

## ***Sin in Your Heart***

*Are we held responsible for thoughts or just our actions? If we don't act them out, do thoughts count as sin against Yah's laws and against others? Is it not enough to overcome the sins of the world, the outward actions of idolatry, killing, stealing, lying, profanity, slander and alike? Are we also required to control our thoughts as well?*

*Sinful feelings composing our thoughts are contained within our heart and mind and are most often not seen outwardly, yet they declare the real you, one who is engaging in unrepentant sin. Your thoughts, one's inner desires, though not physically acted out; do come under the wide umbrella, required by Yah's law.*

*Most don't see the real you in action, they only see that part you publicly expose. Sometimes that exposure is more than enough to reveal what kind of person you are. But the real you lies within the heart of a person that is hidden from the outer eye. The desires of the heart, lusts, the inner anger and pride, jealousy and contempt for another are some of the sins we carry within ourselves. These are all parts of us that have not yet changed...repented of its ways. All these are contrary to the law of Yah and harmful to self.*

Zechariah 7:8~14 And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute **true judgment**, and **show mercy and compassions** every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; **and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.** But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and **stopped their ears, that they should not hear.** Yea, they made their **hearts** as an adamant stone, lest they should **hear the law**, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent **in his spirit** by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

*Here it states that “**imagining evil against his brother in your heart**” is considered being against Yah's ways, without involving the physical action of doing evil. Also noted is their action of literally physically impeding, hampering the hearing of the law, refusing to hearken to the warning. The law is Yah's words of instruction to us given by His Holy Spirit leading us into all truth acting as a personal messenger warning of necessary repentance to produce good fruit.*

*The word **hearing** #08085 shaw-mah' to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience) attentively, carefully, certainly, consent, consider, be content, declare, diligently discern, give ear, be obedient to, obey, perceive, regard, understand, whosoever heareth is a witness. Hearing is a “do” word, an action associated with its message.*

Matthew 5: 21~26 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall **kill shall be in danger of the judgment:** But I say unto you, **That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:** and whosoever shall say to his brother, **Raca**, shall be **in danger of the council:** but whosoever shall say, **Thou fool**, shall be **in danger of hell fire.** Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; **first be reconciled** to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

*Note the contrast in verses 21 & 22, from killing to being angry **without cause**. The act of killing puts one in danger of judgment as being against Yah's law. Thus killing vengefully or with unjust cause is contrary to the law. Similarly Yahshua is applying the same standard to the person who being angry with his brother*

***without cause** is likewise endanger of the judgment. Therefore one having anger against another **without cause** involves sinning against innocence based on reasons that are not against the law of Yah, consequently there is no lawful **cause** to be angry. The anger stated here is personal in nature as from jealousy, envy, lust, strife, etc, that is directed not against Yah, but against self. Such works of the flesh originate out of our carnality, our inner self, and are contrary with whom we should be...**Christ like**. Thus when accusing **without cause** one is often seen using verbal insult or worse verbal condemnations.*

*The word **Raca** #4469 means O empty one, thou worthless, as a term of utter criticism or defamation. This would be employed as a slanderous remark to a fellow brother, and would cause the offender to be reprimanded or corrected from one's elders or council of that congregation.*

*The word **fool** #3474 means dull or stupid, heedless, blockhead, absurd; foolish, foolishness. At this point the instruction from Yahshua states that we have gone past being verbally rude and have proceeded into judgmental procedures condemning our brother. At that point we ourselves are now endanger of hell fire...using our judgment as a false witness, accusing wrongfully without cause.*

*Yashua goes on to explain that if you hold such anger in your heart for another, your offerings or gifts to Him for forgiveness or thanks are not acceptable until you first forgive and are forgiven by your brother. We are saved by grace, but there is still requirement of the law that must be adhered to. Yah's word doesn't nullify the law because of grace. If I steal, I may be forgiven through repentance, but am still required to make it right by returning what was stolen double fold in order to achieve restitution.*

*The purpose of the law is not to produce morally superior people but to reflect the heart of the Lord. That is why Yahshua can judge us (calling us fools) as those who mechanically kept the commandments but who lacked God's **heart** of love. Keeping the law is supposed to be an expression of our love towards Yah, to relinquish self, to be made in the likeness of His character. Then, and only then, one's life radiates who He is.*

Matthew 5:27~30 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever **looketh** on a woman **to lust after** her hath committed adultery with her already **in his heart**. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

*Once again Yahshua states that the heart or desires within our mind... precede the event thus the sin originating in the heart left unchecked will eventually lead to physical transgression. The message here asserts achieving the nature of Christ, to walk without sin, must start at the beginning, repenting the very thought of error before delving any further into the physical act. This means addressing the offense at its origin, in your heart, where it first took root, the point where sin is conceived.*

James 1:13~15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, **when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed**. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

*The act of sinning originates with self; we have to desire its alluring quality, enlisting it, then yielding to its call. It all starts with you, you enlisted... You weren't drafted. So it's "I" that yields "myself" to evil and not evil that controls me. I must first desire its temptation and then yield myself to what it offers...sin. I must first let sin into my world to have it control me. A simple example would be getting fat from eating ice cream. The desire to eat great quantities of ice cream came from within prior to its consumption and the*

*resultant reward is becoming obese from such gluttonous excess. As it is with sin, I must first have a desire, a craving for its temptation before following its calling.*

Genesis 4:1~7 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground **an offering** unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought **of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof**. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: **But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect**. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? **If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.**

*The example here shows evil waiting for anyone to join it in sin. The inward desires of Cain's heart against his brother Abel, the lust, inner anger, pride, jealousy, culminated in the vengeful contempt for Abel's offering which was accepted by Yah while his was not, resulting in the first recording of murder. The statement by Yah that "**and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door**" is the key to the message that we have a choice.*

*There was no shame in what each man offered, for both animal and vegetable are acceptable offerings required by Yah to be brought to His altar. What was offensive was the **quality** of the offering. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, not denoted as the best, while Abel brought the firstling of his flock, the fat, the best.*

*So what is Yah telling us? That sin is the transgression of the law, but sin does not initiate at the breaking of the law but prior to it in our hearts. The act of sinning originates with self, in the inner you...**in your heart**, mind, thoughts; your desires to have what the merchants of deception are selling before the evil act is done. Before I have something, whether candy or evil, I must desire it...craving to try it first, before proceeding to do it.*

Titus 2:11~3:7 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works**. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. **For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another**. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which **we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*The message being taught is to **deny ungodliness and worldly lusts**, to live soberly, meaning not in a state of unawareness submissive to our desires, to live righteously, godly, in this present world. We are to be checking our hearts' desires to be aligned with His words. Not just the physical action, the result of the process, but the thought action sparking the start of the process where the error occurs.*

*Remember that we had said earlier, error in truth always happens at the beginning, at the fork in the road. We start with the wrong statement and from there on are led down a path that leads to destruction. The error happened at the start by not first checking the trueness of the statement proving it was true. The same*

*happens with the process of sin: it starts with desire being unchecked and rationalizing it, believing it okay, before physically surrendering to the temptation.*

Proverbs 11: 17~20 The merciful man doeth good **to his own soul**: but he that is cruel troubleth **his own flesh**. The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it **to his own death**. They that are of a **froward heart** are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

*Our mental activity generates direct physical consequences to our lives. Thought precedes actions. This gift separates us from the animals in that we have the ability to think before acting. We do not have to follow instincts, emotional impulses; we can change our minds and do something different.*

Psalms 19:7~14 **The law of the LORD is perfect**, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The **statutes** of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the **commandment** of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. **The fear of the LORD is clean**, enduring for ever: the **judgments** of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. **Moreover by them is thy servant warned**: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? **cleanse thou me from secret faults**. Keep back thy servant also from **presumptuous sins**; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the **meditation of my heart**, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

*Yah's law as stated above is perfect and moreover by it we, as His servants are warned. One must first be His servant which would infer being obedient utilizing the law as a warning of one's error. A warning is something given **before** the act is committed, not after. To be warned is to have instruction **before** the event so as to not fall into its trap. This warning is conveyed in thought, in our hearts and our mind **before** the event occurs. This warning precedes presumptuous sin, meaning sin deliberately done regardless of its error.*

*Seeing sin in our heart prior to action defined as actually embracing the three kinds of sin: ignorance, hidden and presumptuous would present the new teaching as well as a new depth of our spiritual reality of what being Christ-like is all about. We can't be like Him if we are still like us. There is only one who warrants uncontested control of our heart, Yah. Thus it is up to us as to whom you yield your mind: whether to sin, indulging self, or to Yah's Holy Spirit.*

2 Corinthians 10:1~6 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. **For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh**: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) **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; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

*Notice carefully Paul's statement: the pulling down of strong holds and the casting down of imaginations are **indigenous to our heart** that exalts self above the will of Yah. Hence the goal is to have our will and His will acting as one. We are only fighting ourselves when we don't align our thought according to His will. Such a sad result exasperates our hurt and eventual destruction. The war is not after the flesh but after imaginations in our minds exalting oneself above the knowledge of Yah. The instructions given are to bring every thought into captivity, under control obedient to Christ. We cannot blame anyone but ourselves for the outcome when we refuse the warning; we are deceiving ourselves of such a reality as stated in the Book of James.*

James 1: 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves.**

*The instructions boldly state: “be doers of the word, and not only hearers of it, blinding yourselves with false ideas.” This behavior is not something that is new according the New Testament that Yahshua shows us, but was taught at the beginning as stated in Leviticus.*

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother **in thine heart:** thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

*Once again this verse is not referencing the physical act of sin, but the origin from where it starts...in the heart.*

*Moving from the physical to the spiritual state involves both knowing and doing the law, the will of Our Father, being at one with Him in thought and action. For this is the mind of Yah: to know the heart of a man, to know whether he will follow or fall, to be able to predetermine without error our actions before we do them...to know our hearts. This is why repentance becomes the key into knowing the way of Yah that stirs us to change our carnality into being as He is. As we change ourselves through the guidance of His Holy Spirit, He reveals the purity of His heart, LOVE... outward concern for others. Repentance is the way as stated by the example of David.*

Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart**, which shall fulfil all my will.

Rev 22:14~15 Blessed are they **that do** his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and **whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**

*We are lying to ourselves when refusing to examine sin in our heart*

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