

There is a fundamental **responsibility** we need to accept, reclaim, and/or renovate ...
THINKING ... OWNING OUR MINDSETS.

Romans 1:21

For although they **knew God**, they **did not honor** him as God or **give thanks** to him, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² **Set your minds** on things that are above, **not** on things that are on **earth**.

1) Know the connection: spiritual reality and mental practice (→ mindset).

Psalm 27:8

You have said, "**Seek my face**." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I **seek**."

Holy Spirit does not bypass our minds ... (but neither does the enemy!).

Psalm 10:4 (NKJV)

The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in **none of his thoughts**.

Ephesians 4:17-18a

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must **no longer walk** as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, **alienated** from the life of God ...

The thoughts we think are set by the **presence** we are in.

- Raised with Christ
- Things on the earth

2) Know the current facts about Jesus and ourselves.

Jesus Today:

- Exalted
- Seated
- Advocate (I John 2:1)

Us Today:

- Where Christ is, **we are**.
- His position sets our **condition**.
- There is an "IF ..."

What is true of Christ is—**spiritually, by faith**—true of me in heaven.

What is true of Christ is—**mentally, by setting and seeking**—true of me **right here, right now.**

Being in the conscious presence of God (*CORAM DEO*), **starts in the mind** and should develop into **constant state of mind.**

Embrace the responsibility yet understand the hostility ...

Colossians 3:3-4

For you **have died**, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God.

⁴When Christ who is your life **appears**, then you also **will appear** with him in glory.

**Spiritual realities → Mental practices

Ephesians 4:18-24

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God ... ²⁰But that is not the way you **learned** Christ ... the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life ... ²³and to **be renewed in the spirit of your minds**, ²⁴and to put on the **new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

3 Mental Commitments:

- Are my thoughts worthy of Him ...?
- Are my thoughts worthy of who I am when I am with Him ...?

1) Submit our minds to **scrutiny**

- Testing (I Thessalonians 5:21)
- Taking captive (2 Corinthians 10:5)

a) Impact on our **view of God?**

Psalm 145:3

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

b) Impact on the **position Christ?**

c) Impact on my **self-life/ego?**

Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ... [who] made himself of no reputation ... He humbled himself ...

d) Impact on other people?

Philippians 2:3

... in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

e) Impact on God's Word?

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life ... The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

2) Realize there are things we do not have to think about anymore:

- a) Our own promotion & exaltation
- b) Making a case for ourselves
- c) Rehearsing hurts (complaining, criticizing)
- d) Stressing over the outcome

3) Make a daily and in the moment appropriation of the Gospel.

... especially of having His forever approval and love!

Realize the importance of weekly worship and daily time in His Word.

Psalm 16:8

I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.