

The Power of Thinking

[2 Cor. 10: 4, 5](#)

A person was fishing in a pier. He caught a lot of fish that day. He measured the size of the fish. He put the fish only under 10 inches long in his basket, but threw the fish over 10 inches long back into the water. It was so weird! The person next to him asked him why. He said, "I only have one frying pan in my house, and it's only 10 inches in diameter, so I don't need a fish bigger than 10 inches, because they will not fit the frying pan I have." This man lived only a life of the 10-inch frying pan. He could not think bigger. Whenever he caught fish, he only thought of the 10-inch frying pan at home. So his life remained only within 10 inches. *If we were him, we would have thought of catching a big fish and buying a bigger frying pan or cutting the fish into pieces.* If the man thought a little differently, his life would have changed. But he did not. How foolish was that person?

We think a lot every day. Philosopher Pascal said, "Man is but a reed, the feeblest thing in nature, but he is a thinking reed." Human beings are weaker than other fierce animals. We cannot beat lion-like beasts with our bare hands. However, because we are thinking creatures, we can use our brains to subdue powerful beasts. We are great because we are thinking animals. The meaning of 'thinking' includes mindfulness and interest in what one desires. Success in life depends on where our thoughts are 'focused'. The Apostle Paul contends that all human thoughts must be obedient to Christ: "and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). All our thoughts should first be focused on knowing and serving Christ.

There are so many thoughts in the world. Beyond the age of communication, we live in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. AI (Artificial Intelligence), the core of the Revolution, might be able to dominate people's thoughts one day. According to the online magazine *Wired*, Anthony Levandowski, who is a French-American engineer in Silicon Valley, founded an AI church, called "Way of the Future" that serves artificial intelligence as a god. He said, "The goal is to recognize and worship AI, developed through computer hardware and software, as god." There are many challenges in our time in our thoughts. It is time to fill our minds with thoughts from the holy God.

I would like to share with you two important thoughts to bear in our minds in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, especially in this Pandemic. First, we should keep a 'healthy self-image' in our minds. A healthy self-image, in other words, self-confidence, leads us to a healthy life, but an inferior self-image leads us to defeat. Many people are suffering from depression these days. The reality we are facing can easily drag us into a negative self-image. However, God created us in His image. So

we live with the self-image that God has put in our hearts. According to Bible, a healthy self-image is the 'eagle self-image.' It is said in Isaiah 40:31, "but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Look at the eagle in the air. How powerful it flies! God wants us to live like an eagle, soaring in the air with great power.

The distorted concept of the eagle self-image in the Bible is '*locust self-image*,' which the people of Israel conceived in their hearts. When the Israelites in the desert looked at the land of Canaan, they regarded it as locusts. The Canaanites looked like a giant, but they looked like locusts. The moment this thought came to their minds, they fell into despair and had no spirit to move forward. But Joshua and Caleb were different. They thought like this: 'God promised to give the Canaan land to us. Therefore, even though many conditions are unfavorable for us, if God is with us, we can conquer the land of Canaan.' If we have a locust self-image in our hearts, we will live the world like locusts. Locusts are powerless insects that live and die in a season. But if we have an eagle consciousness in our hearts, we will live the world like an eagle by the strength God provides as the Bible says, "they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Our healthy self-image is formed by our relationship with God. We are the children of the Creator God, who has all the power of heaven and earth. The confidence from the world doesn't last long. But the confidence that come from God makes us live as 'Winners'. Moses, who saved Israel from Egypt, was not confident at first when he was called to deliver the people of Israel from Egypt. Moses had a very negative self-image in Exodus 3. Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Ex. 3:11). Moses was not confident in himself.

God gave Moses a staff: "Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs" (Ex. 4:17). When he held the staff that God gave him, he became confident. The staff was nothing new. It was the same staff that he used to care for the sheep. It was just a dried-up wooden stick, but functioned totally differently from the staff he once had. Before he met God, he lost his self-esteem and lived a life of regression. However, when he took the staff God gave, he became a great leader of Israel. Moses brought about miracles with the staff. When he lifted it up toward the Red Sea, the water divided, and when he hit a rock, water flowed out of the rock. What do you have in your hands? Isn't it your own staffs which just dried up and powerless? We need a new stick in our hands, which God provides for us. Respond to the environment you are facing with faith. It is said, in Psalm 42:5, "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God;

for I shall again praise him, my help." When we have hope in God, our self-image will be healthy and strong.

Second, we should have a PLUS thought in everything. It is the thought of the cross. Jesus said in Matthew 28, "and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Jesus promised to be with us in any circumstance to the end of the age. With this conviction, we live. Statistically, successful people fail two out of five attempts, and unsuccessful people fail three out of five attempts. Everyone experiences failure. But why does someone end in failure, and others end in success? Those who fail give up easily, but those who succeed think of success once more.

If you think it's a failure, think of the cross. The cross leads us to a plus life. Jesus' cross has a plus shape. The cross is made up of two lines. *Horizontal and vertical lines*. The horizontal line refers to the relationship between people and people. There are many things that happen between people. Before the pandemic, the *three major issues/problems* in the world were the economy, military and environment. The world's crisis is the result of horizontal relationships between people and people, between nation and nation, between culture and culture, and between religion and religion. Failure and pain generated from horizontal relationships lead us to a minus life. Currently, COVID-19 has covered everything. It caused the three big issues to worsen. In order for us to change from a minus life to a plus life, we have to draw another holy line on our minus lives. The line is the vertical line drawn between God and the human. It is a holy line from God.

This line stemmed from Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified as a sacrifice to restore the relationship between God and man. 1 John 4:10 states: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." Jesus gave himself to the cross for reconciliation between us and God. Jesus drew a vertical line on our negative lives and made our lives a "plus". Do you think your life is minus? It is time to draw the vertical line through Jesus. It is the holy line from God. Ask him to make your life be a true plus.

Life changes when you change your thoughts. I encourage you to fill your mind with a healthy self-image and draw a vertical holy line on your minus life to make a plus life. Hold on to the cross of Jesus. Be the cross life. May you end your negative lives and experience a plus life with the Lord.



Man is but a reed,
the feeblest thing
in nature, but he is
a **thinking** reed.

Blaise Pascal
(19 June 1623 – 19 August 1662)

for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take **every thought** captive to obey Christ.

(2Cor. 10: 4, 5)



**“The goal is to recognize and worship AI, developed through computer, hardware and software, as a god.”
(2107)**

Anthony Levandowski

(born March 15, 1980)

Founder of Way of the Future (AI Church)
a French-American self-driving car engineer.

1. Healthy Self-Image

Locust vs. Eagle



(Numbers 13:31-14:1)



(Isaiah 40:31)

2. 'Plus' (+) Thinking



**And surely I am
with you always,
to the very end
of the age.
(Mt. 28:20)**

Three major issues



Economy



Military



Environment



This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as *an atoning sacrifice* for our sins.

(I John 4:10)