way to do that is through study, prayer and fellowship! Scripture tells us in Acts Chapter 2, that on the Day of Pentecost those who were added to the church, "Continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers," and also were, "daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house." This newly formed congregation of God's people spent a lot of time together, not only taking

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God's word plainly tells us to "think about better things!"

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meals, but more importantly feeding one another spiritually. Modern scientific study has proven that we become what we think. Over the years I have talked to several people who were trying to turn their lives back toward God, and they were finding it difficult. I always shared with them the only way that could happen was they had to replace the bad with something good. We must put good things in our minds and it can't be done away from God. We can't starve ourselves spiritually, and just live on a junk food diet of sinful things! There must be study, worship and prayers.

was Elizabeth's reaction: "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy" (Luke 1:44). Those who advocate abortion for any reason argue that a fetus does not have human qualities. This passage, like others in God's word, shows that a fetus is simply an unborn baby.

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Let God be in control.

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There are extreme situations where an abortion might be necessary. When a mother's life is threatened and there is no possibility that both she and the unborn child could survive, that might be a need to consider. Abortion as it is commonly practiced, however, almost never involves such extreme situations.

On the other hand, the deliberate taking of an adult human life is likewise reprehensible. "You shall not murder" is the sixth of the ten commandments (Exodus 20:13) and was endorsed by Jesus in Matthew 19:18. God has appointed governments to use

the sword in cases of danger and injustice (see Romans 13:4), but individuals are not given that responsibility. Two principles must guide us as we seek to overcome evil. First, we must let God be in control. "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19). The second is likewise simple: "Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

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Overcome evil with good.

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We're often tempted to take matters into our own hands. But people of faith must wait on the Lord.

Timothy D. Hall  
*LightGrams*  
June 5, 2009  
Volume 13, Number 21

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## Overcoming Evil

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Here's the challenge: Produce a movie about a gang of thieves whose plan is to pull off one of the biggest robberies ever - and make these thieves heroes. Can it be done? Actually, it has been done numerous times. One example is "Ocean's Eleven", a popular production from 2001. How do you make criminals appealing? First start with attractive stars; in this case, George Clooney and Brad Pitt. Then show them as likeable people, despite their profession. Finally highlight the evil of the people being robbed. In this case, the owner of the casino deserved what he had coming, we are led to believe.

Scenarios like this sometimes happen in real life. This past Sunday, Dr. George Tiller was shot to death as he attended services at his church in Wichita, Kansas. That sounds like a tragedy, and it truly is. But some actually condoned, perhaps even cheered, the deed. Dr. Tiller, these people would say in

self-defense, was guilty of terrible acts.

Dr. Tiller was well-known as a doctor who performed abortions. He was medical director of one of only three clinics in the nation which advertised abortions after the 21st week of pregnancy (known as late-term abortions). He had often been the target of protests and threats and was shot in both arms in 1993 by an anti-abortion activist.

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Is a violent sinful act ever right...

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Does God shed any light on this type of situation? Is a violent sinful act ever right, especially if it is aimed at stopping a terrible evil?

The Bible gives no support to the practice of abortion-on-demand. There is plentiful evidence that the "fetus" inside the mother's womb is a human life. When Mary, who was then carrying Jesus in her womb, visited her cousin, Elizabeth, also pregnant, here

Paul wrote the Brethren at Philippi, "Finally, Brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

You follow the life of the wise man Solomon, and what you will find is he discovered exactly what his father David said was true. God recognizes a true heart and does know our thoughts. Solomon, in Proverbs 23:7, says, "As a man thinks so he is." In Proverbs 4:23 he tells us, "Carefully guard your thoughts, because they are the source of true life." Later, when the temple was finished, Solomon prayed, "Lord, you alone know the hearts of men."

The obvious question for you and I is, "What do we think about?" I pray that we center our every thought on Jesus Christ, and never doubt for a second that He has, "gone to prepare a place for us." Let's not allow anything, such as our thoughts, to keep us from entering the heavenly rest.

Tom Bennett  
Spearsville, LA

### Think On These Things

God's Word tells us how to think  
So into sin we will not sink.  
This Scripture, we need to be  
heeding.  
Then follow the Holy Spirit's  
leading.

Always think on things that are  
true,  
And be honest in what you think  
and do.  
Think on things that are just and  
pure.  
Fall not into temptation by Sa-  
tan's lure.

Think on things that are lovely,  
child,  
Not on things that are wicked  
and wild.  
Think on things that are of good  
report,  
Like telling the truth, even in  
court.

Think virtuously and praise the  
Lord.  
Worship with the saints in one  
accord.  
Keep your thoughts under God's  
control.  
Let pleasing the Savior be your  
goal.

...Margaret Cagle

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## Walk With God

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THOUGHT FOR THE  
WEEK

MAY 12, 2013

**You can't walk with the  
world**

**and have a good standing  
with God**

The Apostle Paul warns us to stay clear of worldly people and their sinful ways.

1 Cor 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not

ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

1 Cor 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. **6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.** 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11 Now all these

things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not

ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**Walk righteously with  
Christ as an example, be in  
good standing with God and  
receive His promises.**

MAY GOD BLESS

JEFF & JOAN PROSISE