

**WHAT CAN HINDER AND ENCOURAGE US
IN TAKING THOUGHTS CAPTIVE**
(Zondra Scott)

A. WHAT CAN HINDER US IN RENEWING THE MIND?

1. Not being saved. (Phil 4:13)

2. Not dealing with the most basic wrong thinking/beliefs.

a. Wrong presuppositions about God (Ps 145; Is 40: 25-29; Ps 50:21; I Jn 1:5)

b. Wrong presuppositions about the Word of God (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1: 18-21; Psalm 119:128; Ps.19: 7-9, 2 Pt 1:3-4; Jn 17:17; Ps 119:16; 1Pt 2:2-3)

3. Idolatrous lusts of the heart that are not dealt with! (Ex 43:14; 1Jn 5:21; Ezk 14:5-6; 2Cor 11:3; Deut 6:4; Ps 73:25-26; Ja 4:5; Ps 106:14-15; Ps 16:8)

We are created worshipers and therefore always worshipping. The question is, what? An idol you are worshipping may be the foundation of PERSISTENT wrong thinking.

EZK-14:5-11-This passage teaches us that if there is any un-dealt with *IDOLS YOU HAVE SET UP IN YOUR HEART* (which can be even good things), that you are hoping in striving for and serving rather than (or in addition to) God, then seeking to renew the thoughts that rise out of that worship will be very difficult. God is all about doing whatever it takes to answer that problem—that is, in love, He will deal with our idolatrous lusts and recapture our heart, so that HE alone will be our God and we live as His very own beloved people, with undivided devotion (see also Ps 86:11).

It is good to ask: Is there anything I seem to consistently sin to get or sin if I don't get (sin includes being hopeless or undone)?

This is a good indicator that something has become an idolatrous lust that needs to be confessed and forsaken, for the one true Fountain of Living Water-the one who satisfies-our triune God.

Psalm 106:36-They served their idols, which became a snare to them.

Idols are certainly a snare to renewing the mind.

4. Too busy or lack of time commitment (1Cor 4:2)

B. WHAT ELSE CAN ENCOURAGE US IN RENEWING THE MIND?

1. God's grace is more than sufficient.

- a. He says we must work, but by his strength. (John 15:5 Phil 2: 12-13; Zach 4:6)
- b. All the grace we need for what he asks or allows is abundantly available (Heb. 2:16 & 18; Heb. 4:16; 2cor 9:8; 2cor 12:9 Phil 4:13; 1cor 10:13; Ps 46:1)
- c. We must see our need, believe and ask (Is 40:31; Ps 105:4, Psalm 29:11)
- d. We must be humble before God (not disobedient, angry, judging Him or bitter) James 4:6
- e. We must want to glorify him (not have our own way) most of all (James 4:3; Ps 119:173)

2. God's expectation is not burdensome. (1Jn 5:3; Phil 1:6)

- a. He knows it is a process and is pleased with our real efforts to cooperate in the growth process. (2Cor 3:18; Ps 103:14)
- b. We are not doing this to gain his love and commitment to us. We have that in Christ. (Ps 103:10-14; Heb 12:6; Rom 11:6)
- c. He already died for our wrong thinking if we are saved. When we confess, we can also revel in this and work to change out of gratitude. (1Jn 1:9; Rom 3:28; Heb 7:25)

3. God's promise of heavenly rest and reward with Christ! (Ro 8:18; Gal 6:9; 2Jn 8)