

9. MORE ON THINKING ABOUT GOD

How are we to meditate when we are thinking about God? We ought often to be thinking about God in terms of His existence. We may deduce that God exists from the very nature of creation, as we read in **PSM 19**, and from the very fact that God has written His laws on the hearts of all mankind. Believers also have an intense conviction of God's existence through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit, who has opened our eyes to the Biblical revelation about Him. This Biblical revelation of God's word is often made clearer to us through those that the Lord has set aside to preach this word to us. We are therefore beholden to pay attention to the word preached, that we may learn and grow Spiritually.

There is so much atheism around us, and satanic influences of the world, that we need to protect our thoughts by constantly thinking of Spiritual things. There is so much confusion by the way unbelievers understands the events of the world, that this confusion finds its way into the believers' heart too.

When we are influenced by Satan's attempt to confuse us there are two things we need to do firstly, we are to reject Satan's' insinuation at once **MATT 16:23**. "Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men'". And then we are to immediately recall our first Spiritual experience in coming to know God. We can of course find reasons to support our belief in God in looking at creation or from our conscience, but those are not the arguments to use when Satan attacks, for we cannot think calmly in such times. These times of confusion need strong medicine. We need to use the shield of faith and recall to mind that we have experienced God's presence and power.

What we have actually experienced, is the best answer to doubt. We need to think about the infinite nature of who God is in the immensity of His being. And if we find the immensity of the infinite nature of God too hard to grasp, then at least we can think about some of the practical consequences of the infinite perfections of God.

DEUT 32:4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He”. And into that statement we are able to find all the attributes of God – omniscience (all knowing), omnipotence (all powerful), omnibenevolence (supremely good), omnipresence (everywhere present). Now we are the recipients of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. These being love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. All these gifts originate in God, in whom they exist in their perfection. We have received these through God’s grace to us. When we think often about these things, they will lead us to be Spiritually minded.

Secondly, when we find ourselves in the company of unbelievers, where we should not choose to be unless we have to, or in a situation where temptation is present, the Spiritually minded person can find protection by continually bringing to mind the fact that the omnipresent God is present right there in that situation.

This knowledge of God will also protect the believers when they are alone and facing the temptation of sinning. Even when we are in times of great trouble and difficulty, the fact that we can bring to mind the presence of our heavenly Father can be of great help to us.

We might be taken unawares of having survived a life-threatening situation – if we are Spiritually minded, we will be aware of the hand of God’s protection over us – let us give thanks to God. **GEN 28:16** “When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it” “And he expresses awe at his experience.

Thirdly, we need to bring to mind regularly the fact that God is omnipotent (all powerful). There is nothing in the realm of goodness that God cannot do. If we seek peace of heart and mind, we are to remember this fact, otherwise we will fret over many issues. It is by this power that God protects and nurtures the body of believers (the Church). For us to die without fear requires complete confidence in the almighty power of God.

Many of us may fail in this duty of Spiritual mindedness. We may still have the fear of man in our hearts, and we may therefore choose to perform outward religious duties to placate our hearts, rather than fill our hearts with the delight in knowing and trusting in God. Yet the essence of good religion is Spiritual mindedness.

Let us not deceive ourselves, unless we abound in Holy thoughts, all else that we do will fail to help us in the day of duty and trial.

