

## The Power of the Mind

Genesis 2:7: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

When Adam was first created, he was like a tree. He had no ability to breathe, move or think. He was simply a structure. Even without God's breath, He would have continued to exist, since there was and is no death in Heaven. Nevertheless, He would not have a soul.

Our souls are comprised of our minds, will and emotions. It gives us our ability to move, make choices, remember, forget, and feel things. Genesis 1:27 reads, "So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." What exactly does this mean? What is God's image? This scripture isn't referencing the physical form or shape of a man; it is referencing the heart of a man. God made man to be good, loving and faithful just like He is. He gave man the ability to see, experience, remember and make choices, which are all the liberties that He Himself enjoys. Nevertheless, anyone who is given the ability to choose will have options to choose between ... options that are oftentimes are two opposing sides of the spectrum. Genesis 2:16-17 details the moment Adam received his options or his first and only set of instructions. It reads, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." As we can see, with options comes consequences.

When Satan trespassed on the Garden of Eden, he walked over to Eve and lied to her. She fell for his lie and ate from the Tree that God told her not to eat from, and after this, she gave some of the fruit to her husband to eat. Her mind had been changed, meaning, that had Adam not eaten the fruit, he would have been unequally yoked with Eve and their house (structure, marriage) would have been divided. The prefix of divide is *div*, which is the same prefix found in the word *divorce*, meaning, spiritually speaking, Adam would have remained spiritually separated from Eve. He had a choice to make. He could cross over the barrier that sin had created and go be with his wife, or he could remain in the will of God and lose Eve. He decided to adapt to his wife's new religion; he decided to allow her to deform his thinking or better yet, his soul.

God put the couple out of the Garden of Eden and promised to send a Redeemer to redeem all of mankind, since the soul of mankind was now deformed. The couple now had the knowledge of good and evil, and their new assignment was to repeatedly choose good over evil, even though they were now deformed by sin. Around 4000 years later, Christ came and fulfilled what God had spoken to Satan on the day He'd judged him for deceiving Eve. Genesis

3:15 reminds us of this account; it says, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

We were created in the image of God. Another way to put this is, we started off in the imagination of God, but He didn't leave us there. Like any good idea, He had to bring us to pass, so He formed man from the dust of the ground. Once mankind fell into sin, the shape of our souls was changed. Even though we were created in the image of God, we begin to take the shape of Satan, meaning, our imaginations began to wonder between good and evil. Suddenly, our ability to make a choice was no longer a freedom; instead, it gave way for strongholds.

The Greek word for stronghold is *ochuróma* and it means a fortress or a strong defense. HELP Word studies defines *ochuroma* this way: "— a fortified, military stronghold; a strong-walled fortress, used only in 2 Cor 10:4. ("a heavily-fortified containment") is used figuratively of a *false argument* in which a person seeks "shelter" ("a safe place") to *escape reality*. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 reads, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." What are we warring against? Evil spirits, of course. What are evil spirits? They are the imaginations of Satan manifesting themselves through fallen angels. We also battle with these images or imaginations because we were shapen in iniquity, but God told us to cast them down, rather than to agree with them. How do you cast down an imagination? It's simple. By replacing it with a higher thought.

As humans, we have images that pop up in our minds. These images come from three directions:

1. Heaven (these are the good dreams and plans that God has for us.)
2. Our hearts (these are the good and evil plans that we have for ourselves).
3. Satan (these are the evil thoughts that seem to come out of nowhere and invade our thinking).

God told us to cast down imaginations; in this, He's pretty much saying to take dominion over your thoughts. We have to have the ability to control our minds, our will and our emotions. God gave us dominion over all the fish of the sea, the fowls of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Through Christ, He gave us dominion over serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nevertheless, just because we have this power doesn't mean that we will automatically exercise it. This is where the power of choice comes in yet again.

Just as we were a thought in God's imagination, we also have thoughts or images that pop up in our heads. If we don't cast them down, we'll eventually birth them out, and since we have been deformed by sin, we would repeatedly give birth to evil ideas, thus, further polluting the earth and advancing the kingdom of darkness. This is why our greatest struggle is gaining control over our minds.

Some of the imaginations that we are bombarded with are:

1. Thoughts of power
2. Thoughts of wealth
3. Romantic thoughts
4. Thoughts of peace
5. Thoughts of conflict

These are just a few thoughts that bombard a human's mind on a daily basis. The problem is, many of these thoughts come from voids. Voids are nothing but empty, dark spaces in a person's soul, oftentimes inhabited by evil spirits or evil thoughts because of a lack of knowledge. They are like empty rooms in a house or better yet, rooms void of life, oftentimes full of dust, debris and even a few squatters. The people in these rooms, because they are illegal and are not paying rent, should have no power to determine how the house is run. Instead, the minute you realize they're there, your goal is to exercise your dominion and kick them out. This process is called deliverance. To keep them out, however, you need to fill the rooms with life.

The life you're experiencing now and everything you see around you, including every friendship you're yoked to, every problem you're a part of and every conversation you find yourself involved in is a manifestation of how you think. How you think is the direct result of the shape of your mind.

### **How to Change Your Mind**

1. To change your mind, you have to change what goes into your mind.
2. To change your mind, you have to change who has access to your heart, which is the epicenter of your mind. Proverbs 4:23 warns, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life."
3. To change your mind, you have to change your plans. In short, you give your plans over to God and trust Him.
4. To change your mind, you have to rearrange your thoughts. For example, you cannot keep esteeming worldly things and people, otherwise, you'll keep esteeming their concepts and you won't be fully opposed to their processes.
5. To change your mind, you have to stop esteeming the opinions of mankind over the opinions of God, otherwise, like Adam, you will find yourself biting into forbidden fruit

just to fit in.

6. To change your mind, you have to change your contact list.
7. To change your mind, you have to familiarize yourself with the Word of God and agree with Him wholeheartedly.
8. To change your mind, you have to be steadfast. For example, every Christian who has ever decided to walk in holiness, not their idea of holiness, but true holiness) has been called religious by other Christians who aren't fully separated from the world. If you want to see a major change in your mind, you can't be moved when people call you religious, crazy or weird. You can't be moved when you're ostracized, demonized or persecuted. You have to remain steadfast.
9. To change your mind, you have to want God more than you want the world and the things of the world.
10. To change your mind, you have to want to please the Lord. Anything else is just manipulation.