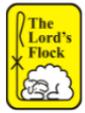


Wrong Thinking

(Thieves of Prayer Series, Part 5A)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

When we pray, does it come from the heart? Or do we pray by lip service (Mt. 15:8)? If we are truly honest, do we believe what we pray and quote from the Bible? While we are praying, Satan distracts us because he is aware of our vulnerabilities. Moreover, our wrong thinking and wrong speaking lead us to wrong praying; these are thieves of prayer, so we must be devoted to prayer rooted in God's Word.

1. **Wrong Thinking.** When we think wrong, we believe wrong, then we speak wrong. Hence, we make wrong choices. People make wrong decisions because of lack of knowledge (Hos.4:6). Why is wrong thinking significant?

1.1. **Guidance will be lost without God's word**
"Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD (Ps. 119). Many people lack direction and moral restraint; thus, they go astray. When times are difficult or it is time to fight temptation, we need discernment.

1.2. **Ignorance makes people vulnerable to sin.** Lack of discernment will easily lead to wrong decisions because we rely on our thoughts and feelings, rather than the Lord's will.

1.3. **Call to Action.** Believers must actively read, study, and obey the Scripture to know God's will.

1.3.1 Reading the Bible regularly increases our faith. What should we do when we have bad thoughts while praying? We must rebuke; we should not ponder, nor worry about them.

1.3.2 Seeking the help of the Holy Spirit before we pray is important because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with His will (Rom. 8:26-27).

1.3.3 Thinking about things that are excellent or praiseworthy, true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable should be routinely practiced (Phil. 4:8).

1.4 Watch out for doubt. Doubt is a normal part of faith; it is an invitation / a moment to show our faith. Don't let Satan sabotage our victory. Let us believe in God's word by speaking what we believe, and overcoming our doubt with faith. Hence, we should ask for wisdom when we have trials (Jas. 1:5).

1.4.1 Moses doubted that God would use him (Exo. 4:1). We can be leaders and have an impact on people, though we do not have a title. What God did to Moses will also be done to us.

1.4.2 Elijah doubted and complained to God (1Kings 19); however, God sustained Elijah with food and water.

2. Results of Doubt:

2.1 It could be an unanswered prayer (Jas. 1:5-8; Mk.5). Hence, we must believe.

2.2 We will not see God's healing power (Mt.14:13; 17:17).

2.3 His promises will not happen to us. *"That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring..." (Rom. 4:16).* Thus, we should live God's Word.

2.4 God is not pleased. *"Without faith, it is impossible to please God; anyone who comes to him must believe he exists and he rewards those who seek him" (Heb. 11).*

2.5 We will not see God's power to deliver us from trouble. *"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mk. 4:40).*

Conclusion: Wrong thinking is one of the thieves of prayer. We can only correct our thinking by praying and reading the Scripture.

Reflection: Have you had a moment when you doubted God's goodness and questioned His character?

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