

*"And a man's foes shall be They Of His Own Household." Matthew 10:36 KJV*

Satan cannot see our thoughts, only God can, but that does not preclude him from knowing our mindset, as we well know from our social experience with others. We can't read minds, but we can know the heart of a person. God's Word confirms this. "[Out] of the...heart (mind) the mouth speaketh. As he thinketh...so is he." This is the basis of Satan's work where he uses those we care about, and even our own selves, to destroy our faith! He has been observing humans since Eden and knows exactly how to read us from our words and body language. He knows exactly when and what to throw at you to tempt you to sin against God. Faith, that is, believing God's Word and obeying it, is our shield against evil thoughts, no matter their origin. The real battle of good and evil is waged in the hearts and minds of men, and Satan has honed his craft for millennia! Our only defence against evil is to hide God's Word in our minds, so we may discern the Voice of God from all others. "Taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts (evil thoughts) of the wicked, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the Knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ." Satan even tried to use Peter against Jesus. "Then Peter took [Jesus], and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee.' But [Jesus] turned, and said unto Peter, 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.'" Satan will use the well intentioned words of our loved ones to tear us down spiritually. We must know God's Word to know Satan from WHEREVER and from WHOMEVER he speaks! Do not reply in kind, but with kindness and Truth deflect and instruct others.

When friends and family do turn,  
And with their words our faith do burn,  
We must their origin discern,  
And not their spiteful words return. –CGP

We are guilty of malice which is why we must guard our tongues with a vengeance, especially with loved ones! "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing." Our tongue is controlled by our thoughts, so we must temper our thinking with the Word of God by studying and knowing it thoroughly. "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free. Thy Word is Truth. Stand fast therefore in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." We can only bridle our words by knowing Truth and obeying it; first with our desire, and then with word and deed!

*"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My Sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your Reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matthew 5:11-12 KJV*

