

Who Are You?

“Even a child is known by his doings.”

A rather well-known human process is that a person's thoughts affect his actions, and his actions affect his results. The Bible concurs: as a man “thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7); and whatsoever we sow, we shall reap (Galatians 6:7). Here are some other observations I have in respect to what a man thinks and what he does:

1. What affects our thoughts is our programming – those values and laws we believe either by upbringing, experiences, reading, or, most importantly, God's word.

2. A pattern of actions creates behavior, and behavior creates you character. Having good thoughts means you can expect good actions. Having good actions means you can expect good results and good behavior. Having good behavior develops good character. The Bible speaks of having a pattern of good works (Titus 2:7). A man's doctrine is what he *does*, not simply what he thinks or believes. His actions show what he thinks and believes.

In contrast, hypocrisy is saying one thing but doing another. Actions – not words – show what a man believes. I will show my faith by my works, James said.

3. If you want different results, you must change your actions – “things do not change until you do.” (Someone defined insanity as doing the same things and expecting different results.) Analyze the cause and effect of actions and results, comparing them with the word of God. Make adjustments through repentance – a change of mind and heart.

4. To change you actions, you must change your thoughts. To change your thoughts, you must change your programming. Reading, meditating, and memorizing the Bible is the best way to change your programming. It is powerful, pure truth and effective in the lives of men – when it is believed and acted upon. In time, reading and believing the Bible will dramatically change your life.

True faith affects your works through the thought process. Faith without works is dead, but one with the faith of a mustard seed can move mountains.

5. Besides Bible reading, we also build our faith by praying in the Holy Ghost (see Acts 20:32; Jude 1:20)

6. As we learn new things in life, we tend to change. No one should be a non-learner – we all should be learning the way of the Master (i.e., being a disciple of Jesus Christ). We are to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29), not to this world (Romans 12:2). We accomplish this “transformation” by the renewing of our mind. This is a life-long journey. No believer should ever think he has arrived. No one has a justification to “coast” in life. We all must “press toward the mark,” as none of us has “attained.”

7. Emotions also have apart in the process. Somewhere between thoughts and actions the emotions can be stirred. We should be in control of our thoughts (Philippians 4:8, II Corinthians 10:4). We should likewise be in control of our emotions – Romans 12:15). When one masters control of his thoughts and emotions he has the victory. This control can motivate us to do all things. We can be zealous when the tendency is to be apathetic; we can be joyful when circumstances would lead elsewhere; we can have a hopeful spirit when things look bleak; we can stir our compassion for the lost; we can make ourselves love the unlovable.

God shows in the Bible at least three reasons to motivate change in our lives:

- A. Fear of what will happen if we do not change.
- B. Rewards received if we do change.
- C. Just knowing it is the right thing to do. A crusade for the cause of right.

8. You have the ability and direction to “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (II Corinthians 13:5). God commands self-examination for the purpose of purifying our hearts and hands (I Corinthians 11:28) and also to prove whether we are truly saved. Reprobates (those that do not respond to reproof) do not have Christ in them. By means of reproof we identify and correct our faults before a holy God. And, when we judge ourselves, we will not be judged.

What a tremendous duty and responsibility God gave us, in that we are to continually check our minds and spirit, and be ready to confess and forsake sin in our lives. We “lay aside” every weight and sin that so easily beset us, so that we may run the race for Jesus Christ with patience (Hebrews 12:1).

9. The power of victory is our faith. We *are* over-comers by faith in Jesus Christ (I John 5:4)! No need to be a victim in this world – be victorious! That faith is our “programming” – what we believe to be true and false. That programming controls our thoughts (if we allow it). By it we keep the old man dead, turning the mind over to God. Our thoughts controlled by God’s word in turn control our actions. And these actions produce the fruit God is pleased with.

10. Now, a final observation: A person does project to others *who he is* by his thoughts and actions. If a man thinks he is a victim, he will behave such; people will think he is a victim. If a man thinks he is indeed a child of the King, he will behave accordingly, people will see that. If a man has faith and confidence in God, people will know it. If a man is weak, fearful and carnal, people know that, too.

This, then, provides an opportunity for each person to be what he should be, and for others to see those good qualities in him. As people will perceive what a man is, the child of God can let his light shine (in the manner of good works) before the world.

Let the Christian go forth in faith and confidence in God, as a child of the King, thinking soberly (but not with pride) showing good works that glorify his Father in heaven.

So, who are you? Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right (Proverbs 20:11)

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