

Thinking like God: Part 1

Why Aren't The Gorillas Running The Zoos?



Consider this.

All action is preceded by decision which is preceded by thinking.

If this is true, then thinking is the most critical human activity that can be undertaken.

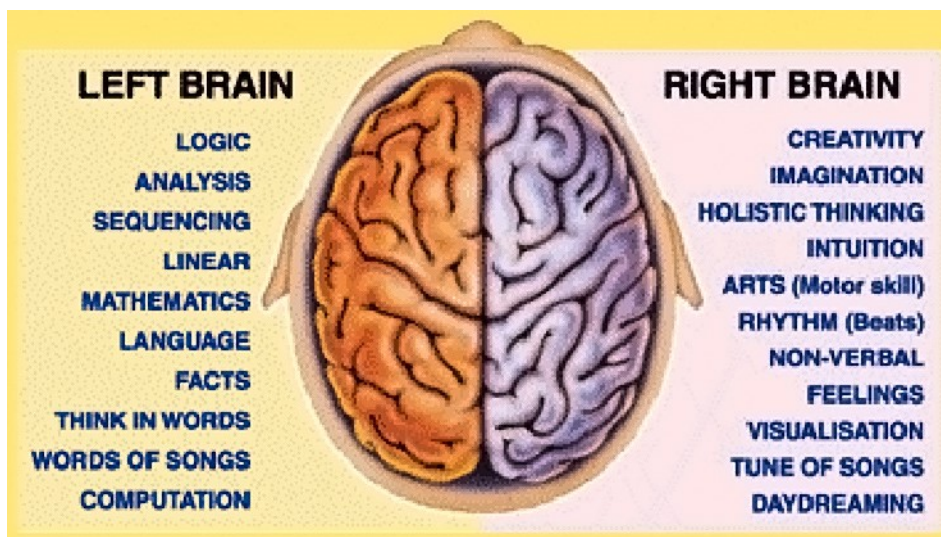
But if we were to ask most Christians if they thought like God, they would eagerly say “yes.” After all, they’re saved so by default they must think like God. Sounds logical, right? Well, I gotta be honest, nothing could be more illogical. Listen. Because you have acquired a saved *position* before God does not automatically mean you have been given the skills to *think* like God or anyone else.

Illogical Thinking

- Lack of conservation - inability to realize when objects change in form they do not necessarily change in amount
- Irreversibility - inability to realize that certain processes can be undone or reversed
- Single Classification - inability to understand that one object can be classified in more than one way
- Transductive reasoning - seeing similarities between two or more concrete objects or events when there is actually no relationship

Of all God's creation, only man has been endowed with this capacity of thinking. This should come as no surprise to anyone since only mankind has been made in His (God's) image. Thinking reflects one's perception of reality. This is our view of the world and what we find to be true about it. The more accurate our perception, the better we can adapt to our surroundings.

Technically, cognitive psychologists have concluded that the back of the brain handles perception, and the front of the brain handles action; the left hemisphere of the brain is the seat of logical thinking. The right hemisphere of the brain does intuitive thinking.

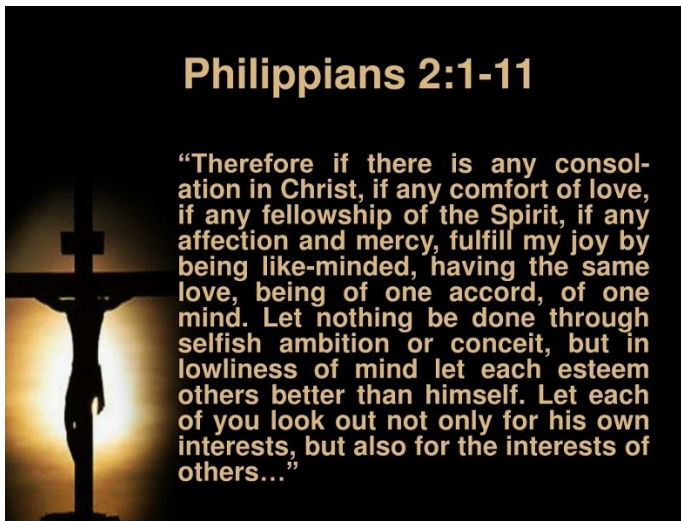


Thinking isn't just about scientific or technological breakthroughs. It also plays an important role in solving personal problems we experience in our own lives. Everything from work to relationships requires some element of thinking and problem solving. Thus, it is up to us to think about our lives and improve upon them to the best of our abilities using our knowledge and experience.

The way God thinks and purposes are not the things that man thinks and purposes and therefore, because His thoughts are different the outcomes of them indeed are divergent. God's ways are His acts, the manner and course are His working considered as a path on which He moves and on which, in some sense, we can also journey.

The better we think, the better we will live. The more our thinking conforms to God's, the Godlier our lives. Therefore, it would behoove us to study how God thinks (as best as we can) and adapt our own thinking accordingly. The whole purpose of thinking like God is live a life that is

wholly pleasing to our creator. God has already built within each man everything necessary to develop man's abilities to think like God.



The Bible says that God created man (*Genesis 1:26 (a) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*) therefore, God has created us as triune beings after His own image. We are body, soul, and spirit. The body refers to our physical being. The soul refers to our mind and our emotions and relates to people. The spirit refers to our eternal being and relates to God. Furthermore, God is saying He made us to think, decide, and act.

Man is also a partner in His overall plan.



What plan?

Genesis 1:26 (b) and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.





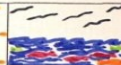




Before things went haywire due to the Fall, God gives an assignment to man: He has a plan that includes mankind’s participation; Subdue the earth.

In this verse God is illustrating His way of thinking.

- (1). Creation is carefully, logically, thoroughly, and completely **thought** out.
- (2). Then God made all **decisions** necessary in order to make the plan happen.
- (3). God **speaks** Creation into existence.

The Days of Creation: One Week
 “In the beginning, God created the Heaven & the Earth ...” – Genesis 1:1-2

						
Genesis 1:3-5	Genesis 1:6-8	Genesis 1:9-13	Genesis 1:14-19	Genesis 1:20-23	Genesis 1:24-31	Genesis 2:1-3
“let there be light ”	“a firmament in the midst of the waters”	“waters gathered & dry land appears”	“lights ... for signs, seasons, days & years”	Winged Creatures & Water Creatures	“God created man in his own image”	“God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work”
Day & Night	Heaven	Grass, Herbs & Fruit Tree	Sun, Moon & Stars		Beasts of the Earth & Man	
Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

What plan is that?

Reread the last 3 words of this genesis 1:26, “**Subdue the earth.**”

Subdue it from what? The earth was just created. Adam and Eve are still in paradise. What's going on?

From Satan.



From the very beginning, even before the creation of man, God said, "Earth is the place where there is to be a cosmic showdown between Satan and me. So, I'm going to use you, mankind, to partner with Me as part of the process to drive out the enemy. To conquer evil."

How?

Look at Genesis 1:26 again. By being fruitful and multiplying.

How are you to subdue your earth, your world, your family which seems to be in the grasp and grip of the enemy?

By being fruitful.



The Fruit of the Spirit

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (Galatians 5:22-23)

Now let's go to (Galatians 5:22), *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. The fruit (not fruits) of the Spirit is love—as defined by joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.*"

And in 1 Peter 4:8, we learn that we'll be fruitful if we don't criticize, gossip, or find fault with things, people, or situations. We'll be fruitful if we speak words of love and peace, patience and gentleness, for such is the fruit of the Spirit. 1 Peter 4:8, And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Love therefore is the fruit of the Spirit and covers a multitude of sins. As part of God's plan to defeat evil we are tasked to be ever thinking, planning, deciding, and enlisting in active duty to be sharing love and multiplying.

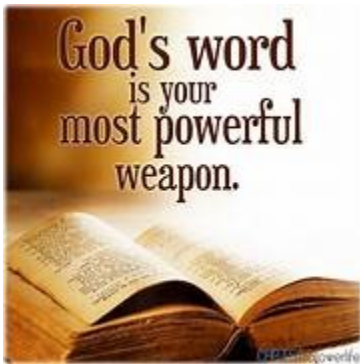
But only under God's leadership?



James talks about the tongue being an instrument of fire (James 3:6). If you find fault with your neighbor, your job, your school, your church, your family—you will hand your world over to the hellish flames of the enemy. But if you speak words of affirmation and encouragement, of faith and joy—you will replace the fires of hell with the fruit of heaven.



Acts 6 tells us the Word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied when the Word was shared. When we share the Word, talk to your kids, your classmates, your coworkers about the Word, you will see multiplication of life and love. And suddenly the world in which you live will be subdued, won back from the enemy.



Every word we say produces life or death, fruit or fire. Everyone that hears us sharing the Word and how good God is, how much we love and enjoy fellowship and prayer and praise, are more prone to plug in and worship God themselves and walk with Him all of their days. God is victorious whenever a believer subdues his/her world by speaking love and by sharing the Word—by being fruitful and multiplying.

Man's purpose in thinking is **first** to understand our world so that we can live Godly lives and **secondly**, to be used by God in the great battle of good versus evil. To effectively think more and more like God, we need to first train ourselves into thinking like Him. This will be the focus of our next article.
