

First, A Willing Mind

I. Introduction:

A. When a tempter asked Jesus what to do to inherit eternal life, part of Jesus' answer was to love God with all his mind (**Luke 10:25-28**).

1. On a separate occasion, He said the same thing (**Matthew 22:34-40**).

2. The Greek word translated "mind" in both of the above references [διάνοια] is defined as: "deep thought, properly the faculty (mind or its disposition), by implication its exercise: - imagination, mind, understanding" (Strong's # 1271).

a. Also translated "imagination" (**Luke 1:51**).

b. Also translated "understanding" (**Ephesians 1:18; 4:18** and **I John 5:20**).

B. Our thoughts must be brought into captivity to the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ (**II Corinthians 10:3-5**).

1. Think about what apostate Judah was asked (**Jeremiah 4:14**).

2. Think about what was said to Simon (**Acts 8:20-22**).

II. Body: Our Lesson Comes From A Context Wherein The Saints In Corinth Were Called Upon To Aid Poor Saints (**II Corinthians 8:12**).

A. Consider what David said to Solomon (**I Chronicles 28:9**).

1. For a period of time, Solomon took that counsel (i.e. **II Chronicles 2:1**; cf. **II Chronicles 7:11**).

2. However, something happened to Solomon (**I Kings 11:1-11**).

a. In **I Kings 11:9**, the word translated "heart" [לבב] means, in part, this: "...mind... understanding" (Strong's # 3824).

b. That Hebrew word was sometimes translated "mind" (**Jeremiah 51:50** and **Ezekiel 38:10**).

3. If one's mind is not willing to obey God, it's all over (**Romans 8:7**).

B. Why is a willing mind so important? Think about some things that can come from your mind; thoughts...

1. Stedfastness (**Ruth 1:18**).

2. Accomplishment (**Nehemiah 4:6**).

3. Focus (**Isaiah 26:3**).

4. Doubt (**Luke 12:29**).

5. Preparation (**Acts 17:10-11** and **I Peter 1:13**).

6. Carnality and spirituality (**Romans 8:6**).

7. Desires (**Ephesians 2:3**).

8. Alienation [to be non participant] (**Colossians 1:21**).

9. Instability (**James 1:8; 4:8**).

10. Recollection (**II Peter 3:1**).

C. So, when things are not right in our lives; the changing of the mind is a key to repentance (**Romans 12:2** and **Ephesians 4:23**).

1. Thoughts have to be forsaken (**Isaiah 55:7**).

2. It is not good for people to follow their own way of thinking (**Isaiah 65:2**).

III. Conclusion: Arm yourself with the mind like our Lord's (**I Peter 4:1-2**).