



Closing the Gap:

*Where am I?
Where do I want to be?*



**You have the power (ability) to select
what you will allow or demand that
your mind dwells upon and thinks
about.**



**Who we are to become, what our
lives are to count for, is not random;
it is not outside of our control and it
is not a mystery.**

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates"

Deut. 11:18-20



**There is nothing mysterious
here...the mind, and what we turn
our minds to, is the key to our lives.**



1. We are responsible for what happens in and to our minds.

Col. 3:2

1 Peter 1:13

2 Cor. 10:5

**See to it that no one takes you
captive through hollow and
deceptive philosophy, which depends
on human tradition and the basic
principles of this world rather than
on Christ.**

Col. 2:8

**Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said,
“Why do you entertain evil thoughts
in your hearts?”**

Matt. 9:4



2. What we allow to stay in our minds we allow to direct our lives.

**For although they knew God, they
neither glorified him as God nor gave
thanks to him, but their thinking
became futile and their foolish hearts
were darkened.**

Romans 1:21



The "Bad Thinking" Rich Man

This wrong thinking here is not his long-range planning...it is his autonomous planning...he did not include God in his thoughts of the future.



"But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

John 8:56

**3. We can and we must determine to
think thoughts that align with the
reality of God**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Heb. 4:12



**But we have the living and active
word of God to judge our
thoughts...this is not a burden this is
a great gift.**



"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome..."

1 John 5:3

**Finally, brothers, whatever is true,
whatever is noble, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is admirable — if anything
is excellent or praiseworthy — think
about such things.**

Phil. 4:8

This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Matt. 6:9-13

**“When tempted, no one should say,
‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot
be tempted by evil, nor does he
tempt anyone.**

James 1:13-14



**God does not tempt anyone to sin,
but God certainly does turn people
over to it.**

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful behavior.

Romans 1:22-26



John 8:44

The “father of lies”

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Eph. 2:1-3

**He cannot make us do what we do
not want to do...but he can deceive
us into wanting to do what we should
not want to do.**

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 2:15-17

Eve:

Good for food

Pleasant to the eyes

Desirable to make one
wise

Satan:

The desire of the flesh

The desire of the eyes

The pride of life

" The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Gen. 6:5

**"Above all else guard your heart it is
the wellspring of life"**

Proverbs 4:23

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Cor. 10:4-5

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."