Getting our Focus back on GOD

Selected Scriptures
1/23/05

God knows our minds (Intentions)
Ezek 11:5 - "…I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.
God knows our thoughts
Ps 139:2 - "…thou understandest my thought afar off."

The greatest of all commands involves loving God with "…ALL OUR MIND"
Matt 22:37 - Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy **MIND**.

SEE: Jer 12:2
Thou art near in their mouth, and **far from their reins** (inner thoughts).
(KJV)
Thou art near to their lips but **far from their mind**.
(NAS)

The indictment brought against Judah was that she talked a good talk about God, but God was light years away from their thoughts.

If we are not careful, we too can be deceived into thinking that certain things that we do can be replacements for a mind which is focused on Him daily.

Our ability to talk about God becomes a cheap substitute for a heart for God
Isaiah 29:13a - Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me

Our ability to know the facts about God becomes a cheap substitute for seeking the face of God
Isaiah 29:13b - "…and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men"

Hearing the Word of God becomes a cheap substitute for heeding His Word
Ezek 33:31 - And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

God wants our hearts, not merely our lips
Matt 15:8 - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

God wants our obedience, not merely our profession
Titus 1:16 - They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Preoccupations of the mind which distract our thoughts from God:

A Preoccupation with <u>self</u> (Gal.6:3)

A Preoccupation with <u>romance</u>

A boyfriend; or girlfriend.
Reading or visual materials which produce such a distraction

A Preoccupation with <u>carnal obsessions</u>

The focused pursuit of money, material, or career advancement
Matt 6:21 - "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Sexual obsessions
Job 31:1- I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Vanity
Ps 94:11 - The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

Worldly Amusements (I John 2:15-17)
("AMUSE" - A = NO MUSE = TO THINK)

Busyness

Preoccupation with a <u>love for sin</u>

Gen 6:5 - And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Rom 1:28 - And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

**** How often throughout your day do you think about God?***

How can we get our mind's focus back on God?

1. **Ask God to <u>reveal</u> to you your <u>thoughts</u>**

   Ps 139:23 - Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

2. **Forsake any vain <u>sinful thoughts</u>**

   Is.55:7 - Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

3. **Consistently involve yourself in the <u>spiritual disciplines</u> which provoke**

thought of God.

Three Divine "thought provokers"

a. Meditation:

Meditate on His Words
Ps 119:148 - Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word. (Cp. Psalm 1:2)

Meditate on His Works
Ps 143:5 - I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. (Cp. Psalm 77:12)

b. Prayer

c. Fellowship

Gathering with other believers is vital.

When you are in the Word, prayer, and church, your mind is more sensitive to God (Ill. Buying a Ford Wagon awoke my perception to that model of car; whenever that car drives by it catches my attention)

4. Ask God to give you a deep sense of your dependence upon God.

The Wicked to not sense their need of Him:
Ps 10:4 - The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Great peace is the heart of the one who waits on Him:
Isa 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

5. Make it your goal to seek God daily.

Isa 26:8-9 - "The desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early"

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God wants our _____, not merely our _____ Matt 15:8

Preoccupations of the mind which distract our thoughts from God:

A Preoccupation with _____ (Gal.6:3)
A Preoccupation with _____
A Preoccupation with _____
Preoccupation with a _____

How can we get our mind's focus back on God?

1. **Ask God to _____ to you your _____**

2. **Forsake any vain _____**

3. **Consistently involve yourself in the _____ which provoke thought of God.**
   Three Divine "thought provokers"
   a. _____:
   b. _____
   c. _____

4. **Ask God to give you a deep sense of your _____ upon God.**

5. **Make it your goal to _____.**

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A Preoccupation with romance
A Preoccupation with carnal obsessions
Preoccupation with a love for sin

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   Three Divine "thought provokers"
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   b. Prayer
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