

**Vicarious Sacrifice: The Doctrine of Mental Attitude: Definition & Description: What a Person Thinks Is Based on What Is in His Soul, Prv 23:7; 1 Cor 2:16; the Thought Content of a Carnal Believer, 1 Cor 10:112; Gal 6:3; Divine Rejection of Carnal Believers, Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5; Biblical Documentation; the Lord Documents His Rejection of Arrogant People in Isaiah 55:8; the Transformation of the Reversionist, Rom 12:2–3**

## The Doctrine of Mental Attitude

### A. Definition and Description

1. Mental attitude is the expression of a person's inventory of ideas; it is what he thinks and thinking is the battlefield of the soul.
2. The course of one's life is determined by how one thinks and how one decides.
3. Those who function on emotion and led by philosophical propaganda think profess they are wise but instead are fools. (Romans 1:22)
4. Those who function on an inventory of divine viewpoint have divine power based on truth.
5. Those who have precious little inventory of *epígnōsis* have precious little thought or power.
6. The greater the inventory of truth the greater the divine viewpoint each believer acquires from consistent Bible study.
7. Who you really are is determined by what you think from doctrine contained in the *kardía* of the soul:

**Proverbs 23:7a -** For as a person thinks within his soul [ נֶפֶשׁ ] (*nephesh*), so he is.

8. Doctrine in the believer's soul is also found in the mind of Jesus Christ:

**1 Corinthians 2:16 -** Who has known the mind [ νοῦς (*noús*) ] of the Lord, that we will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

9. In this verse the word is "mind" and emphasizes the decision-making capacity of Jesus from consulting His omniscience.

10. The power of thought in the soul and mind of the believer is operational when the problem-solving devices are deployed on the FLOT Line of the soul.
11. An impact of a thought applied or not applied can have a major impact on a believer dependent upon whether it is human viewpoint or divine viewpoint.
12. Two verses emphasize this concept:

**1 Corinthians 10:12 -** Therefore let him who thinks [δοκέω (*dokéō*): to decide from subjective opinions from human viewpoint] he stands take heed that he does no fall.

**Galatians 6:3 -** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

13. He who *thinks* he “stands” or *thinks* he is “something” is assuming from the cosmic system of arrogance but is “nothing” from ignorance. He “falls” from “standing” on human viewpoint.
14. These mental attitudes based on human viewpoint indicate opinions developed in the cosmic system subscribing to Lucifer’s policy of human good and evil.
15. Human viewpoint is the mentality of the believer that has either rejected Bible study or neglected it, clearly the thinking of one that is carnal or reversionistic.
16. Jesus endured the cross in order to eliminate sin as an issue, but allowed human good and evil to remain as the bones of contention for the angelic conflict.
17. This results in carnal and cosmic believers joining the heathen at conflict with God as noted in:

**James 4:6 -** God makes war against the arrogant but He gives grace to the humble. (EXT)

**1 Peter 5:5** - In the same way, you who are younger members of the congregation, be subject to those in positions of church leadership. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (NET)

18. It becomes apparent that the difference between the advanced believer and the benighted is their content of thought.
19. What a person thinks will be reflected in what he says and, from that, it becomes evident what his inventory contains.

## B. Biblical Documentation

1. We have already noted from Proverbs 23:7 that “as a person thinks within his soul [ נֶפֶשׁ ] (*nephesh*), so he is.”
2. No one can evaluate his surroundings, the events of his day, or make good decisions with a limited vocabulary.
3. Acquisition of divine thought develops a person’s character and integrity.
4. Those who possess a biblical inventory avoid the critique of:

**Isaiah 55:8** - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.

5. This verse establishes the principle that what a benighted person thinks (“your thoughts”) determines what he does (“your ways”).
6. Prior to salvation, a person functions on human viewpoint and develops an inventory of ideas that satisfies his own concepts of right and wrong, good and bad, favorable and negative, and true and false.
7. Incoming information can alter these polarities so that an opinion may be adjusted to a certain degree or completely reversed.

8. What initially defines each of these polarities is initial incoming information that is seen or heard, believed or accepted, and then facilitated into a memory trace that becomes a path of least resistance.
9. Regardless of the content of any memory trace possessed by an unbeliever, when he expresses faith in Christ for salvation the real dichotomy begins as human viewpoint comes into instant contact with absolute truth.
10. Although unprepared to confront the level of cosmic propaganda that will be presented, under the filling of the Holy Spirit and a willingness to learn, the Spirit will present the system of grace didactics called Operation Z.
11. This transformation is summed up in these two verses from the Book of Romans:

**Romans 12:2 -** Stop being molded to this age, but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, so that you may prove what the will of God is, namely, the good, the well-pleasing, and the complete.

**v. 3 -** For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think; but think in terms of objectivity for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one a standard of thinking from doctrine. (EXT)