

## **2. SPIRITUAL MINDEDNESS EXAMINED**

**PROVERBS 23:7** “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” Even the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius (121 – 180 AD) was reported to have said “We become what we think about .... Your thoughts are making you.” Scripture has many things to say about the heart, because that is where the “mind” is. **MATT 12:34** “.... For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks”.

People’s minds, like the blossoms on trees that produce fruit, are full of thoughts. Some will produce good fruit, and some bad fruit. The kinds of thoughts we have may tell us if we are spiritually minded or not.

Many may pretend to be “good” and spiritually minded, as the Pharisees were, but the hypocrite will always show his true colours, especially under pressure.

A mind controlled by new Spiritual life will produce Spiritual fruit in life. When we are under stress, do we panic and forget God – the One who said “I will never leave or forsake you” – or do we as the children of God run to our Father to hide under the shadow of his wing, as a small child naturally runs to their mother for comfort.?

As we learn to trust God more and more in our Spiritual journey, the Master shows us that there is no alternative to the protection and comfort that He is able to give those that trust in Him.

Many unbelievers would seem to have Spiritual thoughts, especially at those times when they choose to read the scriptures. But they do not do what they learn as they may read the Bible. They may think of what they read as good and noble thoughts, but that is as far as it gets. Occasional thoughts of God are not true Spiritual mindedness.

We have a good example of this in **EZE 33:31** “My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion (as so many in Churches sing hymns), but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain”. Exactly what we might well see in many Churches today.

Some people are awakened to a Spiritual need when a tragedy strikes their lives. It is as if they need to remember that there is a God in times of trouble. But when the trouble passes, they revert to their old ways of walking the streets of the world. This will not do as we need a perpetual spring of living water to sustain us.

Others are awakened to a Spiritual need in a time of joy or happiness. “Let’s go to Church on Christmas day!!’ Or it could be the birth of a child that brings to remembrance the existence of God. “Let’s have the baby baptised!!” This they view as some sort of insurance that the child will have a Blessed life. But once things settle down, they are back to their old ways. But true Spiritual mindedness produces a continual flow of Spiritual fruit. A continual remembrance of God and His unfailing Blessings to us under all circumstances. An unfailing attitude of thankfulness that God through His Spirit watches over us and our welfare.