

Right thinking lies at the foundation of right action.¹ Moral purity depends on right thinking and right acting.²

This simple principle if understood and wisely appreciated is one of the keys to a changed life. Thoughts form the basis of character. It is character which decides one's eternal destiny. The ability to enjoy heaven and whether or not a person can be trusted in heaven will depend upon the settled, established state of his or her thoughts

and feelings at the end of that person's life. Give careful attention to the thoughts you allow or provide for your mind. They are shaping your character and determining your eternal destiny.

PRINCIPLE

THOUGHTS ARE EXPRESSED IN WORDS, AND THE WORDS REACT UPON THE THOUGHTS, AND PRODUCE OTHER WORDS.³ IF THE THOUGHTS ARE RIGHT, THE WORDS WILL BE RIGHT.⁴

IT IS A LAW OF NATURE THAT OUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE ENCOURAGED AND STRENGTHENED AS WE GIVE THEM UTTERANCE.⁵

AN EDUCATION DERIVED CHIEFLY FROM BOOKS LEADS TO SUPERFICIAL THINKING. PRACTICAL WORK ENCOURAGES CLOSE OBSERVATION AND INDEPENDENT THOUGHT.⁶

IF THE THOUGHTS ARE RIGHTLY DISCIPLINED, IT WILL BE A FAR LESS DIFFICULT TASK TO CONTROL THE FEELINGS.⁷ IF THE THOUGHTS ARE WRONG, THE FEELINGS WILL BE WRONG; AND THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS COMBINED MAKE UP THE MORAL CHARACTER.⁸

IF THE THOUGHTS, THE DREAMINGS OF THE MIND, ARE OF GREAT PURPOSES IN WHICH SELF FIGURES, THERE WILL BE REVEALED IN WORDS AND ACTIONS SELF-EXALTATION, A LIFTING UP OF SELF.⁹

IMPORTANCE

Shows the origin of our words and how words affect thoughts.

Explains how thoughts and feelings are strengthened.

Tells how to avoid superficial thinking and how to develop independent thought.

Shows the close connection between thoughts and feelings. Explains how the feelings can be controlled or influenced.

Explains one reason why a person may speak and act proudly, boastfully or in a conceited manner.

According to the Bible, wickedness and evil start with thoughts. Early in earth's history, God saw the tendency of men's thoughts and imaginations. And God saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. Genesis 6:5

The imagination is made up of thoughts.

The first work of those who would reform is to purify the imagination.¹⁰

I M A G I N A T I O N

PRINCIPLE

IF THE IMAGINATION IS CONSTANTLY OVERFED AND STIMULATED BY FICTITIOUS LITERATURE, IT SOON BECOMES A TYRANT, CONTROLLING ALL THE OTHER FACULTIES OF THE MIND AND CAUSING THE TASTE TO BECOME FITFUL AND THE TENDENCIES PERVERSE.¹¹

LOW SONGS, LEWD GESTURES, EXPRESSIONS, AND ATTITUDES DEPRAVE THE IMAGINATION AND DEBASE THE MORALS.¹²

A MIND THAT EASILY STUMBLES OVER HURT FEELINGS WILL CONJURE UP MISTAKEN IDEAS OF ALL KINDS.¹³

DISEASE IS SOMETIMES PRODUCED, AND IS OFTEN GREATLY AGGRAVATED, BY THE IMAGINATION.¹⁴ WHEN THE WILL IS DORMANT, THE IMAGINATION BECOMES ABNORMAL, AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST DISEASE¹⁵

IF THE MIND WERE ACCUSTOMED TO CONTEMPLATE ELEVATING SUBJECTS, THE IMAGINATION TRAINED TO BEHOLD PURE AND HOLY THINGS, IT WOULD BE FORTIFIED AGAINST TEMPTATION.¹⁶

IMPORTANCE

Explains why fictitious literature is not good for the imagination

Explains how the imagination is depraved.

Shows one source of mistaken ideas..

Explains how the imagination is related to disease.

Tells why it is important to train the mind to behold that which is pure and holy..

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE LAW OF THOUGHTS
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WHEN THE LORD SEES THE DETERMINED EFFORT MADE TO RETAIN ONLY PURE THOUGHTS, HE WILL ATTRACT THE MIND, LIKE THE MAGNET, AND PURIFY THE THOUGHTS.¹⁷

THINK RIGHT THOUGHTS, AND YOU WILL PERFORM RIGHT ACTIONS.¹⁸

THE MIND BECOMES PURE, AND BROAD, AND ELEVATED WHEN THE THOUGHTS AND CONVERSATION ARE OF THAT CHARACTER.¹⁹

SUMMARY THOUGHT: THOUGHTS LEAD TO CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

UN-CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER - Developed by intentionally viewing, hearing or thinking about killing, adultery, stealing, covetousness, lying, swearing, dishonor of parents, self-worship, idol worship or dishonor to God

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER - Developed by intentionally viewing, hearing or thinking about whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; any virtue, and anything worth genuine praise.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Commit thy works unto the LORD, *and thy thoughts shall be established.* Proverbs 16:3

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; 2 Corinthians 10:5

The thoughts of the righteous [are] right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit Psalms 12:5

In the multitude of *my thoughts* within me thy comforts delight my soul. Psalms 94:19

<p>SOP REFERENCES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. {RH, January 23, 1894 par. 6} 2. {GW 126.3} 3. {AUCR, September 15, 1905 par. 1} 4. {RH, April 6, 1886 par. 4} 5. --MH 251-253 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. {Ed 220.2} 7. {ST, May 25, 1882 par. 14} 8. --5T 310 9. --Lt 33, 1886. 10. Undated MS, 93 11. {YI, April 21, 1886 par. 3} 12. {4T 652.3} 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Letter 12, Jan. 11, 1903 14. --MH 241 (1905). 15. --MH 239. 16. {CTBH 135.1} 17. --Und MS 93. 18. {YI, April 21, 1886 par. 3} 19. --Letter 16, 1879, pp. 2-6.
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