

MOVING UP HIGHER

with Joyce Meyer



Over the years, God has taught me so many great lessons from His Word, and one of the revelations that's impacted my life the most has to do with our thoughts. Simply put, we can choose our thoughts and think things on purpose. In other words, I don't have to just think about whatever falls into my mind!

Proverbs 23:7 is such an important scripture. It says, As [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he (AMP). I like to say it this way: Where the mind goes, the man follows.

You see, God has a wonderful life planned for every single one of us, and He is concerned about the hidden man of the heart, which is our inner life. Our inner life is what we think about. And like the scripture above says, the way we think determines how we live and who we are. That's why we need to "think about what we're thinking about."

In 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (AMPC), the Bible teaches that we have weapons of warfare that are "mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds" and that we are to "lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ."

What does this mean? A stronghold in our mind is an area of thinking that the enemy—Satan—has somehow managed to dominate, causing us to believe lies. And although they are lies, they become our reality. That's why it's so important to know and study God's Word—it allows us to know the difference between the truth and the lies.

It's so important for each of us to be a student of the Bible, be-

cause it is the key to getting victory over strongholds and having the life Jesus died to give us. God wants us to have a life of peace with Him, peace with ourselves, great relationships, real joy and the ability to become everything He has created us to be.

It all comes down to choosing to believe what God says (the truth) more than we believe our feelings, what other people say or our circumstances.

Now it's good to go to church and hear someone teach the Word—you can learn a lot about God and His will for your life this way. But you need to have your own personal experience with God to really understand how He thinks and to renew your mind with the truth.

Romans 12:2 is one of the foundational scriptures of my life. It says, "Do not be conformed to this world...but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind...so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is...."

As your mind is being renewed, you'll be able to recognize thoughts that don't agree with God's Word. When they come, you can take them "captive into the obedience of Christ." In other words, you can throw aside any thought that doesn't line up with the Word and replace it with the truth.

Ephesians 4:23 (AMP) says, "Be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude]." Every day we need to take time to study the Word so we can purposely think according to what it says. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), know who we are in Christ, and be free of strongholds that will keep us from God's perfect will for us.

One practical way you can accomplish this is to have a "think session" every day. Take some time to just sit and think about what God's Word says about you—about His love for you, His good plans for your future, and how He wants you to live and behave.

If you are struggling in a certain area, use a concordance to find verses that address these issues. I encourage you to even write them down and put them in places where you'll see them every day, like

the bathroom mirror or the refrigerator

It's so wonderful to understand that you can have what God says you can have if you learn to think the way He thinks. It's also important to realize this transformation is an ongoing process—it won't happen overnight, and you'll need to be patient with yourself.

However, I can assure you that if you'll make a commitment to set your mind on God's Word, renewing your mind with the truth, then you will experience the fullness of everything that is yours in Christ.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series *Moving Forward*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Unshakeable Trust: Find the Joy of Trusting God at All Times* (Hachette). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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IN MEMORIAM

Albert Stacks
1923-2018



Albert "Al" "Pop" Earnest Stacks, 94 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away January 9, 2018. He was born December 27, 1923, in Fort Worth, TX to Albert Monroe and Muriel Earnestine (Abbott) Stacks. Al received his GED from Cottage Grove High School and served in the U.S. Army Air Corp during WWII at the Battle of the Bulge, receiving 2 Purple Hearts. He owned service stations in both Elkton and Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove Heating Service, Cottage Grove Radiator Service and Cottage Grove Maintenance. Al enjoyed working with leather and wood, traveling in the RV, he was a prankster always pulling jokes on people. He was a volunteer Fireman for Cottage Grove Fire Department; a member of the American Legion for 67 years and 2 times as Commander, member of the Elks, IOOF, VFW, was a 4-H leader at Mt. View 4-H Club and co-

ordinator for Bohemia Mining Days during the 1960's. Al married Arlene Ruby Edwards on June 7, 1946, in Cottage Grove, OR. They were married for 57 years. He is survived by daughter Linda Ann (Phil) Raade-Vaught, daughter Marlene Joy (Doug) Nowak, both of Cottage Grove, 5 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Al was preceded in death by spouse Arlene Stacks, companion of 10 years Hazel Vaught and sister Nell Blair. A funeral will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel with burial at Sears Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Scholarship Fund. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Lenore Stearns
1926-2018



Lenore Elizabeth Stearns, 91 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away January 3, 2018. She was born December 21, 1926, in Alamo, N.D. to Ralph and Mamie (Hemming) Amundson. Lenore graduated from Everett High School in WA and was a career Legal Secretary. She enjoyed traveling, in the US and internationally, spending time with her family and her extended family. Lenore married Robert W. Stearns on August 3, 1957, in Marysville, WA. She is survived by sons; Galen (Alexis), Royce, and Thaine (Susan) Stearns, daughter Wendy Sue (Erik) Benson, sister Arlene Halvorson, 6 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, lots of nieces and nephews that she loved. Lenore was preceded in death by her, spouse Robert Stearns on February 8, 2007, sister Shirley Huddle, brother Ronald Amundson and daughter-in-law Cindy Stearns. A visitation will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018, at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel followed by funeral at 11:00 AM and a reception at 12:00 PM at the Village Green Resort, Cottage Grove. Burial at Eagle Point Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Signature Hospice, 2620 River Rd., Ste.#300, Eugene, OR 97404. Special thank you to the staff at Magnolia Gardens for the love and care for the past 5 1/2 years. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Lorayne Grover
1928-2018

Lorayne passed away peacefully on January 10th after a short illness.. She was born on February 1, 1928 to Walter and Elizabeth Bartle in Waterville Minnesota. She married Kenneth H. Grover in 1947. Ken and Lorayne moved to Cottage Grove Oregon in 1950 where they raised three sons, Michael, Patrick and Bradley. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and two sisters. She was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish since 1950. A funeral Mass is planned at a later date.

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