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Konto: 28 94 829

IBAN:
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:
SOLADEST600

Hour of Power vom 07.01.2018

GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning!

HS: Yes welcome church family. It feels so good to be with you today. You are loved. You know a quote that I find profound is every thought we think is creating our future. I find that so fascinating.

Would you turn around and shake the hand of the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

BS: Well it's going to be a good day today. We have Bridgette Bentley in the house, and Erwin McManus and a number of other great guests, and most importantly we've got you here today. We're so glad you're here and want you to know that God's going to send you home with fresh vision, a full tank. I just believe that if you get a word from God, everything in your life can change, so we're going to believe for that today.

So Lord, it's in Jesus' name that we come and gather together as your family, your beloved sons and daughters, and we pray in Jesus' name, Lord, for every single person here who is struggling for purpose, for energy, for meaning, for forgiveness, for renewal, we just thank you, God, that you offer all of those things to us who believe through Jesus Christ by your Holy Spirit. Lord, we love you and we come in faith, in Jesus' name, amen.

SCRIPTURE – Romans 12:1-2 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for Bobby's message, the words of our Lord found in Romans:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

We, church family, are striving to be intentional in our thoughts for from our thoughts flow the course of our lives. Amen.

Interview Bobby Schuller (BS) with Erwin McManus (EM)

BS: Well what a joy. Today I get to be here with Erwin McManus who is such an important figure, I know, to a lot of pastors and especially to many Christians. Erwin, a couple of your books have made a big impact on my life. I know a lot of people loved The Barbarian Way. The most recent book, The Artisan Soul, my wife and I were stealing it back and forth from each other..

EM: Awesome, awesome.

BS: ..we just loved it. And the great thing is you have this new book, The Last Arrow that's coming out and everyone is excited about it. Well let's just give a hand to Erwin McManus. Welcome! We're so glad you're here.

EM: Good morning, good to see you guys.

BS: So tell me a little bit about the call of this book and what you're hoping to achieve when the reader sits down with this.

EM: Absolutely. When I wrote The Last Arrow, the sub caption sounds a little bit controversial – save nothing for the next life. But Bobby unlike you, I'm no longer a young man, and I'm almost 60 years old, and I've had enough life to realize that many of the people who seem to have so much potential and talent and ability, who had huge dreams and aspirations never lived up to the life they longed for. And I began to ask the question why is it that some people seem to get trapped and buried under the rubble of their failures, and other people seem to, no matter how many times they fall, no matter how many times they fail, get back up and begin to pursue their dreams and live a life beyond what others perceive even possible for them.

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BS: It is so amazing to me how often I will see someone that seems to have so much potential and they do nothing with it, and other times you see someone else and think oh I wonder what they'll.. and then they go to new height.. it's amazing..

EM: Absolutely.

BS: ..and I always wonder what's at the heart of that, that makes those two people so different.

EM: When I found the imagery of The Last Arrow, there's a moment in the life of Elisha when he speaks to the king, and he tells him God is going to give you a complete victory. So that's the starting point. Then he says take your arrow and shoot it through the window. Then he says take the arrow, now strike it. And the king strikes it one, two, three times, and then he stops. And the strange things happens, Elisha became angry and says why did you stop striking the arrow? If you had struck the arrow five or six times, God would have given you a complete victory, but now you only have a partial victory. And when I read that, I thought wait a minute, how did the king know he shouldn't stop? Why didn't Elisha give him that instruction?

And for me, a lot of times I'm frustrated with God going why aren't you more clear? And I stopped and I realized so often times we think we've failed, but actually we quit. There's something inside of us that we need permission to act, but we don't need permission to quit.

BS: That's right.

EM: No matter how many of us have given up on what God wants to do in our lives simply because we thought we'd failed and we didn't realize it was just the middle of the story, not the end of the story.

And one of the things I really try to unwrap in this book is that the boundaries of your life are established by your fears because what you fear establishes the boundaries of your freedom. And what we need to do is realize that fear is the obstacle that stands between us and the life that God created us to live.

BS: That's right. And faith is the opposite of that fear, right? And so faith is the thing that just opens up.

So a lot of people may not know, you're having your own personal struggle with health, and that all came up during the editorial process of the book, and..

EM: Absolutely.

BS: ..tell us a little bit about how that's affecting your message.

EM: I would never wish what I've gone through on anyone, but in the middle of writing this book, I'd finished writing it, now I was editing it, we went to the doctor's office on December, I think 17th, 2016, and unexpectedly the doctors told me I had cancer. And not only did they tell me I had cancer, they told me I'd probably had it for about ten years and it had metastasized. It was fairly aggressive. And I went home that night and began editing the book where I left off, because I thought maybe this is the last book I'll ever write. And it did feel somewhat surreal to feel that the last book I would ever write would be called The Last Arrow.

And I sat down, I opened up the manuscript and the first line I read said this: "I need to tell you before you hear it from someone else – I'm dying." I wrote those words a year before they told me I had cancer.

BS: You had no idea.

EM: No idea. And when I read that, it sort of struck me. It felt almost as if I was writing the story of my future without even knowing. But the next line was the most important line. Not when I revealed that I was dying, but the next line where it said "but so are you."

See the reality is we're all dying. From the moment we take our first breath, we are moving toward our last breath. And the problem for most of us is we live so much in fear of death, in fear of failure, in fear of rejection, in fear of so many things, and I gave myself permission. If I feel afraid, I'm going to feel afraid. If I'm angry, I'm going to be angry. If I feel bitterness, I'm going to feel bitterness. In my mind I thought, I have cancer, I'm going to feel whatever I want. But I didn't feel fear. And I didn't feel afraid. And I didn't feel bitterness. And I didn't feel anger. I had to stop and ask myself what has happened? And I realized something – years ago, when I entrusted my life to Jesus, I put death behind me, not in front of me. And in that moment I knew that cancer could define the way I died, but it was powerless to define the way I lived.

And to me the power of The Last Arrow is it is not written in an isolated incubator where you haven't been through really difficult things. It's written in the midst of pain, in the midst of disappointment, in the midst of suffering, and in the midst of the prospect of death. And it's in the middle of that where I think you best find hope and meaning and faith.

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BS: That's so good, Erwin. As a final word, there's so many people listening to you now that are going through cancer, or just lost their job, or their spouse just died, and they don't know what to do, they feel gripped by fear, they're like I get that that fear is limiting my life, but I still can't get myself to do something good for God. What do you say to that person?

EM: Well the first thing I would tell them is don't get confused. Every hero faces fear. It's not courage if there's no fear. It's just stupidity.

BS: Yes, mental illness, yes.

EM: And so when a person says I'm never afraid, I'm going well then you don't really understand what you're facing. Courage is choosing an action that brings life, brings freedom, brings a future in spite of the pain and the difficulty. When I came out of that surgery, three hours after the surgery, I woke up my wife, I called the nurse, and I said I'm getting up and I'm taking a walk. Said you cannot go walking, you just had surgery. I said no I'm going to go walking, there's no more damage I can do.

And right before I got up, she said would you like some pain killers? And I said no. I said I want to feel the full measure of this pain. Because I knew that if I can face this pain, there is no pain in front of me that I cannot overcome. See I think most of us are so afraid of pain that we run from our freedom. The pain of life is the obstacle to the freedom of our future. And three weeks after I had the surgery, I snuck out of the house, I rented a basketball court, and I went and played basketball. I had six holes in my stomach; I was still bleeding a little bit. My wife wanted to kill me. But I asked the surgeon what's the world's record for recovery, because I wanted to live out everything I wrote in *The Last Arrow*. I wanted to take this moment and go all right, God, these are the words that I had the courage to write, and I believed them before this. Now I want to have the courage to live them and prove that the things that you've taught me are the way that we live our lives and move toward our future and have the freedom that you always intended us to have. Do not let fear and pain limit your freedom and your future.

BS: Amen. Good word. Appreciate that. Wow. I really want to encourage you to get *The Last Arrow*. Erwin McManus is truly one of my favorite writers. Your books are all so good, and a lot of people are really looking forward to this book, so I want to encourage you..

EM: Thank you so much.

BS: ..if you need encouragement to press through whatever it is you're going through, this book will help you. Erwin, thank you so much for being here!

EM: Thank you so much, Bobby. Hey, God bless you.

BS: God bless you!

EM: God bless you guys.

WELCOME/COME VISIT – Bobby Schuller

Thank you for joining us today. Whatever you're going through, we want you to know God has a word for you that you can be saved. You don't have to live another day without the Lord; that you can do it today and if you're ever in this area, we're not far from Disneyland. Come down and worship with us.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Friends, would you hold your hands like this as a sign of receiving from the Lord; we're going to say this creed together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "As a Man Thinketh, So is He (or She)"

Today we're beginning a new series called *As a Man Thinketh*, and we're titling this series after the scripture, the Proverbs "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." And it's also after a great essay written by.. it wasn't necessarily a Christian book, but the man was a devout Christian, James Allen who was a member of the Salvation Army back in the, I think it was 1903, and this book had a tremendous impact, it was just an essay, it had an impact on my life and it's public, you can read it online, but we'll get into this.

I want to begin with a story and maybe you'll kind of resonate with this. In my first job, I was 16 years old and I was called an expediter. Now an expediter is the lowest of the low. I mean when you start on a job, you've got like your manager, and then you've got your servers are pretty close to the top.

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Bartender, they're in their own thing over here, they're the cool guys. I didn't even get to go over there. And then you get like your busboys and then several notches below that, then you get the expediter. And the expediter is the acne riddled kid like me who just runs food back and forth and takes heat from all the customers. And so people just use and abuse you. You're the rookie.

And I remember one time, it was at a church under Pastor George, who was spending a lot of time talking about how we think and putting on the mind of Christ, and just totally baptizing the mind in the word of God, and thinking godly thoughts, thinking beautiful thoughts to form a beautiful life. And I remember as a 16-year-old putting this in practice for the first time. I had just swept the whole kitchen, it looked immaculate, and one of these servers on his way out, spilled a whole plate of Mexican food on the floor and left it and walked out. And he saw me see him do it, and I was one of the last guys there and my boss looks at me and he says "Schuller, sweep that up." Now I had just finished cleaning. And if you could hear the thoughts in my head as I'm sweeping this floor. That guy, he looked at it. He knew I was going to sweep it. I'm sweeping and I'm like all angry and like I just feel I'm a victim. I am such a victim right now, just I have to sweep and this is unfair and this is not cool.

And I remembered something that Pastor George had talked about. He talked about how Martin Luther received the worship of work and how God loves clean floors, and so when we sweep a floor that it's like worship to God. And I decided in that moment to not be a victim but to change my thought, and to instead make the first one was for my boss, but this one was for Jesus Christ, who I decided this sweeping of Mexican food would be my act of worship.

And I'm not saying it to brag about myself, but to testify to how it changed the experience of sweeping. The sweeping experience before, it stunk, it was horrible. I was mad, I wanted to leave, I was angry, I was filling up with all sorts of like sinful thoughts about this guy. And instead I was completely transformed into being grateful that I had a job, and thankful that I had responsibility and a little bit of extra money in my pocket and more than anything, I just wanted it to be an act of worship to Jesus Christ. And that one change in my thought alone totally transformed my work experience in that moment.

We all have the ability to decide how we're going to think in any given situation. And what I realized is I began putting into practice as a young man the things I was learning from my pastor and from scripture about controlling my mind and fostering a godly mind, I watched as.. although this isn't the main reason we do it, I watched as though my job at Pueblo Viejo really went well and I got a raise, and he wanted me to be a server, and I was getting the best shifts, and I was getting along better with my colleagues. Again, it's a blessed side affect, it's not the main reason, but I noticed how by simply putting God first in my life, especially in my thoughts, everything else in my life was from a soul standpoint, a lot better.

And this is important because we as people fail to recognize that our circumstances are pretty much the result of our thinking. Now I hate to use a robber baron as an example, but J.D. Rockefeller, when he was 16, was so grateful for his job. He actually, when he got his first job, he was paid fifty cents a day. Not very good, right? As a bookkeeper. He was a Christian man. J.D. Rockefeller was, I think, Baptist and he celebrated that day every year September 26th. That's also Chad's birthday, by the way. September 26th for J.D. Rockefeller was job day and every single year when that day came around, he did something to celebrate his very first job. For him, work was a blessing. He was never a victim, he was glad to be paid fifty cents a day to work long, long hours. And you watched as changing his thinking about his work led him to be the most wealthy man who has ever lived in history. There's a lot more to J.D. Rockefeller, but the point remains that without J.D. Rockefeller changing his thinking, we wouldn't have Saturday Night Live. There's a long string there. There's "30 Rock" and then, never mind. The point is the changing of thinking led to a change in result.

So I have good news for you today. The good news is this is if you hate the circumstances of your life, you can change it right now. Right now. And you know how you change it? You change your thoughts. If you want to change your world, change your thoughts. You want to change your circumstance, change your thoughts. If you want to be somewhere different a year, five years from now than where you are now, change your thinking. Put on the mind of Christ. Baptize your mind in the word of God and keep the word of God before your mind at all times and decide that no matter what, my thoughts will be godly thoughts and not the thoughts of this world. That my thoughts will be disciplined, they will not run wild. That I will care for my mind with the greatest importance putting forth only good thoughts and never bad thoughts; godly thoughts and never base thoughts.

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The good news is that everything in your life can change if you can change the way you think; if you can put on the mind of Christ, everything can change. That means that in the kingdom of God, that the weakest can become strong and the strongest can become weakest. The wealthiest most powerful man in the world can be broke and on the street tomorrow if this changes. Can I get an amen? What was his name from Avatar, the wealthy guy that lost his mind and lost everything he owned? It can happen to anybody. So it all begins and ends with your thinking. To think the way that Jesus Christ thinks and not the way the world thinks. Five years from now, your life will be the result of your thinking.

So what it says in the scriptures in Proverbs “as a man thinketh in his heart so is he” that is literally true. You are what you think. Good thoughts produce good fruit. Bad thoughts produce bad fruit. You focus on your thinking and keep the word of God before your mind and the right kind of thinking before you and your circumstances will be different, very different. Isn't that good news? See very often we war against our circumstance and forget what is causing the circumstance. We war against where we are in our life, in our job or maybe you're addicted or a sin or something you're struggling, will be war against the outcome, but we nurture the thoughts that produce those outcomes. You cannot nurture and plant good seeds and expect a bad harvest, nor can you nurture and care for bad seeds and expect a good harvest. The circumstances of your life, 90% are the result of your thinking. That other ten percent, adversity like when you have a sick kid, or when something happens in your life – cancer or something like that - that it was totally not the result of your thinking, even enduring those is going to be 100% thinking like Jesus and not like the world. One hundred percent getting through whatever adversity that you're facing. Getting through that with joy, perseverance and victory is going to depend on the thoughts you keep before you. Amen?

There's a study done by the Kellogg School of Management where they studied boys and their fathers and incomes, and what was startling to me is that they found that in almost every case, the son almost always made what the father made. Like when a son grew up, if his dad made thirty grand most of his life, that son will more than likely make thirty grand as an adult. If his dad made a hundred and fifty grand, the son will make a hundred and fifty grand when he grows up. Why is that? Well many people will tell you oh it's because of all of the blessings of growing up in a wealthy home, or all of the downfalls of growing up in a poor home and the lack of opportunity thereof, and there's probably some truth to that, but you know what I think it is? I think that just becomes your expectation. You believe truly that you can make what your dad makes, and so that's what you go for. So the guy that has a dad that makes more money keeps the thought of a greater income before his mind, and that becomes his destiny. Of course we're Christians and we know we can't take any of that with us to heaven, it's not about making lots of money, it's about having the kind of character that fosters the fruit of the spirit that Paul talks about – love, joy, peace, patience, a good life here and here to come! Change one thought in your life, even just one thought, one habit and you will see years from now your life will be completely different.

We grew up on a boat. Every summer we were on a boat to the point where I got sick of it; literally sometimes I got seasick sometimes. I remember we had this little boat and we would fish up and down the coast, and we were always looking for dinner and a little sport. We had this giant stainless steel steering wheel, but we never used it. The main thing we used to steer the boat was this little computer, it was a little box, and this box was the auto pilot. And on the auto pilot there would be a little number and that was your destination. And if you changed that dial, which we would often do, by one degree, you would feel nothing shift in the boat at all. But you change it by one degree and you'd find that two, three hours later, you are miles away from where you would have been had you not touched that dial, even though you didn't feel anything.

And this is what happens when you change one thought from a base thought to a godly thought; from an ugly thought to a beautiful thought. You change one thought in your life, you may not feel it at the time, but one, two, five, ten years from now, you will be a completely different person than you were when you started.

This is why Dallas Willard says “the ultimate freedom we have as human beings is the power to select what we allow our minds to dwell on.” And the word there to look at is dwell. What do you dwell on? What do you meditate on? What do you focus on? If you feel like you're in a rotten place, that your circumstances are terrible but you've been focusing on your thoughts, and you have been studying the word of God and keeping godly thoughts before your mind, congratulations – your circumstances won't be that way for long because good thoughts bear good fruit, and bad thoughts bear bad fruit.

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Romans chapter 11 and 12. Paul says; I'm going to actually start with the doxology. In seminary they said if you ever see a word that says "therefore," read what's before it. So Romans chapter 12 begins with therefore, so we're going to read this doxology just before it. Paul says "O the depths of the riches of the wisdom;" everyone say wisdom (AUDIENCE - wisdom) "and knowledge;" everyone say knowledge (AUDIENCE - knowledge) "of God. How unsearchable His judgments and His paths beyond tracing out who has known the mind of the Lord." Everyone say the mind of the Lord (AUDIENCE – the mind of the Lord). "Or who has been His counselor. Who has ever given to God that God should repay them for from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be glory forever, amen."

So first, Paul begins in this doxology by reminding us that God's ways are the highest ways. He knows everything, He's the wisest being. Seems obvious but this reminder is important because then Paul says "therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship." Keep listening. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world."

There is a direct comparison here. The pattern of this world, this world's thinking, and God's thinking. This world is fickle! Nobody in this world, for one, can seem to agree on what is up or what is down or what is right or what is wrong. We've become a culture that has forgotten wisdom. We always turn to scientific studies instead of the wisdom of our parents and our grandparents. And Paul compares the folly of this world's pattern to the wisdom of God. And he says "don't conform to it but be transformed" this word transformed is metamorphosis. It means you are completely new being. It doesn't mean like you change a little bit, this is like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. This is Peter Parker becoming Spiderman. It is a whole totally different being. This is Jesus Christ after the resurrection.

Jesus was the same before and after His resurrection and yet His body was completely transformed. He was the.. scriptures say the firstborn among many brothers. His body was a heavenly body. And that transformation happens for us. This metamorphosis. How does it happen? By the renewing of your mind. The renewing of your mind. The renewing of your mind. You want to be transformed? You got to transform your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is; His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Scripture very clearly says that our greatest act of worship is to present our bodies as living sacrifices by renewing our mind. And why do I think he talks about living sacrifices here? Because I think that having a new mind requires discipline. It's difficult. The default is to be wild and to be led by your emotions, and to just sort of let everything go, but the godly way is to have new thoughts, to pay attention to what you think about, and to demand in your body that your mind comes in line with the word of God. That you don't conform to the world, but you conform to the wisdom of God and that you keep within your mind the right kind of thoughts. If you change your mind, everything in your life will be different. If you change your thinking, everything in your life will be different.

Jesus gave this one parable. Imagine when Jesus was telling this that He was probably, you could see nearby some farmers, talking to a large group of people, and there was a farmer and he was taking his seeds and he was probably not paying attention, that he was just sort of.. he had the bag, a satchel here, and he's pulling seeds and just (WHOOSH) like this, and you could probably see like you would on any farm mounds where the seeds are supposed to land, maybe rocks on the side where they're not supposed to land, some areas of bushes where there might be weeds, and then of course the road, and Jesus says the word of God is like this. It's like this. That the word of God is being spread onto people just like this; wisdom and knowledge every day is being scattered among God's people, but only few are receiving it.

He says some of these seeds fell along the road, and they didn't take any root and the birds came and gobbled them up. And others fell among thorns and though they grew a little bit, they were choked out. And still others fell among rocks and they couldn't take root and so when troubled times came, they died, but some fell on good soil and they took root and they grew into a great harvest. And His disciples said Lord, what is this about? And He said this is the word of God. This is God's knowledge. This is God's wisdom. God's words and God's word is being spread all over the world, but only some are receiving it. Some people sometimes because of religion or the difficulties of life, they just become rock hard and they won't receive God's knowledge. Others, they receive it but He says these thorns grow up, which is the riches and worries of this world, and they just sort of gobble up the word and so that dies. Still others, they take root and they grow up fast, but that root didn't go

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deep enough cause of the rock and this is like those who receive the knowledge of God, but when difficult times come they wither.

But some, like you, are good soil and you receive it and it grows and it bears a great fruit. It is difficult. It is hard to have the mind of Christ. It is not easy. The world will do everything it can to push you away from the knowledge and the wisdom of God. But if you keep the knowledge of God before your mind, you will have life and life abundant, the life that all of us dream about. You're never going to find that life and what the world tells you, you only find it in Jesus Christ and in His word.

So the mind is a lot like a garden. And a garden must be cared for constantly. An idea or a thought or knowledge is like a seed. All of our thoughts are like seeds and those seeds are hidden, they will always grow up and bear some kind of result. Maybe you think your thoughts can stay secret. They can't, you know. Thoughts cannot stay secret because every thought becomes a habit and those habits crystallize into circumstance. If you want to change your circumstances, change your thinking. If you want to change your life, change your thinking. You want a beautiful life, sow beautiful thoughts. If you sow base thoughts or you allow your mind to run wild, you will have a chaotic broken life. Life is like a garden. It must be tended and cared for. Good thoughts bear good fruit. Bad thoughts bear bad fruit. Can I get an amen?

So Dallas Willard and the scriptures tell us to dwell, to dwell on the word of God, or to meditate, or to focus on the thoughts that are from God.

My grandpa Persley used to live with us and he had this garden in our backyard, and he only lived with us for two years, I think. And he wouldn't let anything disgusting be thrown away. Anybody here with a green thumb, you know exactly what I'm talking about. There's this brown box that he made out of wood and this was the garden, and everything disgusting had to be put there, whether it was rotten eggs or dog poop or coffee grinds, do not throw it away, give it to grandpa, he's going to use it to make that soil rich, right?

So the first thing he did is he made this nasty hard dry clay in our backyard into rich, fertile top soil. So he had this box full of rich soil. And then he planted, I don't remember what it was, tomatoes and corn or something like that, and he had these gorgeous tomatoes and this unbelievably beautiful garden and it was all cared for, and it was lovely, and then grandpa moved away and got his own place. Grandma and grandpa moved somewhere, another part of town, and the garden was forgotten. And you know how long it was before that garden was overrun? It was like three weeks and that thing was like (POW) right? I mean it was just weeds and grass and completely overrun.

And this is the thing we forget. The more intelligent you are, the sort of bigger a mind you have, the more vulnerable you are to being completely overrun by base thinking; by wicked thinking, by a mind that is completely overrun by things that are not from the Lord.

And that is the thing. The garden of your mind requires vigilant care day and night. It must be the most important thing in your life! The word of God, only the word of God, always the word of God in my mind. The poem says two natures.. so all of us are sinful but all of us also have good things, and there's both, right? That we inherit from the enemy, and that which we inherit from the Lord. And this poem says "two natures beat within my breast, one is foul and one is blessed. The one I love, the one I hate, but the one I feed will dominate." What you dwell on, what you meditate on will become your circumstance. If you have thoughts of being a victim, of jealousy, of judgment, of wrath, of self pity, of lust, of pride, those are going to crystallize into circumstances in your life. But if you have thoughts of faith, of worship, of victory, of possibility, of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of love, those are going to crystallize into a godly character and a good life; the kind of life that God wants for you, and wants for me.

The scripture says.. I mean I think of a million ways that this plays out, but how often do we find ourselves like I was at Pueblo Viejo sweeping that floor, angry and embittered and frustrated and we're allowing thoughts to poison everything in our life. Or how often do we feel judgmental towards others and then when we make a mistake we wonder why everybody's being so judgmental towards us. Or we get angry at people and then we mess up and we wonder why when we mess up, people are angry towards us. If you baptize your thoughts in self pity and being a victim, you will always be a victim and you will always be pitiful. But if you baptize your thoughts in the word of God that says you're above and not beneath, the head and not the tail, that you can do all things in faith through Christ Jesus, you will be a victor in this life and the next. Walking by faith and walking in victory and in worship and in forgiveness and in godly thinking will create a lush beautiful garden of a mind in which you'll be a blessing, not only to the Lord, but to those around you.

As a Man Thinketh, So is He (or She)

Hannah and her dad were talking about the scripture that says “mourn with those who mourn, and rejoice with those who rejoice.” It’s easy to mourn with those who mourn, isn’t it. That’s easy. But is it easy to rejoice with those who rejoice? When things aren’t going your way, things aren’t doing as well, especially like if it’s one of your siblings or a good friend and they have some big victory, can you rejoice with them when they rejoice? It is so important that we take hope, that we recognize that the circumstances of our life are the result of our thinking, and so we want to become, we want to think a new way. We want to think the way Jesus thinks. Paul says this is putting on the mind of Christ, and that as we do this, everything, everything in life changes and that is a promise.

The bible is so awesome and it never returns void. And when you read it, it always bears good fruit. And if it’s difficult for you, just start with Proverbs. There’s 31 Proverbs and there’s 31 days in a month. You read that in the morning with your breakfast, and watch how that one little change will transform your life. Having godly wisdom instead of thinking the way the world does, you think according to the word of God, and watch as that is going to affect your relationships, your worship, the way you feel, the way you sleep, I mean it changes everything, and that’s a good thing.

Friends, you are loved. God bless you.