

## The Importance of Thoughts

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by Bill Crews

[continued from page 2 \[274402\]](#)

*"But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: these are the things that defile the man; but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not the man" (Matt. 15:11,18-20). As bad as filthy hands are, a filthy mind is far worse.*

*"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart" (Deut. 6:6). **And do you know why?***

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: But his delight is in the law of Jehovah;! And on his law doth he meditate day and night" (Ps. 1:1-2).*

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16).*

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).*

We cannot be like God without thinking the thoughts of God. We cannot know the thoughts of God apart from the revelation of the things of God in the word of God (1 Cor. 2:11-13). We cannot have the thoughts of God in our hearts apart from reverent study of and meditation upon the word of God, coupled with a sincere desire to do the will of God (Jn. 7: 17).

### Your Example

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Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted an invitation to work with a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh me, I almost sold God's Son for a quarter!"

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

**Watch your thoughts; they become words.**

**Watch your words; they become actions.**

**Watch your actions; they become habits.**

**Watch your habits; they become character.**

**Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.**

274403