

Hot Thoughts

Pastor Kirk Graham

Key Points:

- God knows and will hold us accountable for our thoughts, motives, and intentions.
- The way you think can either destroy or build your life, bind you up or set you free.
- It is possible to sin with your mind, even before acting on corrupt, prideful thoughts.
- When we allow our minds to consistently dwell in worry and doubt, it is sin. We need to trust God!
- An apathetic lack of alert and attentive engagement with the things of God is a sin. We need to quicken our minds!
- "You are only as free as you think you are, and freedom will always be as real as you believe it to be." Our minds can be fully healed and redeemed!

Main Scripture Reference(s):

- Psalm 139:1-6, 17-18, 23-24; Isaiah 29:13; 1 Chronicles 28:9-10; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 4:12-16; Philippians 4:8; Matthew 5:8; Proverbs 4:23

Discussion Questions:

1. C.M. Ward describes mental laziness towards the things of God as "the dullness of apprehension," and reminds us that it is a sin not to love God with all of our mind. What are some ways you can quicken your mind and give God your full attention?
2. In Romans 12, Scripture says "do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment." Internally ask the Holy Spirit to show you aspects of life in which you are thinking of yourself too highly. Externally ask a Christian friend if your words, attitudes, or actions reveal any underlying points of pride. Ask the Lord to forgive you and help you view yourself with authentic security through the lens of His unconditional love.
3. C.M. Ward explained worry and doubt as "taking the times and seasons out of God's hands." Remembering and choosing to put our trust in God's goodness counteracts anxiety and realigns us with faith. What "times and seasons" have you been worrying about, and need to entrust to God? What are some examples of times when you have seen God's good hand working in your life and/or a loved one's life?
4. The things you can't talk about own you. What mountains in the landscape of your internal life need to be spoken aloud in the safety of loving godly community, so that they no longer have the power to bind you up? Vocalize them to a fellow Christ-follower *today*. Find Scriptures together that express the truth that sets you free from these giants and mountains, and read these verses out loud!