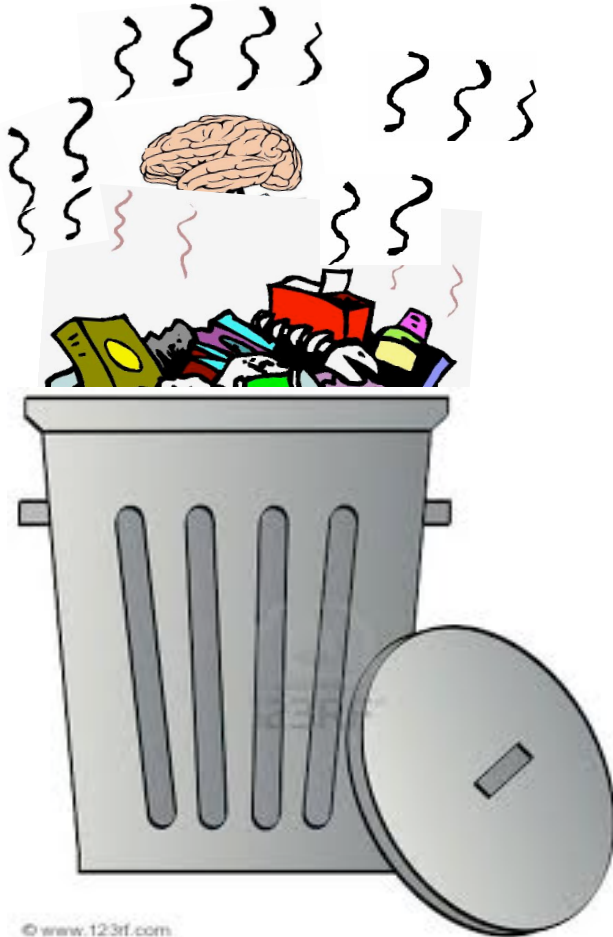


**" THERE'S SOME STINKING
IN OUR THINKING"**



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"PROVERBS 23:7"

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THERE'S SOME STINKING IN OUR THINKING!**PROVERBS 23:7****INTRODUCTION**

I HAVE A NEWSFLASH FOR US TODAY...THE DEVIL IS ON HIS JOB!

YOU MAY ASK ME WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT AND YOUR QUESTION WOULD BE A VALID ONE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE DEVIL IS WORKING EXTREMELY HARD TO MAKE US THINK THAT WE'RE IN A LOSING BATTLE AND THAT WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE OR ACCOMPLISH ALL THAT GOD HAS DESIGNED FOR US TO DO.

I KNOW THIS TO BE THE CASE BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE THINGS I HEAR COMING FROM THE MOUTHS OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE OR BY THE WAY THEY I SEE THEM CARRY THEMSELVES.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- **THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WALK AROUND WITH A DEFEATED ATTITUDE; IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT, THEN YOU ARE DEFEATED!**
- **THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WALK AROUND WITH AN "I GIVE UP" MENTALITY; IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT, THEN YOU HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UP!**
- **THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WALK AROUND WITH THE MINDSET THAT "IT'S NOT WORTH IT ANYMORE!" IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT, THEN IT'S NOT WORTH IT!**
- **THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WALK AROUND WITH THE MINDSET THAT "IT'S NEVER GOING TO WORK!" IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT, THEN IT'S NEVER GOING TO WORK!**
- **THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WALK AROUND SAYING TO OURSELVES, "WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?" IF THAT'S HOW**

YOU'RE THINKING, THEN THAT'S HOW YOU WILL RESPOND!

- **THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE WALK AROUND SAYING TO OURSELVES, "IT'S TOO HARD OR IMPOSSIBLE!" IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT, THEN IT IS!**

IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT WE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM JUST GIVING UP WHEN A LITTLE BIT OF ADVERSITY COMES OUR WAY.

WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE THINGS ARE NOT GOING TO WORK OUT JUST THE WAY WE WANT THEM TO, WE THINK IT'S BETTER TO JUST QUIT THAN TO KEEP TRYING TO SEE WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ADVERSITY AND OPPOSITION ARE PART OF THE CYCLE OF LIFE.

I'VE HEARD IT SAID AND I'VE SAID BEFORE:

- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE THE WATER UNTIL THE WELL RUNS DRY;**
- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE THE SUN UNTIL YOU HAVE A CLOUDY SKY;**
- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE BEING HEALTHY UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN SICK;**
- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE HAVING MONEY UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN BROKE;**
- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE A RAINBOW WITHOUT SOME RAIN;**
- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE GOOD DAYS WITHOUT SOME BAD DAYS;**
- **YOU'LL NEVER APPRECIATE THOSE WHO ARE AROUND YOU UNTIL THEY ARE GONE.**

WELL, AS LONG AS *WE* ARE TRYING TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES, OR IN THE LIVES OF THOSE

WHOM WE LOVE, WE WILL NEVER TRULY ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS ON OUR OWN.

IT'S WHEN WE PUT AND KEEP OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST THAT WE'RE ABLE TO SEE AND HAVE ALL THAT HE'S PROMISED FOR OUR LIVES.

IT'S WHEN WE STOP WALKING AROUND WITH A DEFEATED ATTITUDE THAT WE CAN SEE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD IN OUR LIVES.

AS LONG AS WE FEEL LIKE, "I'M DONE; STICK A FORK IN ME!" OR "IT'S NEVER GOING TO GET ANY BETTER," THAT'S WHEN WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT "*THERE'S SOME STINKING IN OUR THINKING!*"

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT

WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS TODAY.

CONCERNING THIS BOOK, THE EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE COMMENTARY SAYS THAT, "*THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS A MARVELOUS COLLECTION OF WISE SAYINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING A USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE LIFE.*

THE COLLECTION FORMS PART OF THE LARGER GROUP OF BIBLICAL WRITINGS KNOWN AS WISDOM LITERATURE.

THIS LITERATURE GIVES INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING WHILE PONDERING THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE."

IT IS BELIEVED THAT OUR WRITER HERE IS KING SOLOMON, THE SON OF DAVID.

IN THIS TEXT, THE GENERAL IDEA IS ONE THAT LETS US KNOW THAT NOT EVERYONE WILL REALLY ACCEPT YOU, APPRECIATE YOU, NOR WILL THEY TRULY CARE FOR YOU AND YOURS.

A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE TEXT TELLS US THAT EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO EAT AND DRINK, IT WAS NOT DONE SO BECAUSE OF GENUINE LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES OR PERSONAL GAIN AND AGENDAS.

I BELIEVE WE CAN GLEAN SOME WISDOM AND INSIGHT FROM THIS TEXT.

IT IS PERTAINS TO HOW WE SHOULD BE THINKING AS IT RELATES TO OUR CHRISTIAN WALK AND JOURNEY.

LET'S IDENTIFY "*SOME STINKING IN OUR THINKING!*"

POINTS:

- I. **THE FIRST STINKING IN YOUR THINKING IS CALLED DOUBT.**
 - A. **THE WORD *DOUBT* BY DEFINITION MEANS "*TO BE UNCERTAIN OR SKEPTICAL ABOUT; TO DISTRUST.*"**
 1. DOUBT WILL CAUSE US TO FIND OURSELVES IN A POSITION WHERE IT SEEMS THAT EVERYTHING IS UNCERTAIN OR IMPOSSIBLE.
 2. WE SEE WHAT'S IN FRONT OF US AND IMMEDIATELY BEGIN TO EXERCISE OUR ABILITY TO THINK THAT BECAUSE IT'S LARGE OR SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE, IT MUST BE IMPOSSIBLE.
 - B. ***DOUBT* WILL TELL YOU:**
 1. "WE CAN'T DO THAT!" OR,
 2. "WE'VE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE!"
 3. "WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT!" OR,
 4. "IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN!"
 - C. **GOD DOESN'T OPERATE IN DOUBT AND NOR SHOULD WE.**
 1. AS GOD HAS UNLIMITED POWER IN HIS HANDS, WE WHO KNOW THE LORD HAVE ACCESS TO

THAT POWER CONCERNING OUR ISSUES OF LIFE.

2. **WHEN GOD BEGAN THE CREATION PROCESS, HE DIDN'T DO SO BY STRETCHING FORTH HIS HANDS AND MOVING THINGS AROUND, BUT RATHER HE SPOKE AND THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH CAME INTO EXISTENCE.**

D. THAT SAME POWER CAN BECOME REAL TO US AS WE BEGIN TO SPEAK TO OUR DOUBT WHEN IT BEGINS TO TALK TO US.

1. **WHEN DOUBT BEGINS TO SAY, "WE CAN'T DO THAT," WE NEED TO BEGIN QUOTING [PHILIPPIANS 4:13] WHICH SAYS, "*I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME.*"**
2. **WHEN DOUBT BEGINS TO SAY, "WE'VE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE," WE NEED TO BEGIN QUOTING [GENESIS 18:14] WHICH SAYS, "*IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?*"**
3. **WHEN DOUBT BEGINS TO SAY, "WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT," WE NEED TO BEGIN QUOTING [PSALM 24:1] WHICH SAYS, "*THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF, THE WORLD AND THEY THAT DWELL THEREIN.*"**
4. **WHEN DOUBT BEGINS TO SAY, "IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN," WE NEED TO BEGIN QUOTING [MATTHEW 19:26] WHICH SAYS, "*WITH MEN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE; BUT WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.*"**

E. UNLESS WE CAN SPEAK TO OUR DOUBT AND MAKE IT DEPART FROM US, WE WILL FIND THAT "*THERE'S SOME STINKING IN OUR THINKING!*"

II. THE SECOND STINKING IN YOUR THINKING IS CALLED FEAR.

A. THE WORD FEAR BY DEFINITION IS “*A FEELING OF AGITATION AND ANXIETY CAUSED BY THE PRESENCE OR IMMINENCE OF DANGER.*”

- 1. THERE ARE TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE FEEL FEAR BECAUSE WE ARE NOT SURE OF THE OUTCOME CONCERNING OUR VARIOUS SITUATIONS.**
- 2. BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW HOW THEY WILL TURN OUT, WE GET SCARED, ANXIOUS, AND EVEN BEGIN TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN.**
- 3. IT'S NOT FOR US TO FIGURE OUT HOW THINGS WILL WORK OUT, BUT IT IS FOR US TO TURN OVER OUR SITUATIONS TO THE ONE WHO ALREADY KNOWS THE OUTCOME.**

B. THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH, GOD TELLS US IN [ISAIAH 46:10], “DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, AND FROM ANCIENT TIMES THE THINGS THAT ARE NOT YET DONE, SAYING, MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, AND I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE.”

- 1. WHEN YOU KNOW THAT GOD ALREADY KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN, IT SHOULD TAKE THE FEAR OUT OF WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.**
- 2. AND WHEN YOU KNOW GOD LIKE YOU SAY YOU KNOW GOD, THEN YOU ALSO KNOW THAT FEAR IS NOT OF GOD.**
- 3. IN [2 TIMOTHY 1:7], WE'RE TOLD, “FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND.”**

IF YOU'RE OPERATING IN FEAR, THEN "THERE'S SOME STINKING IN YOUR THINKING!"

III. THE THIRD STINKING IN YOUR THINKING IS CALLED BEING DEFEATED.

A. TO BE DEFEATED MEANS TO LOSE AND NOT WIN; IT MEANS TO NOT BE VICTORIOUS OR TRIUMPHANT.

1. IN LOOKING AT THOSE WORDS AND PHRASES, THEY ARE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO WHAT GOD HAS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF AND US AS WELL.
2. I BELIEVE ONE OF THE KEY THINGS WE NEED TO LOOK AT AND KEEP IN MIND IS WHAT GOD SAYS OR THINKS OF US.
3. IF WE CAN IDENTIFY WITH WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT US, MAYBE THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WAY WE WOULD THINK OF OURSELVES.
4. REMEMBER, OUR TEXT TELLS US, "*FOR AS HE THINKETH IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE.*"

B. HERE'S A FEW EXAMPLES OF HOW GOD THINKS OF US:

1. GOD SAYS THAT WE'RE THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL.
 - a. IN [DEUTERONOMY 28:13] WE FIND, "*AND THE LORD SHALL MAKE THEE THE HEAD, AND NOT THE TAIL; AND THOU SHALT BE ABOVE ONLY, AND THOU SHALT NOT BE BENEATH; IF THAT THOU HEARKEN UNTO THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, TO OBSERVE AND TO DO THEM.*"

2. GOD SAYS THAT WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS.

- b. IN [ROMANS 8:37] WE'RE TOLD, "*NAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THOUGH HIM THAT LOVED US.*"

3. GOD SAYS THAT WE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION AND A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.

- a. IN [1 PETER 2:9] WE FIND, "*BUT YE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE; THAT YE SHOULD SHEW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT.*"

CONCLUSION

KNOWING THAT GOD FEELS THAT WAY ABOUT US SHOULD HELP US IN HOW WE THINK ABOUT OURSELVES.

- A. I'M NO LONGER DEFEATED, BUT I'M NOW WALKING IN MY DESTINY;**
- B. I'M NOT A VICTIM; I'VE GOT VICTORY IN JESUS;**
- C. I'M NOT LOST; I'VE GOT ETERNAL LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST!**

I CAN THINK THIS WAY BECAUSE OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS FOR A FEW MINUTES...

- D. THERE IS NOBODY LIKE JESUS:**
1. HE'S MY BREAD WHEN I'M HUNGRY;
 2. HE'S MY COMFORT WHEN I'M LONELY;

3. HE'S MY PEACE WHEN I'M TENSED;
4. HE'S MY REST WHEN I'M WEARY;
5. HE'S MY JOY WHEN I'M SAD;
6. HE'S MY STRENGTH WHEN I'M WEAK;
7. HE'S MY ASSURANCE WHEN I'M AFRAID;
8. HE'S MY WATER WHEN I'M THIRSTY;
9. HE'S MY WEALTH WHEN I'M POOR;
10. HE'S MY SUPPLY WHEN I'M EMPTY;
11. HE'S MY ANCHOR WHEN I'M TOSSED IN A STORM;
12. HE'S MY CONFIDENCE WHEN I'M UNSURE;
13. HE'S MY HEALING WHEN I'M HURT;
14. HE'S MY WISDOM WHEN I'M CONFUSED;
15. HE'S MY PROTECTION WHEN I'M ENDANGERED;
16. HE'S MY ROCK WHEN I'M STAGGERING;
17. HE'S MY GUIDE WHEN I'M LOST;
18. HE'S MY HELP WHEN I'M IN NEED;
19. HE'S MY TRUST WHEN I'M RESTLESS;
20. HE'S MY HELP WHEN I'M IN NEED;
21. HE'S MY VICTORY WHEN I'M IN A BATTLE;
22. HE'S MY HELP IN AGES PASSED AND MY HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME;
23. HE'S MY BALM WHEN I'M WOUNDED;
24. HE'S MY SONG WHEN I'M SINGING;
25. HE'S MY MESSAGE WHEN I'M PREACHING;
26. HE'S MY AUTHORITY WHEN I'M PRAYING;

27. HE'S MY LORD AND MY GOD.

28. HE'S MY SAVIOR

29. HE'S THE ONE WHO DIED FOR ME;

30. HE WAS BURIED IN A BORROWED TOMB;

**31. HE STAYED THERE THREE DAYS AND THREE
NIGHTS;**

**32. BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL
POWER IN HIS HAND.**