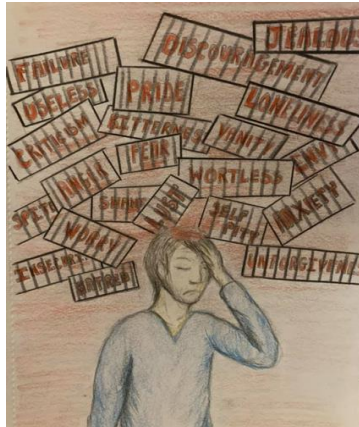


BAD THOUGHTS



Like birds flying at the window they come without invitation.

Regrets.

Disappointments.

Fears.

Weird fantasies.

Delusions of grandeur.

No need to feel guilty as long as they're outside the window.

Thoughts “outside the window” are simply part of this world’s crazy atmosphere.

They keep banging at the window, trying to get in.

Those thoughts become a problem when we open the window and invite them in.

When we toy with them.

Wallow in them.

Obsess over them.

Escape into them.

That’s when they eat away at our souls like termites.

Of course we need to do more than keep the window shut.



We need to focus our minds on “the one thing needful”.



If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

We also need to swat down the bad thoughts that fly in by the back door.



Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

If we are in God’s kingdom the bitter divisions of the world out there have no place in our lives.



Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

**With a daily, hourly act of the will we clothe ourselves
in the new nature God has given us.**



Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3

We decide where we will focus our thoughts.

We live like sons and daughters of God...

...only when we *think* like sons and daughters of God.



Prayer: Yes, Lord, help us to focus our thoughts on you, to live and think like your sons and daughters; Focusing our minds on you Jesus, seeking the things that are above, putting away ugly and vicious thoughts and actions, putting on compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience. Lord help us to forbear, forgive and love. Bind us together in your harmony. May your peace truly rule our thoughts. May your word richly dwell in us so that our hearts and minds sing to you in love and thankfulness and there is no room for the bad thoughts to rule us.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN