

Cooperative, Interdependent Working Relationship, Part 3

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.09

Controlling our thoughts

- 2 Co 10:5, “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”
 - “knowledge” (Gk n, *gnosis*): (1) the sum of what has been perceived, discovered or learned; (2) recognition
 - “demolish” (Gk, v, *kathaireo*): (1) to bring down, take down, destroy; (2) to refute, as causing the destruction or undoing of something
 - “arguments” (Gk, n, *logismos*): a proposed thought or statement arrived at by consideration or reasoning
 - “pretension” (Gk, n, *hypsoma*): an exalted object
 - This verse means we’re to refute rational thinking or cherished beliefs that contradict the knowledge or reality of God
 - Whose rational thinking or cherished beliefs; ours or other people’s?
 - 1 Pet 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”
 - “take captive” (Gk, v, *aichmalotizo*): (1) to take control of; (2) assume power to influence, direct or determine
 - Whose thoughts should we control or direct?
 - “make ... obedient” (Gk, n, *hypakoe*): submissive conformity or obedience to a law, custom or practice of an authority
- We demolish every rational thought and cherished belief that contradicts the truth about God and we control every thought to make it conform to who Christ is and what he says
- What should we do when we think something that doesn’t conform to this standard?

Self-talk

- We all have self-talk – thoughts that run repeatedly through our minds about who we are, what we can or cannot do, whether we even have any value
 - Satan uses our early experiences to handicap us as adults
- Jn 8:44(c), “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
 - What’s the first thing Jesus said about Satan in this verse?
 - “murderer” (Gk, adj, *anthropoktonos*): a person who commits homicide, unlawful killing of another person
 - In what ways can Satan’s lies “kill” you?

God consciousness, God awareness

- Ps 100:4, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”
 - Whenever you experience something you enjoy or appreciate, thank Father for it, tell him how much it meant to you & praise him for what created or did
 - How would this help you be aware of God, conscious of his presence?
- Col 3:1-2, ¹ “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”
 - How would this help you be aware of God, conscious of his presence?
- Col 3:23, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”
 - How would this help you be aware of God, conscious of his presence?
 - You can’t have a cooperative, interdependent relationship with God if you don’t train your thoughts on him

How can we learn the truth about God?

- Jn 14:26, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
 - “Counselor” (Gk, n, *parakletos*): a person who acts as a spokesperson or representative of someone else’s policy, purpose or cause
 - “teach” (Gk, v, *didasko*): to impart skills or knowledge
 - “all things” & “everything” (Gk, adj, *pas*): every, all (of things being considered)
- Jn 16:13, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”
 - “he will guide” (Gk, v, *hodegeo*): (1) lead, guide; (2) to be a guiding or motivating force for someone’s actions
 - “truth” (Gk, n, *aletheia*): that which conforms to reality
 - I’m not minimizing the spiritual significance of Holy Spirit’s work; I’m trying to demonstrate his work isn’t limited to the spiritual realm, which is what we normally assume
- Mt 7:7-8, ⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”
- Father wants to be actively involved in everything you do & everything that affects you
 - That’s covenant!

- View God as your personal expert consultant or team manager, whatever image works for you
 - Rely on him for direction, expertise, wisdom, judgment, resources
- If you stay aligned with him, he'll provide whatever you need

Conclusion

- Don't just turn to Father when you think you need help, because in reality you need his help all the time. Recognize your absolute dependency upon him and rely solidly on him regardless of what you're doing; even when working in your area of expertise. It's your choice: whether you rely on yourself – a weak and limited human – or the almighty, omnipotent, omniscient God. Make a wise choice.