

Mindful of the Things of God or Mindful of the Things of Men?**Mark 8:33, Matthew 16:23**

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“Jesus explained to His disciples that the Son of Man must suffer many things, be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.” Mark 8:31

“Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him.” Mark 8:32

Jesus rebuked Peter, “Get behind Me, satan! For you are not **mindful of the things of God** but the things of men.” Mk 8:33 (At other times Peter was mindful of the things of God, as in Mark 8:29 and Matthew 16:16, 17.)

The thoughts that are in our minds and hearts, determine our words and actions.

Matthew 12:34, Matthew 15:18, 19, Mark 7:20, 21

Jesus said:

“Out of the abundance of **the heart** the mouth speaks.” Matthew 12:34

“Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from **the heart**.” Matthew 15:18

“That which comes out of the man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of **the heart** of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness (uncontrolled lust), an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” Mark 7:20-23

Therefore, God’s Word says:

“**Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**” Proverbs 4:23

The way we do that is by:

“**My son and daughter, attend to My words: incline your ears unto My sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes: keep them in the midst of your heart. For they, (My words and My sayings), are life to those that find them, and health (healing and medicine), to all their flesh.**” Proverbs 4:20-22

And also by following:

Blessed is the man and the woman who walk not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful, but their delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law do they meditate day and night. They shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, they shall bring forth their fruit in their season; their leaf shall not wither; and whatever they do will prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

(“the law of the Lord” == is a general term for God’s Word.

See John 10:34 where Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6, and 1Corinthians 14:21, where Paul quotes Isaiah 28:11, 12.)

(“meditate” means to think about something by speaking to yourself - margin note of the KJV Bible.)

Why is God’s Word so rewarding to those who meditate in it day and night?

God’s Word is alive, active, and powerful. Hebrews 4:12.

God’s Word is Spirit and life. John 6:63.

God’s Word will last for ever. Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8.

God’s Word will not return to Him empty; it will accomplish all of His purposes. Isaiah 55:11

God’s Word contains thousands of God’s promises, by which we are partakers of His own divine nature. 2Peter 1:4.

God is watching over His Word to perform it. Jeremiah 1:12 (Amplified Version)

By the Word of God, He created all things. Psalm 33:6, 7, Hebrews 11:3, John 1:3

By the Word of the Lord, He upholds and sustains all things. Hebrew 1:3

When we read the Word of God, the Lord speaks to us, by drawing our attention to some words or verses. John 10:27, 28

As we believe these God spoken Scriptures in our hearts, and speak them out aloud in faith, the Holy Spirit brings them to pass. Genesis 15:6, Deuteronomy 30:11-14, Romans 10:6-10, 2Corinthians 4:13, Psalm 116:7-10, Proverbs 18:21, Hebrews 10:23

The first foundation of the Christian life is to REPENT, (*Greek : metanoeo – to have another mind, Young’s Conc.*).
Hebrews 6:1

The need to repent was the first thing preached by John the Baptist, and by Jesus, and the apostles.
(*Change your thinking!*) Matthew 3:2, 4:17, Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3, 5, 17:3, 4, Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 26:20,
The Risen Christ also preached this need of repentance to the seven Churches, in Revelation 2:5, 16, 21, 3:3, 19

Repentance means to have “a change of mind”. (*Greek: metanoia*).
Matthew 9:13, Luke 24:47, Acts 20:21, Romans 2:4, Hebrews 6:1, 2Peter 3:9.

When we repent God gives us a new way of thinking.

As we read the Word, the Holy Spirit transforms and renews our minds **to be mindful of the things of God.** Romans 12:2

Repentance is a decision of the will to turn away from all unrighteousness and sin, and submit unreservedly to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

When we do this, through the powerful working of God’s Word and Holy Spirit, our way of thinking **is transformed to be mindful of the things of God.** Romans 2:4, Colossians 3:1, 2, Romans 8:5-7, 1Corinthians 2:16, 1Corinthians 2:14

Coupled together with receiving Jesus as our Saviour by faith, we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit and are born again as a new creation in Christ. Acts 2:38, 3:19, Galatians 3:27, 2Corinthians 5:17, Titus 3:5, 6

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