



Growth Ministries Inc.

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THINKING - BY MINISTER MICHAEL ROSE

If you had the opportunity go back and change one thing about your past, would you? If so, what would you change? Most people have something they wish they could change. It's human to play the "would've, could've should've" game in our minds. I know I've played it DOZENS of times. Reality is that we don't get to change one single thing about our past. We're stuck with it, and everything that comes along with it. That's a tough pill to swallow for some of us, but we have the ability to make the best of our situations. THANK GOD!

As a father of 5 children with all but 2 that are adults or nearing adulthood, I often reflect on how my kids were raised. I often find myself wishing I would've spent more time emphasizing certain areas of life to my kids and de-emphasizing others. As a married man of 18 years, same goes with my thoughts on me as a husband through the years. In both of these aspects, I've made PLENTY of mistakes that I wish I could change.

As I stated previously, we have a reset button like most of choose from wherever we life that we desire to be; in our much as we are able.

Proverbs 23:7
"For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he"

don't get to go back an undo our past. Life doesn't our electronic devices now days. However, we can currently are to be better in any and every aspect of spiritual faith, as family men, and financially as

One thing I've become intentional in is thinking before responding. Simple, right? Not always, but this one act before reacting has kept me out of the hot seat more than I can imagine. Before any decision I make, as a man of faith I definitely pray about it, but I also THINK on it as well. Obviously not every situation affords us the time to ponder before responding so for those situations I like to believe I've premeditated on what I would do. Maybe I don't have all my actions lined, up but I will most definitely think of those who are most affected by whatever decision I'm going to make before making it.

And that alone has kept me from many troubles. The bible says, "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he" - (Proverbs 23:7). When I think of me as a father, a husband, a man of faith and integrity, my actions line up as such. I can't say I've done everything correct since I've come to this new way of "thinking" but I'm quite sure I've won more moments than I've lost. One day I'll get it right, and hopefully you will too!

"Words to Grow by"

Linda Lewis, Director of Communications,

The first to apologize is the **Bravest**. The first to forgive is the **Strongest**.

And the first to forget is the **Happiest**.

DON'T LET negative & toxic people rent space in your head.

Raise the rent & kick them out.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER no act of kindness,

No matter how small, is ever wasted.

"FROM THE YARD" Each month we will bring you content from one of your brothers on the inside.

In the book of Romans, chapter 2, Believers are instructed to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. I humbly submit that transformation does not just happen, even for true Believers. In fact, Jesus the Exalted Christ had to put in work and make rational decisions for the Transfiguration of his life to take place. And where Jesus said "pick up your cross and follow me", it is implied that we must put in our own work around here Homie!!

James chapter 2 clearly explains that without works faith is dead. So how do we as Believers turn our faith and our lives into works that are alive?

For whatever reason, it was God the Creator's will to create human beings. Part of being a human being is to possess a mind, rationale, logic and reasoning. As Believers, we must train our brains to be more spiritually aware and to have a strong God-Consciousness.

The mind as we know is like a recording device. As we constantly and consistently think things and say things (praying without ceasing), if those thoughts are aligned (and sometimes not) with the will of God, righteous changes will manifest in our lives. Your thinking is what tells you that the mountain should be moved before the mustard seed of faith can propel our Spirits into transforming our conditions, our lives and blessing our works. Believers must develop a God-Centered mindset (Godly set thinking) in order to become new creatures, to be out with the old and to bring in the new. Remember, as a man\woman thinketh...

With the new year upon us, and with a large new governmental (govern our mental) transformation coming, the faithful-thinking Believers must use their God-Given minds to perceive and to navigate through devilish times in order to bring about God's Plan for the Earth. If we continue to think (and do) the same things we've always thought (and done), we will continue to do (and be) the same things we have always done (and been), regardless of how much faith we have. Rethink and renew your mind with God-Thinking so that your faith in the Spirit can transform YOU anew.

~Darryl L. Lewis. El Dorado



For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.
— LUKE 19:10 NIV

Closing Words

Today I encourage you to start walking on water. Peter was once in a boat with a storm brewing around him. He saw the Lord from a distance, reached out to Jesus and the Lord called him out of the boat. Peter stepped out of the safety and comfort of his surroundings to begin to walk on water, believing he could because Jesus called him to do so. **What is God calling you to do that seems impossible?** Nothing is impossible with God! Nothing. *Lonnie Johnson, Executive Director, Growth Ministries Inc.*

Pictured below (Ryan Stemmons, Warden Sam Cline, Curtis Gilyard, Lonnie Johnson) are the Warden's Ambassadors. Warden Cline dispatched to walk the compound to meet with the men in Medium Security for the month of February. We had the opportunity to visit with a diverse number of individuals. We shared our faith, they shared their stores, we laughed, we prayed, we made many new connections. We will send letters to many of them this week of February 20th.

