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Title: Thinking Right in Difficult Times

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Being born again makes you a candidate for heaven.

Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

- Being born again offers you eternal life

Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life." (John 6:47)

- Being born again does not guarantee you won't have troubles or have difficult times living a victorious Christian life but you have the power to be an overcome.

Jesus says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

John says, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

## **WHY ARE SOME CHRISTIANS POOR TESTIMONIES AND LIVE**

It starts with your mind.

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

- Present yourself – give yourself to God as you live
- Do not conform to the world – don't be carnal

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:6-7)

- Be transformed by the renewing of your mind – change the way you think

- Think on what pleases God
  - be righteous in your thoughts
  - be spiritual in your thinking
- Man is created in the image of God
  - Man can choose to change.
  - Animals are trained to change not by their choice
  - Man can decide on their own fate and destiny.

God said to man – 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

- Renew your mind that you may know what that is good, acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Be spiritually minded – choose Jesus and think of Him as the Lord of your life.

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3)

- All changes start with your mind
  - With the carnal mind, you are governed by the world.
  - With the spiritual mind, you are in contact with God.
  - It is not positive thinking

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” (John 15:7)

2 I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. (Psalm 91:2-4)

- Don’t blame your circumstances e.g. “The Prodigal Son”

The prodigal son said, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you” (Luke 15:18)

“for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.” (Luke 15:24)

- He changed by choice.
- He changed his mind, by returning to the father’s house.

## CONCLUSION

“1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”  
(Colossians 3:1-2)

- Think Godly with biblical attitudes.

“8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8-9)

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (3 John 2)

- Soul is where your mind, emotions and will reside.
- As your soul prospers, so will you!

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7)

“3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”  
(Psalm 1:3 & 6)