**FOCUS** in 2020

November 15, 2020

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**THRIVE –** *A Study of 1 Peter*

***Think then Live – 1 Peter 4:1-12***



What do you think about the most? What consumes your thoughts?

*Can’t never could do anything!*

If you want to **thrive** rather than just survive, you have to change how you think because …

How I **think** will change how I **live**.

**Three Pennies**

In 1910, a baby girl named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in Albania. As a teenager, she felt called to ministry. She did her training in Ireland and India. One day she approached her superiors and said, “**I have three pennies and a dream from God to build an orphanage**.” Her superiors said, “You can’t build an orphanage with three pennies. **With three pennies you can’t do anything**.” Agnes smiled and said, “I know. **But with God and three pennies, I can do anything**.” For fifty years, Agnes worked among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta, India. In 1979, Agnes, known to the rest of the world as **Mother Teresa**, won the Nobel Peace Prize.

How does such a diminutive woman become one of the **most recognizable** and **most revered** women in the world? How does a woman with **three pennies** end up inspiring people to give **billions of dollars** to charity?

She **thought** differently and she **lived** differently.

There is a direct relationship between what is in your head, your heart, and ultimately, your hands.

The Bible speaks often about the power of our thinking. It is easy to overlook **the connection between thoughts, transformation**, and **thriving**.

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be* ***transformed by the renewal of your mind****, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* Romans 12:2

*Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but* ***let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think****. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.* Romans 12:2 (New Living Translation)

***As we think****, we change the physical nature of our brain. As we consciously direct our thinking, we can wire out toxic patterns of thinking and replace them with healthy thoughts.* Dr. Caroline Leaf, ***Switch On Your Brain***

**Remember the bracelets** – WWJD – What Would Jesus Do? Well before you can live like Jesus, you have to think like Jesus. **This is HWJT – How Would Jesus Think?**

We **think** like Jesus, so that we can **live** like Jesus.

Think like **Jesus**!

How do I let the thoughts of Jesus become my thoughts? How do I come to the place where my thinking and thoughts are being acted upon by the Spirit that indwells me?

“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But **we have the mind of Christ.** 1 Corinthians 2: 16

*Since therefore* ***Christ suffered in the flesh****,* ***arm yourselves*** *with* ***the same way of thinking****, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so* ***as to live for the rest of the time*** *in the flesh no longer for human passions but* ***for the will of God****.* 1 Peter 4:1-2

***For Christ also suffered once for sins****, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to* ***death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit*** *…* 1 Peter 3:18

*Therefore,* ***preparing your minds for action****, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* 1 Peter 1:13

Do not waste your time with **stinking** **thinking** and living.

It is toxic to the soul. It was the way that a person would be when   
they were just living for their own self-interests and pleasures.

*For the time that is past suffices for doing what the* ***Gentiles*** *want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this* ***they*** *are surprised when you do not join them in the same* ***flood of debauchery****, and they malign you; but* ***they will give account to him*** *who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For* ***this is why the gospel was preached*** *even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh* ***the way people are****, they might* ***live in the spirit the way God does****.* 1 Peter 4:3-6

*Now* ***the works of the flesh are evident****: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* Galatians 5:19–21

*But* ***the fruit of the Spirit*** *is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those* ***who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires****.* Galatians 5:22–24

Live like **Jesus**!

Live the life that Jesus would live if He were living your life.

In your **prayer** life!

***The end of all things is at hand****; therefore be* ***self-controlled*** *and* ***sober-minded*** *for the sake of your prayers.* 1 Peter 4:7

You have to think **clearly** to be able to pray **purposefully**.

In your **love** life!

***Above all****, keep loving one another earnestly,* ***since love covers a multitude of sins****.* 1 Peter 4:8

The word earnestly - Deeply” (*ektenē*, “stretched” or “strained”) was used to describe the taut muscles of an athlete who strains to win a race (cf. *ektenōs* in 1:22). A Christian’s unselfish love and concern for others should be exercised to the point of sacrificially giving for others’ welfare[[1]](#footnote-2)

In your **home** life!

Are you possessive of your possessions? Do they possess you?

***Show hospitality*** *to one another without grumbling.* 1 Peter 4:9

In your **church** life!

The church – big C is the body of Christ. As a part of it, each of us serve her to strengthen her. We need each other; we need you and your gifts.

*As each has received a gift,* ***use it to serve one another****, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that* ***in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ****. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* 1 Peter 4:10–11

**How can I begin to think like Jesus so I can live like Jesus?**

R**ecognize** when your thinking is stinking.

R**epent**, change the way you think.

R**eprioritize** your thinking – God first, others second, self last.

It is not about thinking less of yourself, but thinking about yourself less.

1. Raymer, R. M. (1985). [1 Peter](https://ref.ly/logosres/bkc?ref=Bible.1Pe4.8-9&off=53&ctx=each+other+deeply.+%E2%80%9C~Deeply%E2%80%9D+(ektene%CC%84%2c+%E2%80%9Cs). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 853). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)