

BEHOLD AND BECOME

1 Kings 19:1-18
Corinthians 3:18



1 Kings 19 tells the story of when Prophet Elijah was fleeing for his life after Jezebel threatened to kill him. What led to this was that he killed her prophets, and she was enraged. She sent word to Elijah saying, ""You killed my prophets. Now I'm going to kill you! I pray that the gods will punish me even more severely if I don't do it by this time tomorrow." Elijah was afraid when he got her message, and he ran to the town of Beersheba in Judah. He left his servant there" 1 Kings 19:2-3 CEV.

The message that Elijah got threw him into a frenzy. This world has a way of sending threatening messages to you, and if you allow them to find a comfortable place in your thoughts, you will start living a life of responding to the crisis. The message that Elijah received comes to you in many forms; this includes anything that threatens your sense of stability, like a bad doctor's report, school report or even bad news about a family member. When you ponder on a negative thought long enough, it will affect your speech. Elijah took the threatening message, processed it, and concluded that; he wanted to die; he was not better than his fathers, all the prophets were dead, and he was the only one left.

Any thought that is given room to grow can create a stronghold. Mental strongholds aren't created in an instant but are built with continuous meditation. You have a choice to embrace or reject every thought that is presented to you. There is a war going on, the mind is the battlefield, and the enemy's

weapon is deception. Through deception, the devil wants to deliberately cause you to believe something untrue. He does so by affecting your imagination – making it futile. In Romans 1:19-22 [AMP], we see that a futile imagination consists of vain imagining, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculation.

Your imagination is usually explained as just the fantasy and illusion part of your thinking. Still, beyond that, your imagination is the part of the mind that can create pictures. Thus, a healthy imagination can grasp the thoughts of God. Conversely, if the enemy has access to your thoughts, he can really toy with you. Entertaining the enemy's voice gives him a foothold to play with you. And the saddest thing about deception is that you begin to believe it as the truth. The devil knows that he can not stop you from imagining but can derail your thoughts. He knows that if he can deceive you just enough, he can draw your attention, capture your mind, and cause your imagination to be futile (see Romans 4:4).

Therefore, it is crucial to be very careful of the ideas and thoughts that you allow. Negative thinking can be detrimental to where God is leading you. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 6:31 [NKJV], "take no thought, saying..." "The thought you take have a way of controlling your response to life, especially in a time of crisis. Elijah took the thought of being killed, and he started with negative self-talk. Hence, before embracing a thought, put it through the test of 8 in Philippians 4:8 NLT.



1. Is the thought true?
2. Is it honourable?
3. Is it right (eous)?
4. Is it pure?
5. Is it lovely?
6. Is it admirable?
7. Is it excellent?
8. Is it worthy of praise?

Looking deeper at this list, it appears that Paul is also pointing to Someone – and that is Jesus. His recommendation is 'think about Jesus', and we have your thoughts transfixed on Him. Do not look to yourself because when Elijah did, he remembered that he was no better than his fathers. When you look at yourself, two things happen; you either become fixed on your failures, which brings shame, or you become fixed on your achievements and successes, which births pride. Nothing good comes from being fixed on yourself; that is why we look to something [Someone] better.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." To behold is to see Someone or something of remarkable or impressive nature. And it is a Law that whatever you behold, you become. When your mind is fixed on Christ, the enemy has no grounds to point you to yourself because the you that you are becoming is a reflection of who you are beholding. The person you become when beholding Jesus can never be taken away from you.

