

PART 37 – I'M JUST NOT HUNGRY FOR GOD

I want to give you a couple of simple brain facts that I believe are intimately woven into the idea of what it means to live out the Christian life.

BRAIN FACTS:

1. Dr. Caroline Leaf states that **every thought that you think impacts every single cell of the nearly 100 trillion cells of your body.**¹ Just think about that reality for a second. Just think about what that simple little statement actually means. That statement is amazing, but somewhat frightening at the same time, especially if you have a very negative thought life.
2. She goes on to state that **when you think negatively that negative thinking becomes both toxic and damaging to your brain because negative, toxic thoughts release chemicals that are harmful to your mental health and well-being.**² This not to even mention the impact that occurs when your toxic thoughts eventually become toxic words that you will release on other people. You can be assured that the more you dwell on something in a negative way that it will soon become verbalized. If you do not like a certain person or something about them and you dwell on it, you WILL tell someone. You will allow corrupt and unedifying words to proceed out of your mouth rather than that which is edifying and builds people up rather than tearing them down. You can never have a grateful heart if you have a critical spirit. You always choose what you want to think.

One of the underlying root problems is that many professing Christians have no real spiritual appetite for the things of God. Important basic spiritual disciplines like spending time in the Word of God and faithfully attending a God honoring church is almost non-existent in their life, so in reality they have no foundation and no basis for thinking like God thinks. This is when people begin to make a god after their own image, after their own preferences, after their own ill-conceived notions. They are self-deceived. I never cease to be amazed at all of the excuses, rationalizations, justifications, and reasons as to why some professing believers think that they are the exception to genuine commitment. No wonder Jesus chastises the last days church in [Revelation 3](#). Under these kinds of circumstances, why would anyone ever think that they could even know what God really wanted them to do. It would do everyone well to take a personal inventory on this one simple point – **how much of my life have I devoted to reading, understanding, and obeying the Word of God.** The person who is rarely in the Word of God has no spiritual weapons with which they can defeat an invisible spiritual enemy. A believer can never really think like God thinks if they do not know what He says. Thinking like God thinks and having God's thoughts anchored in your mind requires much more than just reading His Word for 10 minutes a day.

If you have a particular area of your life where you feel trapped and believe that you are losing that battle, then you have to develop the discipline of concentrating on what God's Word has to say about your particular problem.

¹ Leaf, *Think*, 210.

² Leaf, *Think*, 214.

I know and understand that the Word of God may not always speak directly to your specific struggle, so what has to happen is that you must find various principles in the Scriptures that speak in a general way to the spiritual, mental, and emotional battle with which you are struggling. You may find it to be a combination of several principles from which you glean insight that gives you the direction that you need. The more of God's Word that you digest into your mind and heart, the greater will be your capacity to recognize the destructive lies that the devil places into your mind, and the clearer the truths of God's Word will become to your mind and heart.

When you know, accept, and embrace the truth that is found in God's Word, what happens is that the Holy Spirit plants God's values into your life, and those values begin to grow.

Think of godly values as God's standards, God's morals, God's ethics, and God's principles. I think you can roll all of that into one single idea - God's truth, and the primary tool that the Holy Spirit uses to produce godly values in your life is God's Word. So, the more that you give your life on a regular, disciplined basis to understanding what God has said, the greater will be the implanting of His values into your mind, your heart, and your life. This is Basic Christianity 101.

KEY PRINCIPLE 129: GODLY VALUES LEAD TO GODLY THOUGHTS AND GODLY THOUGHTS LEAD TO GODLY RESULTS.

I hope that you can see sandwiched in between values and results is how and what you think – godly thoughts. You can never leave your thinking out of the process of becoming a godly person with godly values. Biblical values need to be spiritually affirmed, so just as a suggestion, take some time and try and write down what you have as your strongest and most important values. This may not be as easy as you think if you are actually willing to compare your values against God's values. The values that need to be affirmed should be related to several specific areas of your life.

1. Your relationship to God
2. Your personal life
3. Your family life
4. Your work life
5. Your personal relationships

The more that you are willing to evaluate what you think your values are, the easier it will be to see if you are actually living those values out in your life. By writing your values down, you can measure whether they are consistent with God's values. If you will be honest with yourself and God about "your values", then this is an exercise that will take a high level of concentration to accurately develop. For instance, if one of your deepest convictions is that you want to enjoy life to the fullest, how would what you think about doing that measure up to what God says about that. God's Word will say something like [Matthew 5:11](#),

Mt 5:11 (NKJV) "**Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.**

However, that may not be what you really meant when you said that you wanted to live life to the fullest. Then, the Scriptures may say something like [Matthew 5:44](#),

Mt 5:44 (NKJV) **But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,**

2 Timothy 3:12 may even sound worse to you when it says,

2Ti 3:12 (NKJV) **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

Once again, that may not be what you had in mind for living a full life that lets you enjoy all of the pleasures and benefits of life as you desire. **In fact, what God says may actually be the exact opposite of what you really want for your life.** If you are honest, you may want a very easy life, a life that allows you to always be able to relax, and a life that has no conflict and no struggles. There is nothing inherently wrong with any of that, but I seriously doubt that that is the way that God wants you to see life or even think about life. So, here is the problem:

To simply say that you have certain values and convictions has no benefit until those convictions are biblical values that you are actually integrating into your life as your way of life.

To say that you have godly values or a godly mindset or godly convictions, but never live those out in your life is simply spiritual make-believe and have no value or benefit for your life.

Okay, so let us assume that you are looking for God's direction in your life, but there is not actually a specific verse that you can find that deals with what you are trying to resolve. Just as an example, and this is a very simple one – should you buy a new car or a used car? Either one is fine if you can afford it and it does not break the bank, but there is nothing in the Scriptures that speaks directly to that circumstance. However, the Scriptures do provide a lot of “principles” related to money, spending money, investing, wasting money, borrowing money, becoming surety, being content, and much more. You just have to put all of those together for what you are wanting to do and see if what you are choosing to do is in alignment with Scripture. You have to use some divine common sense and judgment in making a good decision.

Then there are very difficult trials that you may be facing for which, once again there, is no specific verse or even passage that deals directly with what you are facing. I know this may not be the answer that people are looking for, but when that may be the case, what God does is provide hope, strength, and the grace to endure in the midst of your very difficult and trying moments. For instance, **Hebrews 10:36** says,

Heb 10:36 (NKJV) **For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

Trust me, but that is not what most people want to hear – enduring through something difficult and receiving relief later. The problem they will struggle with, however, is that that is exactly how God thinks, and that is exactly what He believes is best for their life, but in the difficult moment it is almost impossible to accept that kind of answer. Listen very carefully. This is huge.

KEY PRINCIPLE 130: YOU ARE NEVER SAFER THAN WHEN YOU ARE GENUINELY TRUSTING GOD IN YOUR DIFFICULT MOMENTS.

Why is that? It because God honors those who honor Him. It is because God works mightily on behalf of those who trust Him fully with their life. It is because God protects them, shields them, strengthens

them, gives them wisdom, and actually gives them the “**endurance**” that they need. **Nothing happens quickly in the spiritual work of God in your life – nothing.** Maturity is not something that is quick, trusting God is not something that happens overnight. Perseverance and endurance are exactly what they mean – and both are long term, not short term. I wish that I could say that God fixes everything quickly for you, but He does not do that. God is never in a hurry because what He is doing in your life is never a quick fix, but an eternal fix. The truth is that there will always be trials, afflictions, troubles, stressful circumstances, difficulties, and even tribulations for some. These are the tools that shape you and mold you into the person God wants you to be, and you will experience these kinds of prolonged times in your life for God’s work to be completed in you.

The goal that we have spent endless hours developing is very simple. It is that you need to always be developing the ability and capacity, and most importantly, the willingness to think like God thinks, but that requires that you must be spending time in the Word of God. If you know of a particular area of your life in which you are struggling or lack endurance, then you need the biblical tools that will help you find out what God says about your specific struggle or problem. If you want your life to be able to face the challenges, struggles, and trials that you will invariably face, then you must learn to think like God thinks, and that means that you must know what He says. [John 8:32](#) is a remarkable truth when it declares,

Jn 8:32 (NKJV) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

This verse clearly says two important things.

1. You have to first “**know the truth**”. You have to know what God says is true, and by default what God says is not true. The lies of the devil cannot be quantified, but the truth of God is very quantifiable. The lies of the devil are endless, but the truth of God as it impacts your life is bounded by His Word.
2. **The truth of God is what allows you to live as God designed you to live.** When you finally reach heaven, everyone there – everyone, will be living in accordance to God’s truth. Everyone will be 100% free from the bondages that have afflicted them their entire life. No one will be debating as to whether or not they will or will not live as God wants them to live. The only place that happens is right here on planet Earth.

What God says is true, and His truth is what will set you free. It is not your ideas, not your philosophies, and not your notions and concepts that you have dreamed up. It is not even what you believe. It is just as easy to believe the wrong things as the right things – maybe easier.

It is God, and it is His truth applied to your life that brings about the internal and external freedom from the devastating and destructive effects of sin and disobedience that God wants you to experience.

I will never go back to how I use to live. It was complete bondage – drugs, drinking, cursing, indifference to God and His truth, doing my own thing. I did what I thought that I would enjoy, but in the end it literally left me empty, lonely, discouraged, and completely without hope. Every day all I could do to cope was to take some drugs or to drink some beer or to try some new and exciting thing to do. None of it worked, nor can it work. Both [Proverbs 14:12](#) and [Proverbs 16:25](#) say the same exact thing.

Pr 14:12 (NKJV) There is a way *that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.* ¹³ Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and the end of mirth *may be* grief.

I love the way the Amplified Bible says this because it really captures what Solomon was saying. You have to remember that Solomon had everything he wanted and desired, and in the end he said that it never satisfied him. This is what the Amplified Bible says,

Pr 14:12 (AMP) There is a way which seems right to a man *and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.* ¹³ Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful, and the end of mirth is heaviness *and* grief.

What at first appears to be right actually is a death trap for your life. You may laugh and feel exhilarated and have a level of freedom and enjoyment in what you are doing that you know is not pleasing to God, but in the end your heart knows different and is sorrowful. The end of your wrong way of living always eventually leads to depression, dissatisfaction, grief, sorrow, heartache, anguish, pain, and misery. This is a monumental reality for your life if you are always struggling and feel trapped. This is how believing anything less than God's truth will leave you - empty, frustrated, irritated, and depressed. I lived out these two verses in my life until one dark night at about 10pm someone introduced me to Jesus Christ, and from that moment to this very day I have never been the same. I have lived over a half a century of being a Christian with absolutely zero regrets. I could never go back. I have no desire to go back to those things that were destroying my life. I have no desire to live in the bondage that sin against God was creating in my life. Nothing and no one can satisfy a man's heart like Jesus. Here is what God wants us to fully know and completely accept.

KEY PRINCIPLE 131: WRONG THINKING WILL ALWAYS CREATE SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS IN YOUR LIFE THAT WILL DESTROY YOUR LIFE.

Only Jesus can satisfy that empty part of your life that you are always trying to fill with something other than Him. I talk with people and they say that all of this is just "pie in the sky". Well, it may be to them, but I love God's pie. Once again, you must understand that what and how you think is what keeps you in bondage or sets you free. You can hold on to all of your personal assessments, ideas, and notions if you choose, but it is God's truth alone that "**shall make you free**". His truth is the key that unlocks your life to become who you were designed to be. The verb "**shall make**" is in the indicative mood which simply means that **it is a fact** that the truth is what frees your life from all of the incredulous delusions and lies that the devil seems to perpetuate in people's lives so easily. It is the way that God has designed the life that He has created in you to work.

All that you have to do is to just be honest at this point in your life and evaluate whether or not you are empty, frustrated, irritated, discouraged, and/or depressed in a particular area of your life. After honestly evaluating where you really are in your life, if any of those characteristics describe where you currently are, then it may mean that you have not yet truly come to Christ for salvation. If you are saved, then it clearly means that you need to change both what and how you are thinking. It is thinking like God thinks that actually creates both the spiritual and emotional freedom in your life that you are looking for, but not finding. If you do not think like God thinks, then the lies of the devil will always prevail over your life - always.

Every believer and every unbeliever has to come to a place in their life where they truly embrace the fact that God knows much better and much more than they do.

Salvation for the unbeliever and the work of salvation for the believer are always on God's terms and not theirs. God's ways are **NOT** your ways, and until you accept that spiritual reality, you will never be successful or satisfied in your life. You must come to a place where you stop trying to figure out how to personally resolve the problems that you may face in your life and simply yield your mind and your thoughts to God's Word. **God not only has the answers, but He has the right answers.** His Word is your roadmap to get you to where He wants you to go. If you ignore His roadmap, you will constantly find yourself empty, frustrated, irritated, and depressed. This is a monumental shift that you have to develop in your life – that of thinking like God thinks and not thinking like you want to think. Here is the principle.

KEY PRINCIPLE 132: THE MORE YOUR PERSONAL IDEAS CONTROL YOUR LIFE, THE MORE CONTROL THE ENEMY WILL HAVE OVER YOUR LIFE.

When your ideas take priority over God's Word, you can be assured that when it comes to conflict resolution that it will be very difficult, if not impossible at times, to resolve your personal problems. Why is that? **It is because you have the wrong answers.** It takes no effort whatsoever to think the wrong way – no effort at all. For instance, you must understand that you cannot and will not overcome your struggles by determination alone. If you think that you can, then you have already been defeated. The goal is not to give up in this war for your mind. It is very easy to quit and just give up, but that is not what God desires for you. He wants you by faith to go through the very thing with which you are struggling. How do you do that? Well, you keep holding on to [Romans 12:1-2](#) and you train your mind to constantly be renewed to God's truth. You read the Word and you learn to trust and choose the truth of God's Word over your own ideas.

If you are going to truly trust God with your life, then you MUST trust His Word and trust His solutions.

The renewing of your mind takes place day after day, little by little, week after week, month after month, and year after year.

You hear the Word, you read the Word, you apply the Word, and in that process God and His thoughts gain control over your life rather than your own ideas.

This is the spiritual war that you are in – the war for the control of your mind. The demonic principalities and powers are working overtime to get you to believe their lies. Every day of your life, they are deceiving you into thinking that your ways are better than God's ways, and once you believe their lies, they become your new truth. Never forget that you will always become what you think. I have stated that principle and reality over and over and over. Why? It is because it is true that **“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”** If you think angry thoughts, you will become an angry person. If you think impatient thoughts, you will become an impatient person. If you think unkind thoughts, you will become an unkind person. The contrary is true as well. If you think like God thinks, you will become a very godly person and your life will be filled with joy and peace and hope that only God can provide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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