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Dear Friend,

Last month we talked about the power of our belief systems. The scripture we used was **Proverbs 23:7 - For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee.** We determined that it is not what a person says in pretense but what they do or their actions that determine or reveal what they believe. Simply put, you are what you do - *not what you say*. Solomon, the writer of Proverbs 23:7 expressed adamantly the fact that the summation of our thoughts will determine who we are and who we become. Not just any thoughts. We are talking here about the thoughts that proceed from the heart.

So if Solomon, the anointed writer from God is telling us that the essence of a person is determined by the process of thought then it stands to reason we must find out more about how this process works.

In Proverbs 23:7 – **For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he:** The person Solomon is writing about is the flesh or *the empowered soul*, which can and will wage war against our spirit. We must know how to effectively contend in this war with the word of God.

Last month we showed how Solomon referred to our flesh as a child that must be trained by the word of God. The important thing to see here is that the flesh or unrenewed soul in essence becomes what we believe in our hearts through our thoughts. These thoughts are the root systems that feed the tree which is above ground, (*the tree referring to our soul.*) While it is true that the tree or *the soul* is as invisible as its root system, it is also true that it can be seen and heard through our emotions.

There is a man behind the veil of the body and soul, this is the spirit, the place where Christ is seated. This place is hidden except through spiritual entrance.

I Peter 3:4 says, but let it be the hidden man of the heart in that which is not corruptible even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price.

The spiritual logic here is that if there is a hidden man of the heart there must also be a seen man or a man of the heart who is not hidden. It is easy for us to see this hidden man must be our spirit, the abiding place of the Holy Spirit, which is incorruptible.

Who then is the outward man of the heart? Obviously this must be our soul. Why the lesson of the anatomy of the inward man? Why is it important to make these distinctions? Because in a certain sense both these parts of a man share a common bond, they make up our belief systems.

Remember the old days of gym class and lockers? If you had the privilege of having your own locker well then great, but what if there was a shortage? What about having to share a locker with someone else like a friend? Maybe you had the upper half while your friend shared the bottom half.

Your spirit and soul are sharing a locker called your body while here on planet earth. Both are invisible but one can be seen by the outwardly through our emotions. They share a common bond in that they depend on each other for the securing of truth or what we believe. The spirit is the upper classman and should be reigning in the upper half of the locker judging continually with the Holy Spirit what is truth.

Just think Friend, of the dependency the spirit has on the soul. For the word of God to be read, heard or even meditated on it must first come through the eye gate, ear gate and even the natural brain. It presents a problem for us if this underclassman (*the soul*) is living in the upper half of the locker. If his belief systems have been allowed to grow stronger than the thought systems of the spirit then the soul will rule not allowing the spirit to feed in the green pastures of the word of God or drink from the living water. Even though the soul is part of the heart it will be living in an incorrect seat of authority. It will refuse whatever level of authority the spirit has to integrate God's thoughts.

Therefore, if the spirit and the soul make up what the word refers to as the heart of a man, then we must understand something about these two parts. Proverbs 23:7 explains that a man is ***whatsoever he thinks in his heart***. This scripture is revealing to us that a person is ruled by the dominate part of their heart whether it be his *spirit* or his *soul*.

Ecclesiastics 10:2 says, **A wise man's heart [is] at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.** For teaching purposes lets say the right side of your heart is your spirit and the left side is your soul. The question to each of us is which side are we living out of? Solomon, also the writer of **Ecclesiastics 10** informs us of another travesty in verse **7**. He says, **I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.** In this verse Solomon is speaking of the order of the spirit and soul and showing us a picture of what it looks like when proper order is breached, *as in the spirit being the servant and the soul being the prince*. The divine order of things is that the spirit be the prince or in the seat of authority. Christ visits this place first while the soul is working patiently as the servant to receive the word through the eye gate while the word of God is read. The word is received first in the spirit and then given back to the soul in thoughts to create a belief system to fortify the soul against false doctrine or wrong human reasoning.

Psalm 19:7 – **The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul making wise the simple.** The word **converting** in this scripture means (*to turn back*). Simply put the word will turn back our soul or thought life into the mind of Christ.

The important key to remember in bringing the heart, the spirit and soul into the obedience of Christ is to take advantage of every occasion to indulge in the word of God. Create windows of opportunity for your soul to continue to be saturated with God's word. Besides your daily meditation let the word through sound teaching be read and be heard in your home, your car, and your Ipod. Keep God's word as the apple of your eye.

The more that you and I give allowances for the word of God the more we will ensure that the thoughts of our hearts are continually transforming us into the image of Christ. Then and only then can we be certain that the mind of Christ is truly being formed in us.

God Bless you!

Love,
Pastor Bronc