

*An E-periodical For spiritual enlightenment, edification and encouragement.*

Book	Chapters	Words	Letters	Paragraphs	Lines	Words per Line	Letters per Word
TITUS	3	1,284	5,112	10	108	12.8	1.28
HOLY BIBLE	66	783,147	3,132,588	15,336	1,533,600	12.6	1.26
LUKE	24	17,246	68,984	360	3,600	12.5	1.25
GENESIS	11	4,300	17,200	90	900	12.4	1.24
NUMBERS	36	25,145	100,580	540	5,400	12.3	1.23
PSALMS	150	4,249	16,996	270	2,700	12.2	1.22
1 KING	22	15,665	62,660	330	3,300	12.1	1.21
MARK	16	6,784	27,136	144	1,440	12.0	1.20
ACTS	28	16,276	65,104	336	3,360	11.9	1.19
ROMANS	16	7,414	29,656	144	1,440	11.8	1.18
REVELATION	22	4,286	17,144	220	2,200	11.7	1.17
JOHN	21	14,854	59,416	300	3,000	11.6	1.16
DANIEL	12	9,460	37,840	192	1,920	11.5	1.15
ISAIAH	66	12,823	51,292	264	2,640	11.4	1.14
1 JOHN	5	2,856	11,424	60	600	11.3	1.13
JOEL	2	1,098	4,392	24	240	11.2	1.12
JUDE	1	1,058	4,232	24	240	11.1	1.11
JAMES	5	1,105	4,420	24	240	11.0	1.10
1 PETER	5	1,152	4,608	24	240	10.9	1.09
PHILIPPIANS	4	1,189	4,756	24	240	10.8	1.08
MICAH	4	1,051	4,204	24	240	10.7	1.07
NAHUM	3	614	2,456	12	120	10.6	1.06
EPHESIANS	3	1,197	4,788	24	240	10.5	1.05
AMOS	9	646	2,584	12	120	10.4	1.04
JOB	31	2,463	9,852	120	1,200	10.3	1.03
ESTHER	10	1,054	4,216	24	240	10.2	1.02
RUTH	4	512	2,048	12	120	10.1	1.01

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Perspective	Study	Anecdote	Mission	Outline	Pulpit Echo
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## PERSPECTIVE:-

# YOUR MIND MATTERS: CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS

 By Nelson Thomas

“I am so sorry, I did it by chance, forgive me.” “I am extremely sorry, I spoke unknowingly.” We are familiar with such pleas for pardon. But the reality is that no word or deed comes out of us without it being filled in our heart first.

The Lord Jesus makes it very clear. “For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” “From within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” (Luke 6:45c; Mark 7:21–23).

Having regret over a wrong word or deed is definitely a good attitude. Nevertheless, if it's a recurring practice, it is high time that we examine the thought pattern behind it. It is foolishness as well as self-deception to keep on making excuses and do nothing about the root cause for our misconduct.

### INCREDIBLE IMAGINATIONS

The ability to imagine is one of the blessings man enjoys from his Creator. All scientific innovations and gigantic structures and towers are evidence to the power of human

imagination. Before we saw something actually, someone saw it in their imaginations.

However, this God-given ability of man has been marred by sin. Instead of thinking and executing everything in accordance with the God's plan and for His glory, man is constantly abusing this faculty.

Think about the fall of Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan did not actually force her to eat the forbidden fruit, but cunningly implanted a thought in her mind. She saw the fruit, thought about it, found it desirable and then took the fruit and ate it breaking God's commandment (Genesis 3:1-6).

We can notice the same pattern in all other's failures as well. Achan intently paid attention to the beauty and the value of the devoted things in Jericho and that led further to coveting it and finally robbing the things of God (Joshua 7: 21). David happened to see a woman taking bath, he chose to intently and carefully look at her, enjoying her beauty, and rest is history (2Samuel 11:2). No wonder David wrote later, “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts” (Psalm 51:6a).

## A CORRUPT MIND

Summarizing the sinfulness of the gentile world apostle Paul writes, they “became futile in their thoughts and their foolish heart was darkened”. Their evil acts against God originated in their corrupt heart (Romans 1: 21–23).

Remember, an unconverted, sinful mind is in darkness though seldom man admits it. Such a defiled, debased and hardened mind is at enmity with God. It cannot yield to God’s law (Rom.1: 28–30; 8:6; Eph. 4:18, 19; Tit. 1:15). In other words, due to the inherent sin nature, the heart of man is wicked; and hence the evil desires and deeds are a natural outcome (Ecc. 9:3; Jer. 17:9; 1Cor. 2:14).

That’s why we see throughout the scripture, the Lord points out the evil imaginations of man as the cause for their misdeeds and even holds them accountable for these (Genesis 6:5; 8:21; 11:6; Prov. 6:18; Jer. 23:17; Ezekiel 11:5; 2Peter 1:14). However, God in His grace and long-suffering promised to give a new heart that will change their thought pattern (Ezk. 36:26; Jer. 32:39).

## A NEW CREATION

This is exactly what happens at conversion. A born again believer in Christ gets a new heart through the miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit (John 1: 12, 13; 2Cor. 5:17). A stone-like hardhearted individual becomes soft and sensitive to the voice of God (cf. Ezek. 11:19; Eph. 4: 19). Then, pride and arrogance will be foreign to him, humility and longsuffering will be his marks. Such a

spiritually awakened child of God is led by the Holy Spirit and has the mind of Christ (1Cori. 2:16).

Nonetheless, this Christ-like spiritual thinking pattern must be maintained and even renewed (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Colo. 3:10). Constant reading and meditation of the word of God is indispensable to maintain a godly mindset. It is the scripture alone that discerns and pierces into our imaginations to judge and renovate our minds (Heb. 4:12).

## A CARELESS MIND

When a believer becomes careless, fails in his spiritual obligations and begins to live like an unbeliever, his mind becomes a battle field for the enemy. He is plagued with all kinds of illegitimate, evil thoughts. Such a carnal attitude slowly and surely leads to all kinds of troubles (Rom. 8:6).

As James writes, “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” (James 1: 14–15). The pathway to failures is our own lust and cravings, no one else can be blamed.

Yes, uncontrolled feelings and musings have ruined many Christians. When the mind is occupied with self and self-interest alone, it’s natural for such to be proud, haughty and arrogant. Many do not consider the consequences of having an unforgiving spirit. Thoughts of anger, aggression, resentment, irritation, hatred, self-pity, etc., will not only destroy one’s own peace



but even affect their relation with God and fellow brethren.

Today the enemy is bombarding the hearts of men and women with all kinds of wicked thoughts and images through various mediums. If a Christian is not careful enough, there is every possibility for him or her to be influenced and deceived by wrong ideas that would weaken their spiritual life and testimony (2Cor. 11:3).

## HOLY THOUGHTS

Never forget the words of Christ, “I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matt. 5:28). The Lord expects His followers to be holy even in their thought life. Not only lust, even hatred against one another is a serious issue before the Lord. (Matt. 5:22).

Beloved believer, how is your thought life? What is actually happening in your mind? Do you cherish evil fantasies secretly, thinking nobody knows it? Do you keep a grudge against anyone in your heart? You will never succeed with a wrong thinking pattern, whichever form it is. Not only that, you will not experience true peace, and joy, nor will your associates feel the same (Romans 8:6).

Listen to the warning of the wise man. “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he”. (Pro. 23:7a). “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.” (Pro. 4:23).

“

*“God does not garrison the thought-life of a man who does not want it to be kept pure.”*

-----William MacDonald

”

## A TRANSFORMED MIND

Let us make every effort to guard our eyes and ears lest any unwanted image or message reach within us, which can generate evil feelings. Arrest every thought that arises against the cause of Christ (2Cor. 10:5).

Above all, saturate our heart with the word of God. Paul says it poignantly, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8).

Be away from all forms of evil, negativity, criticism, resentment etc. (Genesis 39:10; Job 31:1). Purposely and deliberately focus on divine things, things that would build us up. Make it a habit to feed upon biblical truths that generate spiritual thoughts (Rom. 13:14; Eph. 4:24; Colo. 3:10). Maintain a Christ-like mind that is filled with an outlook of humility, service, love, forgiveness, holiness, etc. (Philippians 2:3-5).

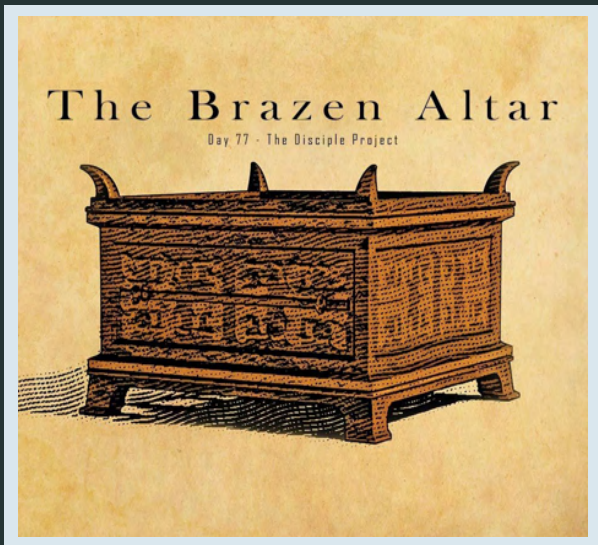
Pray and plead as the psalmist, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14). Then alone our words and deeds become acceptable to God and a blessing to others (Eph. 4:29; Colo. 4:6).

## BRIEF STUDY:

### Brief Notes on Tabernacle –11:

# THE BRAZEN ALTER:

 By Charles .E. Wigg, Australia



*Brazen Alter*

After entering through the gate, the first thing that the worshipper sees is the great brazen altar, with the fire blazing there, and the smoke of the sacrifice ascending as a sweet savour to God.

This altar speaks of Christ as the one by whom alone we can approach God, and by whom we can offer the sacrifice of praise, prayer and worship, Heb 13: 10-15. But the altar speaks to us more of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He did for us, when He suffered and died on the cross, on Golgotha's hill, in contrast to the gate and its colours, which reminded us of the many glories of the person of our blessed Lord.

### ACACIA WOOD:

In Exodus 27: 1-8, we are given the details of the construction of the brazen altar, and in verse 1 we are told that it was to be made of acacia wood, which was then overlaid with brass, or bronze. The acacia tree grew in the desert, and was a comparatively small and stunted tree. It speaks to us of the perfect, incorruptible humanity of Christ, as the one who grew up here in this waste and barren wilderness-world.

Isaiah describes the acacia tree in verse 2 and 3 of chapter 53 of his prophecy. There he says that He, (our Lord Jesus Christ,) would grow up before Him, (God, our Heavenly Father,) as a tender plant, (more correctly, sapling, a young tree,) and like a root out of a dry ground. When the Lord Jesus came into this world, it was indeed a dry ground, there was so little that God could take pleasure in, but when God looked down upon His Son, for the first time since the fall of Adam, He saw one in whom He could find all His delight.

## A HUMBLE DESERT TREE

Because of the harsh, dry, and barren environment, the desert acacia never grows to a very large size, seldom more than 12-15 feet in height, it is a humble desert tree. That is why Isaiah says; He hath neither form nor comeliness, (lordliness,) and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. The world saw no beauty in the Lord Jesus; His humility was an offence to those who looked for a conquering Messiah, a charismatic political figure who would draw the masses after him in a national revolt that would overthrow

the occupying Roman power, and establish Israel once again as the head of the nations. They said of Him, "Is not this the carpenter's son?" and they were offended in Him, Matt 13: 55-58. But God found in Christ what He could find in no other. Everything that He had ever sought in man, God found it in Christ. That is why twice, once at His baptism, and later on the Mount of Transfiguration, God declared that He found all His delight, in the person of His dear Son. The acacia wood then, reminds us of the humble, holy, incorruptible humanity of Christ, without which He could never have been our Saviour.

## ANECDOTE:-

# HOW THOUGHTS COME TRUE!

 Source: Bits & Pieces

A salesman, driving on a lonely country road one dark and rainy night had a flat. He opened the trunk--no lug wrench. The light from a farmhouse could be seen dimly up the road. He set out on foot through the driving rain.

Surely the farmer would have a lug wrench he could borrow, he thought. Of course, it was late at night--the farmer would be asleep in his warm, dry bed. Maybe he wouldn't answer the door. And even if he did, he'd be angry at being awakened in the middle of the night.

The salesman, picking his way blindly in the dark, stumbled on. By now his shoes and clothing were soaked. Even if the farmer

did answer his knock, he would probably shout something like, "What's the big idea waking me up at this hour?"

This thought makes the salesman angry. What right did that farmer have to refuse him the loan of a lug wrench? After all, here he was stranded in the middle of nowhere, soaked to the skin. The farmer was a selfish clod--no doubt about that!

The salesman finally reached the house, and banged loudly on the door. A light went on inside, and a window opened above. "Who is it?" a voice called out. "You know darn well who it is," yelled the salesman, his face white with anger. "It's me! You can keep your blasted lug wrench. I wouldn't borrow it now if you had the last one on earth!"

# THE NEED FOR PREACHERS WITH QUALITY

 By Dr. Justus Samuel

The writer was discussing with a highly knowledgeable gentleman from a Western land on missionary matters. In the course of the talk, he posed a question that had engaged his thinking often – ‘where are the leaders?’

Look at any sphere of human activity today; whether in Politics, Economics and other Sciences, or Religion, the giants are few, if any. We are confronted with a world of mediocrity, and this is bound to affect the future adversely. The standards are likely to go down the incline. And this despite the fact that we have today centers of high learning in every imaginable discipline, and men are, no doubt, cleverer than in the past half a century.

### THE PULPIT GIANTS

When it comes to preaching, this is no exception. The world saw some real ‘giants’ of the pulpit in the eighteenth and the past centuries—men like John Wesley, George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Finney. We acknowledge that there are masters of the platform in our day—men who

can draw audiences in hundreds of thousands, and there is a good deal of emotional-potential or charismatic attraction. Many of the preachers are sincere, but they preach to a relatively superficial crowd. If Spurgeon developed a sermon on 10 points, the modern speaker dwells on two or three.

The former’s audiences were more serious and gave of their time. Spiritual matters counted with them. We agree that days have changed and the length of preaching cannot be anywhere as long as in the last century. However, the ‘meat’ should still be there to be effective. This means that the preacher has to discipline himself and perhaps spend hours together to collate his material logically.

Even in former days, some of the giants like Whitefield were short speakers, but men with tremendous appeal. He went to the extent of saying that if one spoke for more than half an hour he must be an angel or his audience angels. But remember, Whitefield’s preaching was more to awaken people to spiritual realities, while Spurgeon’s preaching was



to people with a religious background drawn from the professions and the intelligent classes. Dr. Billy Graham did not speak for more than half an hour, but whatever he mentioned – statistics or historical references, or Greek or Hebrew references had been thoroughly pre-checked to avoid any possible error.

## AMONG THE BRETHREN

Speaking generally, their preachers were not the specimen with evangelistic thrust – they were more of the order of teachers and expounders. They combined the gospel with teaching, and this had considerable effect as evidenced in J. N. Darby's ministry in Europe. The U.S. and Canada have a few men of this general stamp, but more open than JND.

However, the movement produced some real gems, for instance, Henry Moorhouse of Manchester, who within a short life-span of 40 years did tremendous work of preaching. In his early youth, he invited himself to Chicago to preach at Moody's church and spoke for consecutive nights on John 3:16, with dramatic spiritual effect. His preaching altered the style of Moody himself, and he gained the reputation as the one who inspired Moody to preach to countless multitudes. This young man was one of the Brethren.

## INDIAN SCENE

Coming to the Indian scene, Andhra had two very effective preachers – Canada's Silas Fox who came to

be known as the 'White Fox' and K.P. Agrippa the 'Black Fox'. Between the two of them mainly based in the Anantapur region their preaching resulted in the salvation of many hundreds and provided grounding for the nearly 150 virile assemblies in South Andhra.

Although Silas Fox was originally a Baptist Pastor in Canada, he threw his weight with congregations known as 'Brethren' among whom he found satisfying fellowship and much fruit in service. The more vibrant assemblies in the region owe much to these servants, now in glory.

In the Kerala region, the most outstanding preacher was the late Mahakavi (noted poet) K.V. Simon. He addressed large companies, but although a great scholar, he was self-effacing and spoke in simple, homely style. The ministry had a tremendous apologetic value vis-à-vis Hindu religion chauvinists and tradition-bound Syrians. Most others who succeeded him were at least for a time under his tutelage, but turned out to be popular preachers and teachers.

The names of three stalwarts occur to us – unconnected with the Simon tradition, namely Fredrick Numby (ex-pastor of Basel Mission) and a trained theologian, P.V. George, famed author of 'The Unique Christ and the Mystic Gandhi' and E.P. Varghese of Angamaly. The last named was a business man who turned out to be a very eloquent preacher, original in his matter distilled out of the Word and sound, penetrating logic.



## PREACHERS TODAY

There are promising preachers even today, but not quite of the same stamp as those mentioned. Kerala initially looked down upon any who was theologically qualified, and we still painfully remember a brother who took a degree from Serampore, largely ignored and suffered much financially. Things have changed, but those with the advantage of training do not manifest the same robust conviction in church truths as the early leaders possessed.

Both Andhra and Kerala call for committed preachers and teachers, men of conviction and commitment, who could be comparable to the best of their counterpart in the West including Australia and New Zealand. South-East Asia, especially Singapore has produced some fine evangelists, of the stamp of Dr. G.D. James who have local and wider impact.

The Lord's arm is still mighty, and although the society is changing faster than in the older times, He can raise men with a message from the throne.

## OUTLINE:-

# THE MIND OF A BELIEVER

 By NTK

- |       |                    |                  |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|
| i.    | A Right Mind       | Luke.8:35        |
| ii.   | A Sound Mind       | 2 Timothy.1:7    |
| iii.  | A Pure Mind        | 2 Peter 3:1      |
| iv.   | A Spiritual Mind   | Romans.8:6       |
| v.    | A Girded Mind      | 1 Peter. 1:13    |
| vi.   | A Garrisoned Mind  | Philippians. 4:7 |
| vii.  | A Renewed Mind     | Romans.12:2      |
| viii. | A United Mind      | Romans.15:5      |
| ix.   | A Christ-like Mind | Philippians. 2:5 |

## SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

 By Dennie Matthews

The expectation of the arrival of a baby excites every family, and they make all efforts to make their home conducive for the coming little one. The progress and health of a child depends much upon the atmosphere at home. Similarly, the wellbeing and the development of a believer rest largely upon the health of the congregation. Let us consider briefly five marks of a healthy local church from the book of Romans.

1. Individual sanctity of the members. Romans 12: 1 – 3

*Church is made up of individuals. Each one needs to be committed, separated and humble. If anyone is in sin, it will affect the whole congregation. No private life in the church of God. God will deal with the erring brethren (Joshua 7: 10, 11).*

2. Love, not in words but reflected through life. Romans 12: 9 – 21

*Christian love is extraordinary. It cannot be hidden. The impact of such divine love in action is far-reaching (cf. vs. 9 – 21).*

3. A diverse community living in unity. Romans 12: 4 – 6

*A local assembly consists of a variety of people. Some weak, some strong; some like this and some like that. We all prefer people of same wave length as us. But we should be careful not to destroy the one who is weak for whom Christ died (Rom 14: 1ff). Appreciate unity in diversity.*

4. Church believers in the spread of the gospel. Romans 15: 19 – 21

*In Chapter 16, Paul refers to people who shared in the gospel work with him. He was burdened to carry the gospel to the unreached areas, and the local assembly members joined with him in those efforts. God has not called us to be a club or an entertainment place. The great commission is to bear the gospel to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28: 18 – 20).*

5. A community always on guard. Romans 16: 17 – 19

*They are always watchful against false teachers and trouble makers. The weak and newcomers easily fall into the trap of the smooth talkers and divisive men. No ground is a clean ground. Along with the good seed, tares also come up. Where there are sheep there are wolves also. So we need to teach the right doctrine to the members.*

*For a church to be healthy and productive the congregation should respond individually as well as collectively.*

# GRACE & PEACE

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