

The Heart

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23 KJV).

THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF FEELING,...

...THE HOME OF EMOTION...

...THESE FEELINGS APPEAR IN DIFFERENT KINDS AND VARIED INTENSITY AMONG DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

IF WE COULD ENTER INTO SOME HEARTS, IT WOULD BE LIKE PASSING INTO A CATHEDRAL...

...EVERYTHING IS SO SWEET, REVERENT, AND BEAUTIFUL.

BUT IF WE ENTERED INTO OTHER HEARTS, IT WOULD BE LIKE PASSING INTO A CELLAR...

...DARK, DAMP, AND FORBIDDING.



Have we any responsibility for the character of the feelings in our heart?

HAS OUR CONSCIENCE ANY JUDGMENT TO GIVE CONCERNING OUR FEELINGS?

ALWAYS LET YOUR CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE!

YES, CONSCIENCE POINTS OUT SOME FEELINGS AND CONDEMNS THEM.

UH-UH, PINOCCHIO! YOU SHOULDN'T BE THINKING HATEFUL STUFF LIKE THAT!

WHAT CONSCIENCE CONDEMNS, I AM COMMANDED TO REMOVE.

CONSCIENCE POINTS OUT OTHER FEELINGS AND APPROVES THEM.

ATTABOY, PINOCCHIO! LOVE--THAT'S THE WAY TO GO!

WHAT CONSCIENCE APPROVES, I AM COMMANDED TO RECEIVE.

Our Conscience causes us to understand that we are responsible for our feelings.

How, then, are feelings created? Upon what are they dependent?

THEY ARE LARGELY DEPENDENT UPON THOUGHT.

EVERY THOUGHT CREATES A FEELING.

FROM EVERY THOUGHT PROCEEDS AN INFLUENCE THAT GOES TO THE MAKING OF A CHARACTER.

A SINGLE THOUGHT MAY GIVE BUT A LITTLE INFLUENCE.

I WONDER IF...?

HMM... THAT'S NOT SUCH A GOOD IDEA...

UGH! THAT'S DISGUSTING...

THAT WOULD BE GRAND.

MAYBE I SHOULD...

BUT THE INFLUENCE IS THERE AND STEALS LIKE A SUBTLE ODOUR INTO THE HEART THAT WE CALL A FEELING OR A MOOD.

CERTAIN THOUGHTS WILL INEVITABLY CREATE THE FEELING OF ENVY.

PEOPLE SAY PATRICIA IS THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN THE TROUPE...

OTHER THOUGHTS WILL SPEEDILY SWELL THE HEART WITH PRIDE.

BUT EVERYONE SAYS I'M A MUCH BETTER DANCER...

FILL THE MIND WITH ANOTHER KIND OF THOUGHT AND THE TENDER SENTIMENT OF PITY WILL GATHER IN THE HEART.

YET PATRICIA DOES HAVE AN AWFULLY SAD HOME LIFE.

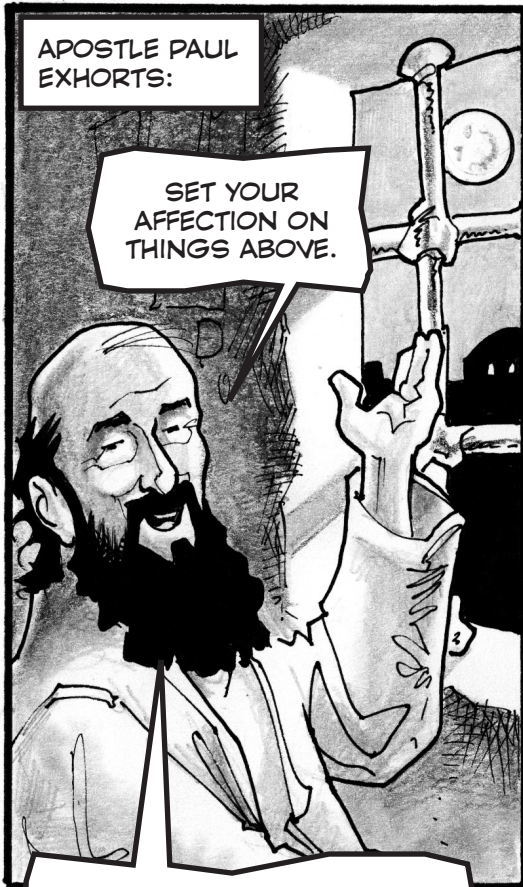


Our thought creates our feelings.



God rewards our love by making us more loving. He rewards our deeds by enlarging our hearts.

What, then, is the secret to cultivating a godly Heart?



APOSTLE PAUL EXHORTS:

SET YOUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, HONEST, JUST, PURE, LOVELY, OF GOOD REPORT - IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS.



DO SO, AND YOUR FEELINGS WILL SOAR HEAVENWARD, LIKE WHITE-WINGED ANGELS MAKING THEIR WAY HOME.

JESUS

LOVE

FAMILY

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

FRIENDS

SUNSET

FLOWERS

HEAVEN

ON THOSE SERENE AND LOFTY HEIGHTS, WE GAIN A SOUND AND HEALTHY HEART.

"THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE" WILL BECOME MORE AND MORE ENTRANCINGLY FAMILIAR TO US.

AND WE WILL FIND IT AN INCREASING JOY TO GAZE UPON THEM.