

GOD RESPONDS TO YOUR THOUGHTS

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Thoughts are things – living things. Thoughts are not just ideas and irrelevant things that pass through our minds, they are forces that have power to attract and bring about the things we think. Your thoughts have power to influence and control your life. It has power to direct the course of your life. It is important that you know that God responds to your thoughts. An understanding of this will help you to be careful what you think in your mind.

*“A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she **THOUGHT**, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘who touched my clothes?’ ‘You see people crowding against you,’ his disciples answered, ‘and yet you can ask, “Who touched me?”’ But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, told him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’” (Mark 5:24-34)*

The woman in this story did not verbally communicate with God of her intentions and expectation when she touched Jesus. She did not share with a living soul either. God responded to her thoughts and healed her the moment she touched the clothes of Jesus Christ. This proves to us that our thoughts are not hidden from God. He sees through our minds and knows all that we think. This woman did as she determined in her mind to do, and she got her healing instantly.

Your thoughts matter more than the things you say or confess with your mouth. The scripture teaches that God always look into our hearts to see if faith exists in our heart or not before meeting our needs. That you have prayed does not mean that God will answer your prayer. You need faith to make him answer you. He must check your heart to see if you truly believe. If doubt, anxiety, worry or fear exists in your heart, he will not answer you.

“‘Have faith in God.’ Jesus answered. ‘I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go throw yourself into the sea”, and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:22-24)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:6)

If God does not respond to our thoughts, how will he know when one doubts, worry or fearful? How will he know when faith does not exist or is low? It is therefore important that you come to terms with this truth – **God knows and responds to your thoughts.** Your thoughts are important to God, because that reveals your true state.

“...For as he thinketh in his heart so is he.”(Proverbs 23:7)

You need to watch what you permit into your mind. You need to watch what you think because it can hinder you from receiving what you want from God, and becoming who you want to be in life.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:12-13)

“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.” (1 Cor. 4:5)

Every heart is laid bare before God. He sees through it. He knows what you are thinking right now. All your thoughts are known to him. Your motives for saying and doing the things you say and do, he knows, and will bring them to judgement at the end of the day. That the grace of God abounds for us does not mean he will not bring our thoughts to judgement at the end of time. He will, definitely. His Word says so. There is no hiding place from his presence. All you need do is to watch what you think, and make sure that your thoughts are the right thoughts.

“Am I only a God nearby,’ declares the LORD, ‘and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?’ declares the LORD. ‘Do I not fill the heaven and the earth?’ declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 23:23-24)

There is no secret place before God. Your mind or heart is not a secret place before God. Everything is known to him. All the deceit, hypocrisy, lies, hidden agenda and unspoken thoughts are known to God and he responds to you based on them. At the final judgement, he will demand account from you. You can deceive men, but you can't deceive God. Men may not know, but God knows. Always remember, **He knows and responds to your thoughts.**

HE RESPONDS TO UNSPOKEN PRAYERS

Many times when we pray, our prayers are not spoken - it is mentally done without words. The amazing thing is that God responds to them and answers all according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. He responds to the imaginations of our minds. The unspoken thoughts, desires and expectations of our hearts are known to God and responded to beyond our dream.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

This again proves that thoughts running through your mind are not just irrelevant, ordinary things, or ideas. They are living and attract attention. Be careful what you think.

SIN STARTS IN THE MIND

Before Jesus came, sin is regarded as sin only when the act is committed. When he came, he thought us to look beyond the act and check the thoughts.

“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Mt. 5:28)

Jesus condemned the man who looks at a woman lustfully as guilty of adultery when he has not committed the real act. The reason is that, if he does not think it, he will not desire it. And when he does not desire it, he won't do it. The fact that he has formed the desire in his heart means that he is guilty of adultery. James thought that sin is a product of our desire. And desire is a product of our thoughts.

“When tempted, no-one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1:13-15)

If you control your thoughts with the help of the Holy Spirit, you will not have evil desire. And when there is no evil desire, there will be no sin. You must see sin as something that starts in the mind. If you can resist sin in the realm of the mind, then you will have victory in the physical. This is the reason the devil seeks to control the mind of man. The battle for the mind rages daily and you must endeavour to win this battle. Remember, **all battles are fought, won or lost in the mind.**

“Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.” (1 John 3:15)

John also taught that the one who hates his brother is a murderer. He didn't say he is thinking of committing murder, or planning to commit murder. He declared him a murderer when he has not committed the real act. The truth is that, if he can hate the man, he can kill the man. This again shows that God sees the evil thoughts in our hearts as sin even before the real act is committed. This is also to teach us that sin starts in the mind, and if we want to live clean, all we need to do is to resist evil thoughts that come to us. That an evil thought comes to your mind does not mean you have sinned; it becomes sin when you give your mind to it to dwell on it. When you meditate on it and decide to yield to it, then sin has occurred. God does not wait for you to commit the real act before declaring you guilty. Once he sees that you are entertaining it in your mind, you are guilty.

Once you resist evil in your thought realm, you have gained the victory, and definitely, you will not commit that sin. Watch your thoughts, God responds to your thoughts, assesses and relates with you based on it. **He knows what you think.**