

8. THINKING SPIRITUALLY ABOUT GOD

We ought always to be focused on and thinking about God, because He is the one who controls and directs all events that occur, not only in our lives, but in the lives of all other people, and indeed in the universe. And we would do well to remember who God is, (the majestic omnipotent “I am”), more than about His gifts to us.

There are those that deny that God exists, and strangely, there are more atheists in countries where the Christian religion is known, than where it is not. Does that not tell us that the evil one is bent on destroying the idea that God is to be feared and honoured? And this results in people deliberately rejecting the revelation that God has made of Himself, whether in creation, conscience or by the Scriptures themselves. He leaves them to be hardened in their unbelief. Therefore, those who harden their hearts are more likely to fall prey to untruth. Also, when people are determined not to see the light (that is to reject the truth), the greater the light shines the more tightly they close their eyes.

Others may acknowledge that God exists, but seldom think about Him. They believe that their lives are in no way connected to God. **TIT 1:16** “They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.”

Then there are those who are so preoccupied by the things of the world, that it is impossible to think about God as they ought to. Yet they do make some showing of being religious. To be a Christian you have to follow Christ and His teachings at all times, not just now and again.

There are those that do not have the time to think about God as they are too preoccupied with their lusts **PHIL 3:19** “Their destiny is destruction, their God is their stomachs, and their Glory is their shame.” True believers do temporarily become careless in their ways and lose their Spiritual mindedness, but if they become anxious about their condition and grieve their loss, then they may know it to be a temporary backsliding and does not indicate a permanent ungodliness. To be tempted by ungodly thoughts is not evidence that one is unspiritual. Even to fall into sin is not evidence of that, if there is repentance and a return to Spiritual ways.

But those who actively refuse to think about God, they may even become angry at the mention of God, is a sure sign of an unspiritual nature. This occurs when people are controlled by their lusts. To think about God while in such a state, they know, would automatically condemn them as guilty. So, they turn their thoughts to the carnal.

However, there are two things which are signs of Spiritual mindedness. Firstly, those that are Spiritually minded have a delight in thinking about what God is like. They love to think about God in terms of His goodness, holiness, power, wisdom and grace. It refreshes their Spirits and brings a sense of calmness into their hearts. Unspiritual people may recognise God only when something good comes into their lives.

If we are able to say that the God of Abraham is our God, whatever our circumstances, we may know that we are spiritually minded. Those who now delight in God, can look forward to that great day.

The second mark of Spiritual mindedness is a holy fear and reverence for God. God's infinite holiness and power demand the utmost reverence from us. The one that is Spiritually minded can combine these two things – to love God and to have holy reverence for Him.

The ungodly cannot delight in what they fear, as they indeed fear the punishment of God. **PROV 1:7** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and discipline”.

I quote “The duty of reverential fear is perhaps the most important of all the duties of a believer. It is the very life of true religion. It is the beginning of wisdom and without it, the value of all other duties done, is lost.