

## What Does Proverbs 24:9 Mean?

### I. Introduction:

A. The Scriptures teach that there is a progression that leads to sin (**James 1:13-16**).

1. We are taught to abstain from fleshly lusts (**I Peter 2:11** and **I John 2:15-17**).

2. Why? Because of what fleshly lusts leads to (**Micah 2:1-3**).

B. Where you set your mind matters (**Colossians 3:1-4**).

1. David's instructions to the princes of Israel (**I Chronicles 22:17-19**).

2. But, does that mean any thought that enters your mind is sinful if that thought includes sin? If you see something and you think about it, does that make you a sinner? No! We are in fact taught to think about wicked things to learn from them (**Proverbs 21:12**, **Proverbs 24:30-34**, **Romans 15:4**, **I Corinthians 10:1-13**, and **Jude 1:5-7**)! Yet, the Scripture we are going to study today might lead someone to conclude that it is wrong to think about any sinful thing at all.

### II. Body: Does **Proverbs 24:9** Teach That Any Thought About Sin Is A Sin?

A. Breaking down the verse and the wording of the verse to handle it aright in our study (**II Timothy 2:15**).

1. The word translated "thought" [חַמְלָה חֲמָלָה] is defined as: "a plan, especially a bad one: - heinous crime, lewd (-ly, -ness), mischief, purpose, thought, wicked (device, mind, -ness)" (Strong's # 2154). \*Notice that this is the only time this Hebrew word is translated "thought" in the entirety of the O.T.

a. Also translated "wickedness" (**Leviticus 18:17**, **Leviticus 19:29**, and **Leviticus 20:14**).

b. Also translated "lewdness; lewd; lewdly" (**Judges 20:6**, **Jeremiah 13:27**, **Ezekiel 16:27**, **Ezekiel 16:43**, **Ezekiel 16:58**, **Ezekiel 22:9**, **Ezekiel 22:11**, **Ezekiel 23:21**, **Ezekiel 23:27**, **Ezekiel 23:29**, **Ezekiel 23:35**, **Ezekiel 23:44**, **Ezekiel 23:48**, **Ezekiel 23:49**, **Ezekiel 24:13**, and **Hosea 6:9**).

c. Also translated "purposes" (**Job 17:11**).

d. Also translated "heinous crime" (**Job 31:11**).

e. Also translated "mischief" (**Psalms 26:10**, **Psalms 119:150**, and **Proverbs 10:23**).

f. Also translated "wicked mind" (**Proverbs 21:27**).

g. Also translated "wicked devices" (**Isaiah 32:7**).

2. The word translated "foolishness" [אֲוִלְיָוָה] is defined as: "silliness: - folly, foolishly (-ness)" (Strong's # 200).

- a. Other Scriptures wherein this word is translated as “foolishness” (**Psalms 38:5, Psalms 69:5, Proverbs 5:23, Proverbs 12:23, Proverbs 14:24, Proverbs 15:2, Proverbs 15:14, Proverbs 19:3, Proverbs 22:15, Proverbs 24:9, and Proverbs 27:22**).
  - b. Also translated as “folly” (**Proverbs 5:23, Proverbs 13:16, Proverbs 14:8, Proverbs 14:18, Proverbs 14:24, Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 15:21, Proverbs 16:22, Proverbs 17:12, Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 26:4, Proverbs 26:5, and Proverbs 26:1**).
  - c. Also translated as “foolish” or “foolishly” (**Proverbs 14:1 and Proverbs 14:17**).
3. This does NOT mean thought equals action (i.e. **II Corinthians 9:7**).
  4. So, it is not that a random dumb thought is a sin. We are talking about a wicked, lewd plan or purpose that someone is mischievously cultivating in their mind (i.e. **Psalms 37:12; 37:32**).
- B. An application of this... (**Matthew 5:27-30**).
1. The word translated “lust” in **Matthew 5:28** means: “to set the heart upon, that is, long for (rightfully or otherwise): - covet, desire, would fain, lust (after)” (Strong’s # 1937).
    - a. This word is also translated “covet” (**Romans 7:7 and Romans 13:9**).
    - b. It is translated “desire” as well (**Luke 16:21**).
    - c. What the heart is set upon matters (**I Chronicles 22:19 and Psalms 78:8**).
  2. Looking on a woman with the plan; a heart set upon; the purpose; the wicked mischievous intent to commit adultery with her (**Proverbs 6:20-35**).
  3. Be careful with the word “lust” though. Think about “lust(s)” from another Greek word (**John 8:44, Ephesians 4:22, and II Timothy 2:22**).
    - a. The word translated “lust(s)” in the three passages above means: “a longing (especially for what is forbidden): - concupiscence, desire, lust (after)” (Strong’s #1939).
    - b. Again, though, even with the word “lust” in this point; we have to be careful. There is a separation between thought and practice with this Greek word translated “lust(s)” (**Romans 6:12; 13:14, Galatians 5:16, and Galatians 5:24**).
- C. Don’t let this study get you in trouble though. We do have to reign in our thoughts (**II Corinthians 10:5**). Think about...
1. ...The person whose mind is deceptive (**Proverbs 23:1-7**).
  2. ...Those who continue in vain thoughts (**Jeremiah 4:14**).
  3. ...Those who draw false conclusions (**Matthew 9:1-4**).
  4. God does care about thoughts (**Proverbs 15:26**).
  5. We learn that our works can line up our thoughts (**Proverbs 16:3**).
- D. Consider where words and actions begin (**Matthew 15:17-20**).
1. We obey from the heart; thoughts (**Romans 6:17**).

2. We disobey from the heart; thoughts (**Hebrews 3:12**).
3. Instead of vain and foolish things, peace and the word of God should be in our hearts to lead us to right actions (**Colossians 3:15-17**).
4. For more, consider a lesson taught the week before this lesson: [https://www.wordsoftruth.net/FirstAWillingMind\\_2022.pdf](https://www.wordsoftruth.net/FirstAWillingMind_2022.pdf)

III. Conclusion: We know it is not always sinful to think about something sinful. However, we cannot keep our thoughts and plans upon that which is sinful (**Isaiah 55:6-10**).