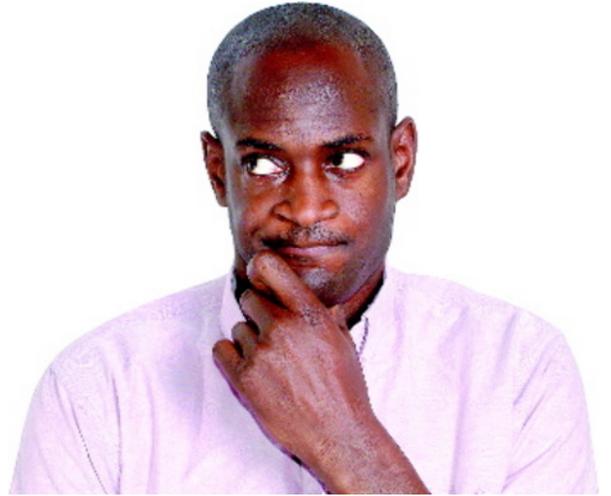


“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest (revealed) in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:12-13 KJV



We may know what we think, but we often don't stop to think why. Impulses rush us headlong into vengeful words or actions before we ever consider either the consequences or the commands of God's Word. We're cut off in traffic, someone treats us rudely or indifferently, our boss scolds us, someone disagrees with our opinion, a family member is unreasonable, finances fall short, appliances fail, our car breaks, or we get sick and our world comes crashing in on us like the waves of a tempest! We focus on the storm and totally forget the LORD who walks through and commands the tempest. By faith we left the perceived safety of our own reason to Christ and walked through the tempest of life for a while, then the storm intensified, we fearfully looked around, and only when we begin to helplessly sink into the turbulent sea of circumstances did we think to turn again to our ever-present LORD for deliverance. Isn't it grand that, *“Jesus saves!”* Present tense! *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* All sin is unbelief and allows the waves of circumstances to overwhelm us. Unbelief rejects God's Word in favor of carnal desire or fear. But *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”* What is more secret than your thoughts? God's thoughts are His *“secret place”* and His Word reveals His thoughts to us and about us. *“I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.’ Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His Truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee...because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation. Great peace have they which love Thy Law and NOTHING shall offend them!”* We lose focus of God's Word in life's tempest when we cease to *“meditate (think) therein day and night”* and slide into unbelief! We lose our peace when we do not *“pray without ceasing.”* We can no more believe without God's Word than we can live without air! *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* In prosperity we forget God. Prosperity destroys more believers than persecution ever could! We must thoughtfully pause to consider our every intent in the Light of Truth before we act! Stay in the Castle! Outside its walls you are cannon fodder!

I cannot stop before I act,
With anger, malice, lack of tact,
Unless I rest in God's commands,
And in His secret place I stand! ~CGP

God, in eternity past, established His Word as our protective shield against all evil! God's Word delivers us from *“the snare of the fowler, the roaring lion, and the fiery darts of the wicked!”* God's Word comforts our sorrow, strengthens us in troubles, and preserves us forever!

“I can do ALL THINGS through Christ (the Word) which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13 KJV