
CHAPTER FOUR

– Mindset

What is a mindset? Merriam-Webster defines mindset as, a mental attitude or inclination, or a fixed state of mind.” Your mindset is in essence the things you believe to be true, your worldview, how you see things, or the way you think. And although the word “set” in mindset connotes a rigid and unmovable state, all our minds are as malleable as fresh Playdoh. The real question when it comes to mindset is; “What causes you to believe what you believe, hold a certain worldview, see things a certain way, or think the way you think?” The answer to this question is as complex as life itself. There are countless factors that affect us throughout our lives that shape and mold our mindsets, sometimes on a daily basis. So why is our mindset so important? Our mindset is so important, in fact I’d say it’s the most important thing in our lives, because our mindset informs and directs our actions. You won’t ever do anything, you won’t ever act, you won’t ever move, contrary, or in opposition to your mindset. What do I mean by this? Let me give you an example.

Have you ever heard someone say, “Their mind said, “no,” but their body said, “yes.” People normally say this when they’re fighting some temptation. But as I said before, this is not at all true. Why? It’s because it’s physically impossible to move contrary to your mindset. You may not want to give in to some temptation and you may fight it

with all your mental might. But if you give in to it, whatever “it” is, your mind said “no,” all the way up until it finally said “yes,” and you gave in to that temptation. Your mind is where all your decisions are made. It’s where the course of your life is laid out.

Let’s say you’re on a diet and someone sets a piece of chocolate cake in front of you, which happens to be your favorite dessert. You have at the very least, two choices. You can tell yourself that your diet is much more important than that delectable delight and you resist the temptation to eat it - or you can give in to the temptation and delight in every chocolaty bite. Whichever one you do - eat - or don’t eat, it’ll be because you did (acted upon) exactly what your mind told you to do. You never decide not to eat it and your hands pick it up and put it in your mouth anyway. Even if you say you’re not going to eat the cake, then you pick it up and eat it anyway - your mindset at first was to say “no,” then your mindset changed and said “yes,” and you picked it up and ate it.

Whether you know it or not you are always in control of your mind. You know why? It’s because it’s YOUR mind. You have sole possession of it - believe it or not. I know there are people who seem to be controlled by someone else, but in actuality all these people have done is allow their mindset to become so weak it looks as if the other person has control. That’s not true. The controlled person is still in control of their own mind, it’s just that they’ve allowed their mindset to agree with the demands of the so-called controlling person.

Our minds and what we allow into them are so important because we (humans) govern this planet. We’re the reason things are good, or things are bad. If a neighborhood, or city, or country is impoverished, or crime-ridden, or war-torn, you can guarantee it’s because of the mindset of some person or group of people. As I said in an earlier chapter, we’re all born in sin and have a sinful nature. And the only way to get rid of this sinful nature is to accept God’s gift, Jesus Christ, into your life as your Lord and Savior. The problem is too many people in this world don’t know this or they flat out reject it. But it’s this sinful nature that produces wrong thinking - which in turn

produces wrong believing (or the wrong mindset) – which in turn produces wrong actions.

So, what is the wrong mindset? The wrong mindset is anything that causes you to hurt or want to hurt yourself or others, either emotionally or physically. A wrong mindset causes everything from rude behavior to jealousy to racism to murder. When you have a wrong mindset about something or someone it causes you to behave in ways that end up costing you in the end. **If what you believe (or your mindset) causes you to want to subjugate or harm other people, then you've been thinking about, and have come to believe, the wrong thing. You have a wrong mindset.**

Let's examine some of the ways this wrong believing (or wrong mindset) manifests itself amongst the human population.

LOW SELF ESTEEM

Esteem is defined by Dictionary.com as; "to regard highly or favorably; regard with respect or admiration:" When someone has low self-esteem they regard (or believe) themselves to be lower than other people. This is a wrong mindset because no one, and I mean absolutely no one, is better than anybody else. We're all unique, one-of-a-kind individuals who are born on this planet the exact same way. None of us look exactly the same, even identical twins. None of us comes from some distant planet, we're all born here. There's not one extraterrestrial living here on planet earth. And we all got here the same way; a male's sperm fertilizes a female's egg. I don't care if that fertilization took place in a Petrie Dish, not one single solitary human came into existence on this planet except a man's sperm fertilized a woman's egg. So, for someone to think they're somehow lower than anyone else because of looks, or money, or fame, or any other reason is for that person to have a wrong mindset.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Psalm 139: 13 - 14**; "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and

wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”
(KJV)

We are all knit together in the womb. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made. Almighty God does not see you as lower than anyone else – so neither should you. And even though we’re all unique, in that we all look different and have different personalities, we’re also all the same, in that we come into existence the exact same way. If you believe you’re somehow lower than other people, for any reason, you have a wrong mindset – and you need to change it. High self-esteem is the mindset you ought to embrace because if you don’t think highly of yourself, chances are others won’t either. I’m not talking about ego or pride I’m talking about seeing yourself as just as good as anyone else on this planet, because you are.

PRIDE

Pride is defined by Dictionary.com as; “a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc.” Pride is synonymous with arrogance or having a high and mighty opinion of oneself. Having a mindset of pride is wrong for exactly the reasons I stated above; we’re all unique, but we’re also all exactly the same. I also stated that a mindset of high self-esteem is what you should embrace. Some may think this is the same as being prideful. It is not. High self-esteem is when you think highly of yourself. Pride is when you think so highly of yourself that you look down on others as if you’re somehow better or above them. That is false.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Proverbs 21: 4**; “An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.” (KJV)

The Bible also says in **Proverbs 16: 18**; “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” (KJV)

No human being is better than any other human being – at being human - period. Sure, we have different skin colors, different eye colors, and different hair colors. We have different heights, different income levels, and different levels of intelligence. Our differences are vast, but as people (as humans), we're all exactly the same – 100 percent human – no more, no less. All men have the same body parts (barring some deformity or birth defect) and all women have the same body parts (barring some deformity or birth defect). This is why no one should look down upon anyone else.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Romans 12: 3**; “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (KJV)

All of us come into this world the same way and all of us at some point have to leave this life. So, a mindset of pride is wrong because, number one, you're believing a lie, and number two, I've never heard of an arrogant, prideful person referred to as being “nice.” No one likes a prideful arrogant person because they know if that person thinks they're better than other people, chances are they think they're better than you too. Pride keeps people from admitting when they were wrong. It destroys relationships. Pride keeps innocent men and women in prison because some false witness, police officer, prosecutor, or judge can't and won't admit they made a mistake. High self-esteem is healthy, pride is not. Pride can be very dangerous – dare I say – even deadly.

JEALOUSY

Dictionary.com defines jealousy as; “jealous resentment against a rival, a person enjoying success or advantage, etc., or against another's success or advantage itself.” A jealous mindset is wrong because the jealous person is always mad for no good reason. Jealous people feel inadequate about themselves, so they make things up in their mind about someone to give themselves a reason to dislike that person. The person being disliked usually has no idea why the jealous person dislikes them. Jealous people often

get angry with someone because that someone had something good happen to them – that had absolutely nothing to do with the jealous person. How many times have you heard of someone getting a job promotion, or meeting the person of their dreams, or coming upon some money, and someone around them gets angry that they’ve just been blessed with that good fortune? It happens all the time.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Galatians 6: 4**; “But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.” (KJV)

This is the problem with people that have a jealous mindset; they worry more about what other people are doing instead of handling their own business and improving upon themselves. Some people become so obsessed with other people’s success and other people’s business that they go so far as to commit murder. Don’t waste your valuable time worrying about what someone else has or does, instead use that time to better your own situation.

LYING

Dictionary.com defines lying as; “to speak falsely or utter untruth knowingly, as with intent to deceive.” We all know what lying is and most of us told our first lie at a very young age. Even as adults most of us lie from time to time. This is not a mindset of lying. This is being a fallible human with imperfect traits. When most people lie, they feel some level of remorse about it. A mindset of lying is when deceit is second nature to you. It’s when you’d rather mislead and deceive even when the truth is much easier. We call people with this mindset, habitual liars. These people lie so often it’s become a habit. It’s become a way of life.

The Holy Scriptures say in **John 8: 44**; “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (KJV)

If you have a mindset of lying, the Holy Scriptures say the devil is your father. Why? It's because people who practice lying can never be trusted. If you never know if someone's words are good you might as well not deal with that person at all. You literally do not know if their intent is good or evil.

At the root of any good relationship is trust. Trust is the reason we do most, if not all, the things we do. If you didn't trust your mode of transportation was going to get you to your destination safely you would never get in that vehicle, whether it be a car, bus, train, or airplane. If you didn't trust your soap, your comb, or even your shoes were going to work properly you would never use them. If you didn't trust whether or not the food or drink you were about to consume wasn't going to poison you, you would never ingest them. People with a lying mindset are a danger to everyone around them because they willingly embrace the evil and not the good. Someone with a lying mindset won't have any real friends because friendship is based upon trust – and someone who's a known liar can never be trusted.

IDOLATRY

Dictionary.com defines idolatry as; "the religious worship of idols (i.e.: an image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed.)" So why do some people worship idols? They worship idols because they either don't believe in Almighty God or they know nothing about Almighty God. Think about how little sense it makes to worship an idol. First of all, the idol is something "human-made." The question then becomes; "How can something man or woman-made be superior to the man or woman who made it?" The answer is; "It can't." No inanimate object should ever be worshipped or thought to have some supernatural power that can give you strength or cause favor to come into your life.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Isaiah 45: 20**; “Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.” (KJV)

The principal reasons to stay away from worshipping idols are because they can't save you from anything and they're an insult to Almighty God. That object that was made by some human, or the appendage of some dead or at the very least, maimed rabbit, can do absolutely nothing to change your course in life. Rosaries, or a cross for that matter, are not Almighty God. I know people mean well when they pray with a rosary, or wear a cross around their neck, but these things are not Almighty God. Almighty God is Almighty God, and He said come to Him through your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, not a rosary or a cross.

Worshipping an idol is like bowing down to a commode and asking it to help you pay your rent, or provide you with food, or to save your very life - when your father, who loves you and has the means to provide all those things, and wants to help, is standing right next to you.

The Bible also says in **Colossians 3: 5**; “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:” (KJV)

When you worship, pray to, or look to some inanimate object to provide you with favor, you have made that thing your god - and you're saying that thing is more powerful than Almighty God. Imagine if your child made a clay figure in art class, brought it home and prayed to it to provide he or she with dinner that night while you were standing right there. Would this not be an insult to you as a parent? If you're a good and loving parent, I think the answer to this question is, “Yes. It absolutely would offend you.” Well, Almighty God is our parent. Whether you believe in Him or not, He's the reason any of us are here. He's the creator of all things - and it's an insult to Him - for any of us to worship anything except Him.

GREED

Dictionary.com defines greed as; “excessive or rapacious desire, especially for wealth or possessions.” Greed is an insatiable desire that can and will ruin your life if you let it. Greed is like a bottomless pit that can never be filled. No matter how much stuff you throw into it, it always wants more. How many times have you seen or heard of someone who was already filthy rich, but because of greed, did something illegal trying to become even more rich? Greed is a mindset that will take over your life if you let it. Greed can lead to all types of crime – from fraud to computer hacking to armed robbery to drug dealing. It drives some people to commit all types of heinous acts.

There are individuals and companies that are obsessed with greed. They lie, cheat, steal, and sometimes even kill, just to get a little bit more. Individuals and companies that have this mindset are dangerous to society. I’m not talking about people who want a better quality of life or companies that want to boost their profits, I’m talking about people and companies who don’t care how they get more or who they hurt on their way to get more – as long as they get more. This is the mindset of greed.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Proverbs 1: 19**; “So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.” (KJV)

Greed can destroy your peace. It can rob you of your freedom. It can take away your very life. So how do you combat greed and keep it from ruining your life?

The Holy Scriptures say in **Luke 12: 15**; “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (KJV)

There you have it. You must guard yourself against every form of greed. So how do you do this? As with anything in your life you must make the decision to do a thing – or not to do a thing. You must make it up in your mind not to be greedy. Greed, as any other decision in your life, is a choice. And it can become a problem, just like any

other decision in your life, when you continually choose to do it. Because each time you choose to do it – it becomes a little harder not to choose to do it. It becomes second nature. It becomes a bad habit – a bad habit that could eventually ruin your life and quite possibly the lives of the people that love you.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Timothy 6: 9 - 10**; “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (KJV)

People often misquote this scripture saying, “money is the root of all evil.” It is not. The love of money (or greed) is the “root of all sorts of evil.” Greed is the desire to gain wealth by any means necessary, whether that means causes hurt to others, pain to others, or even death to others. This is a dangerous mindset, not only for those who are the victims of someone’s greed, but also for the greedy person. How many times have we seen some crooked businessperson or Ponzi scheme creator disrupt or destroy their own lives and the lives of their victims – all in pursuit of more and more money?

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Timothy 6: 7**; “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” (KJV)

We all came into this life with nothing – and it doesn’t matter how much or how little wealth we accumulate in our lives; we’ll all leave this life as empty-handed as we came into it. So, money, or the pursuit of it, isn’t the problem, it’s the underlying desire or the reason we want to accumulate the money that can become a problem.

And although everyone on this planet wants a good life, the definition of what a good life is differs from person to person. Not everybody on this planet needs an abundance of expensive possessions (mansions, planes, jewelry, etc.) to feel like they’re living a good life. And besides that, possessions can never bring you real joy. They’re inanimate objects that may be nice to look at or possess some high value, but at the end

of the day they're still inanimate objects that have no life in them. So, once you realize that your life is not more, or less important based on the number of possessions you have or don't have, you'll be immune to greed. There's nothing wrong with being prosperous and having things. It's when your life revolves around having possessions that becomes a problem, because now you no longer have those things - those things have you.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Timothy 6: 17 - 19**; "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they **do good**, that they **be rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may **lay hold on eternal life.**" (KJV)

You see, Almighty God is not against people being rich. He is against people being greedy and putting their hope in the amount of money they have or the number of worldly possessions they have. He is against people being high-minded and haughty, as if they're somehow better than others because they're rich. He's against people being stingy or miserly, unwilling to help others in need. That's not to say He's against people enjoying their wealth, because He isn't. It is to say though, that those who are rich ought not to think only of themselves all the time. So, my advice to anyone who wants to avoid the misery of greed, is to keep Almighty God as the number one focus in your life. If you do this, you'll be able to enjoy your wealth and not become obsessed with growing it or keeping it.

LUST

Dictionary.com defines lust as; "intense sexual desire or appetite, or a passionate or overmastering desire or craving." When we hear the word lust it's often connected to some sexual desire, but lust can be attributed to anything we crave for. You can lust after a car. You can lust after a job. You can lust after money. You can lust after anything. Lust can and will, if you allow it, get you in real trouble. Lust can get so bad that it eventually drives you crazy.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 John 2: 16**; “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (KJV)

Lust is not from Almighty God, it’s from the world. It’s from that sinful nature that doesn’t know Almighty God or acknowledge Him. People lust after things because they believe the thing they lust for will give them some sense of satisfaction. A person may lust after someone because they believe sex with that person would be absolutely amazing. They could lust after someone because they believe having that person on their arm will make them the envy of all their friends. People lust after things they believe are status symbols, like cars, homes, jewelry, clothes, or even sneakers. People can lust after things to the point that they’re willing to rob, steal, cheat, or even kill to get them.

Lust can drive people to stalk, kidnap, and rape, but it can also have them act as a human sex toy or a human garbage disposal. Lust is an emotion you should never allow into your psyche because once it does it can lead you down a path to some very dark places. Lust shouldn’t even be allowed into a marriage. I know that may sound strange but hear me out. Should a husband have a strong sexual desire for his wife? Absolutely. But to be lustful could lead to things like rape – the moment his wife isn’t feeling well or isn’t in the mood when he is. So, a healthy desire for one’s wife is good, but an overmastering desire or craving, or to lust after her can lead to problems.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Galatians 5: 19 - 21**; “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication**, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (KJV)

Since I’m discussing lust, I only highlighted adultery and fornication in the scripture above. But according to the Word of Almighty God, if you continue to practice

any of the things listed in **Galatians 5: 19 – 21** you will not inherit the kingdom of God. In other words, you won't go to Heaven. Now I know in today's society it's thought to be a badge of honor if a man commits fornication and sleeps with multiple women, and in some circles, it may be a badge of honor if a woman commits fornication and sleeps with multiple men, but according to God, it's damnable. Adultery is not necessarily accepted in mainstream society, but it's equally, if not more damaging than fornication. Both are led by lust and are at the root of some of the most heinous acts in the world today. I know sex feels good, but everything that feels good is not always good for you. I'm sure drugs and alcohol feel good to the people who use them, but give them enough time, if they continue to use these substances, you'll see the negative effects they have on that person's health and thus, their overall lives.

Fornication and adultery, like drugs and alcohol, can lead to everything from disease, to illegitimate pregnancies, to abortions to stalking, to even murder. What most people either don't know or just don't believe, is that when you have sex with someone you join yourself to that person.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Corinthians 6: 16**; "What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh." (KJV)

This verse is not calling women who have sex outside of wedlock, prostitutes, it's simply describing what happens when two people have sex. Sex is called intercourse for a reason. When a man has sex with a woman, that's the closest he could ever be to her physically because he has literally entered her and joined himself to her. As the verse says, "The **two will become one** flesh." This, in my opinion, is why you see two perfectly nice people, meet, have great conversations, enjoy each other's company, decide to have sex, and then become bitter enemies. Why? It's usually because that most intimate act they decided to participate in meant something completely different to one of them than it did the other. Sure, there are lots of people who can take this misunderstanding or lapse in judgment with a grain of salt and move on. But there are plenty of others who believe that once they have sex with someone, they are special to

that someone. And when they find out that's not the case, they'll try to make that person's life a living hell. Stalking can ruin both the victim and the victimizer's lives. Every time someone joins themselves to another in sexual immorality, they take the chance of inviting an undercover psychopath into their lives.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Corinthians 6: 18**; "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." (KJV)

Why does the Bible say this? It says this because sexual immorality can lead to all the things I listed above (disease, illegitimate pregnancies, abortions, stalking, and even murder). Think about this, a married couple, in love, who believe and trust in Almighty God and do not participate in any sexual immorality, have zero chance of catching any sexually transmitted diseases, zero chance of any illegitimate pregnancies, zero chance of any abortions, zero chance of stalking one another, and zero chance of murdering one another. I know the chances that any or all the things I listed above (disease, illegitimate pregnancies, abortions, stalking, and murder) of happening may not be all that high for people who do practice sexual immorality, but they are there. And I can't speak for anyone except myself, but if there's a small chance of something bad happening to me if I participate in some behavior, versus a zero chance of something bad happening to me if I participate in some other behavior, I'm taking the thing that produces a zero chance of something bad happening to me, every time. Think about it like this - the chance of being eaten by a shark are small even if you swim in the ocean, but the chance of being eaten by a shark is reduced to zero if you never go into the ocean.

Okay, let's get into a subject that I'm sure most people don't want to talk about, or I believe, they talk about it in the wrong way. That subject is non-traditional sexuality. In other words, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, and Asexual, sexual preferences. I put this under the heading of lust, not to say that LGBTQIA people are any more or less lustful than anyone else, I put it under this heading because I believe it is a strong desire and not something that's impossible to overcome - **with Almighty**

God's help. I know this is a hot-button subject for a lot of people, but I believe the discussion needs to be had in light of what God Almighty thinks about these particular preferences.

First, let me say I'm not writing this to belittle anyone, or to make anyone feel guilty, or to condemn anyone, although I'm almost sure some in the LGBTQIA community as well as some in the Christian community will misunderstand what I'm saying.

My hope is that anyone who reads this, who is LGBTQIA or has a loved one who is, will turn to Almighty God or encourage their loved one to turn to Almighty God and talk to Him about your or their sexual preference. Because the truth of the matter is, God already knows what we do sexually. There is absolutely nothing hidden from Him. And I know there are plenty of proud LGBTQIA people who are defensive about their lifestyle because they've been under attack from all sides of society, including some who call themselves Christian. That is not what I'm about to discuss, even though I'm sure some will take it that way. Personally, I'm not offended by LGBTQIA people or their lifestyle.

Why? It's because I'm not in their bedroom, nor are they in mine. I believe you should live and let people live, if they are not deliberately hurting, or trying to hurt others. But it is my responsibility to tell you Almighty God's truth, whether you like it, or agree with it, or not. So, I hope you the reader, can keep an open mind while I attempt to make a case for why anyone, including those in the LGBTQIA community, should consider humbling themselves before Almighty God and talking to Him about their sexuality. Okay, here we go.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Leviticus 18: 22 - 23**; "**Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.** Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion." (KJV)

I don't think I would get any pushback on **Leviticus 18 verse 23**. I would think (and hope) the act of bestiality is frowned upon the world over. It's **Leviticus 18 verse 22** that irks so many people. I know those who identify as LGBTQIA people don't like to hear this, but a man lying with another man is repulsive (or an abomination) to Almighty God. You can still do it, if that's your preference, but what you can't do is make Almighty God accept it. I'm not saying that to make anybody feel bad, or feel guilty, or feel less-than, I'm saying it because it's true.

Now what that verse did not say is that LGBTQIA people are repulsive to God. It said the act of a man lying with another man is repulsive to God. This is where I believe so many in the LGBTQIA community as well as those in the Christian community get things muddled and confused. LGBTQIA people are just that, they're people. They have the same qualities, good and bad, as anyone else. Therefore, they deserve the same rights as anyone else. So LGBTQIA rights are really just human rights for LGBTQIA people, which they absolutely deserve. I believe the problem arises when those in the traditional sexual preference (or straight) community try to push those in the LGBTQIA community into the shadows and they in turn fight hard not to be relegated to some dark corner of society. I'm neither for nor against either, my argument is for both sides to look to Almighty God, who we ALL must answer to one day.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Corinthians 6: 9 - 10**; "Know ye not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor **adulterers**, nor **effeminate**, nor **abusers of themselves with mankind**, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (KJV)

The verses in **1 Corinthians 6: 9 - 10** list several unrighteous human behaviors that will not be allowed into the Kingdom of Almighty God, but since this is a discussion on lust, I've highlighted the behaviors that are most closely related to it. I know there are people who say they've known they were LGBTQIA from an early age and perhaps born that way, but just because this behavior feels natural to someone doesn't mean Almighty

God made them that way – or that it’s correct behavior. It just means it’s behavior that’s comfortable to that person.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Proverbs 14: 12**; “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (KJV)

We as humans justify things in our minds that we like to do all the time. There are people who lie, cheat, and steal because it feels comfortable to them. There are criminals who continue to commit crime because it’s what they like to do. Crime feels natural, or comfortable to them. There are men and women who participate in all manner of sexual behaviors (pornography, whoredom, orgies, prostitution, etc.) because it feels natural – or comfortable to them.

I know some would say LGBTQIA behavior is consensual and doesn’t hurt anyone, and for the most part, I would agree, but as I said earlier, LGBTQIA people are like any other people, so surely some of them are not good, and do hurt others. My concern is not with anyone’s behavior in the LGBTQIA community, my concern is for those in the LGBTQIA community letting their love for some behavior, or the rebellion against someone who may have ridiculed them for some behavior, keep them from humbling themselves before Almighty God, and therefore negating an opportunity to spend eternity with Him. In my opinion, nothing – not a spouse, not a friend, not a family member, not a dollar amount, not a sexual preference – **NOTHING** – is worth spending eternity without Almighty God.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Romans 1: 24 - 27**; “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which

is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." (KJV)

All sexual behavior outside of a male husband sleeping with his female wife is unnatural and repulsive (or an abomination) to Almighty God. I know this doesn't sit well with those who sleep with people outside of wedlock or those in the LGBTQIA community, and again, I'm not trying to belittle anyone or make anyone feel bad, I'm simply telling you the truth. **Almighty God knows better than we do.** We all will have to answer to Him one day. He doesn't ever have to answer to us. He created us. We didn't create Him. We can rebel or ignore Him – we can say that we don't believe in Him or want anything to do with Him, but at the end of the day (meaning the day we breathe our last), we are entirely at His mercy. There will be no begging or excuse-making then, we'll have to own up to the things we did or didn't do in this life.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 John 1: 9**; "If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins**, and to **cleans**e us from all unrighteousness." (KJV)

What so many people don't realize is that Almighty God will forgive us of our sins if we just confess them to Him. As I said earlier, He already knows what we're doing. He wants us to recognize that we need Him. Our number one desire should be to please Him because He's the source of **ALL** life. Without Him we could do nothing – good or bad.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Acts 17: 28**; "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." (KJV)

The Bible also says in **Proverbs 15: 3**; "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (KJV)

There is nothing hidden from Almighty God. We actually exist because of Him. None of us can or would exist without Him. He knows what it is to be an adulterer or

a fornicator. He knows that it feels good and natural to those who behave in this manner. Almighty God knows what it is to be LGBTQIA. He knows that it feels good and natural to those who identify as such and live that lifestyle. But just because something feels good or feels natural doesn't mean it is good or natural. There are thieves, serial killers, pedophiles, gangsters, dictators, warlords, and people who commit all manner of evil acts that feel completely natural – to them. Again, just because something feels good or feels natural – to us – doesn't mean it is good or natural – for us.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Mark 10: 6 - 10**; “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.” (KJV)

My advice to anyone who practices fornication or adultery, or anyone who identifies as LGBTQIA, is to seek out Almighty God and talk to Him about your sexual behavior or sexual preference. As I said earlier, He already knows what we do. He knows fornication, adultery, or an LGBTQIA lifestyle feels completely natural to those who participate or live their lives according to such behaviors. But as I've shown in the previous scriptures, these behaviors and lifestyles are repulsive (or an abomination) to Him. I'm not saying the people who participate in these behaviors or lifestyles are an abomination to Him. I'm saying those behaviors and lifestyles are an abomination to Him. He wants us ALL to turn to Him, even during our wicked (or twisted) ways, for He is the source of all help and the source of all things good.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Acts 3: 19 - 20**; “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:” (KJV)

Despite what some people think, we all have the ability to change. Repentance simply means to change your mind – change the way you think. The problem becomes when something feels good, it becomes harder for us to change because we all love to feel good. But as I said earlier, everything that feels good to us is not always good for us.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Acts 20: 21**; “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (KJV)

Almighty God wants us to change our way of thinking, turn to Him, and receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and the Savior. If we’ll do this and ask for help with our sexual behavior or sexual preference, even in the midst of that behavior, He will help us, if we’re sincere and want to change. I’m not saying anyone should beat themselves up or feel ashamed, because what’s happened has already happened and whatever lifestyle we’re living is obviously suitable to us or we wouldn’t be living it. What I am saying is even in the midst of us participating in whatever behavior we’re participating in; we should have an intimate conversation with our Creator and give Him a chance to help us. We should humble ourselves before Almighty God and ask Him for help in defeating that mindset or desire that is wrong in His sight. It may not happen overnight, but as I said, if we’re sincere and want to change, Almighty God will help us.

On the other hand, if we rebel, and take the attitude that we’ll live our life as we choose to, no matter what God says, then we’re telling Almighty God that we reject Him and neither need, nor want His help. If this is the attitude we take, we’ll have to answer for that at the end of our life. Almighty God will not force anyone to spend an eternity with Him. If we reject Him and His gift to us, Jesus the Christ (or anointed One of God), then He has no other choice except to let us spend eternity without Him – in utter darkness, pain, sorrow, and regret. In other words, He’ll have to let us go to hell. Again, I know that doesn’t sound good, but we don’t make the rules, Almighty God does.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Thessalonians 4: 3 - 8**; "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit." (KJV)

The Bible tells us to control our bodies and stay away from sexual immorality. It also says that whoever rejects this is rejecting Almighty God. Now I know there are people who will say they can't control their sexual urges or desires, and I'm not saying it's an easy thing, but impossible - **it is not**.

Let me give you an extremely hypothetical example.

What if everyone who participated in a sexually immoral act died immediately after the act? If this were true, people would stop committing sexually immoral acts overnight. No one wants to die for some good feeling, I don't care how good that feeling is supposed to be. The reason people continue to commit sexually immoral acts is because they don't believe they'll be any future consequence they may suffer for their behavior - or - their urges and desires outweigh any future consequence they may suffer for their behavior. We all have the ability for self-control. But as it is with all of us, we do the things that we really want to do. As the old saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words." It's not so much what we say that matters, it's what we do that reveals our true feelings. Do our actions line up with our words? But besides all that, it's Almighty God who we should be talking to and asking to help us with the things that are a struggle for us. I believe it's a huge mistake for anyone to take the attitude that they'll do whatever they want in this life that makes them feel good. As I said earlier, there are plenty of things in this life that may feel good to us but are not good for us.

The Holy Scriptures say in **2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 4**; "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (KJV)

Some people in this world, including some of those who commit sexual immorality and some of those in the LGBTQIA community are blind to the reality that Jesus is Lord and they'll one day meet Him - either as their Savior or as their Judge - whether they like it or not - or whether they believe it or not. Their minds have been blinded by the god of this world, Satan, who seeks to turn people away from God or keep people away from God.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Matthew 12: 36 - 37**; "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." (KJV)

The Bible also says in **Romans 14: 12**; "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (KJV)

Now I know there are people who don't believe Almighty God is real and consequently don't believe Satan or hell is real, but as I've said before, just because we believe a thing is not true does not mean that thing is not true. It only means the thing is not true - to us. The one thing we should all be able to agree on is human mortality. None of us lives forever. And the Holy Scriptures say we'll each have to give an account of ourselves to Almighty God. My wish is for everyone, including those of us who routinely participate in behaviors that are repulsive to Almighty God, is to reach out to Him now - and talk to Him about the way we feel. Tell Him why it is we do the things we do. He doesn't hate us. He hates some of the things we do.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Matthew 10: 33**; "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." (KJV)

If we don't reject Almighty God, He won't reject us. Therefore, I implore anyone and everyone to reach out to Almighty God no matter what their situation, mentally, physically, or economically, because we ALL have to stand before Him and give an account of ourselves one day. There is no doubt about that in my mind.

The Holy Scriptures say in **2 Timothy 2: 22**; "Flee also youthful lusts: but **follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace**, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (KJV)

The Bible tells us to run away from youthful lusts because Almighty God knows that they'll eventually get us in trouble. But it doesn't stop there, it tells us to "pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those [believers] who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" - because Almighty God knows that this will get us to a place of peace. Almighty God wants us to live a life of peace and not a life of turmoil. But as with anything in this life - our life - the choices we make, the things we allow into our minds, are entirely up to us.

It is my hope that anyone who routinely commits sexual immorality or anyone who identifies as - or participates in - an LGBTQIA lifestyle will not take offense to what has been said, but instead call out to Almighty God and let Him help, because believe it or not - He wants to.

HATE

Why do people hate? People hate primarily because they're miserable. People also hate what they don't understand - or more specifically, they hate what they wish they understood, but don't - which makes them miserable. Have you ever heard someone say they hate math? You know why they say that? It's because they wish they understood math, but they don't. That makes them miserable about math and therefore they say they hate it. Of course, you can understand math and not like doing math, but you won't hate it. Now I realize there are people who hate someone because that person committed some heinous act against them. And while I'm not saying that's a good thing,

I do understand it. It's a natural human emotion to be angry, or even hate someone who has wronged you in a vicious or heinous way. But if you know anything about real hate, prolonged hate, guttural hate, it's a consumer. And holding onto hate will slowly consume the hater. It will eat them up from the inside out. Why? It's because hate is stressful – and prolonged stress can affect your health. As the old saying goes; “Holding on to hate is like drinking poison and hoping the subject of your hate suffers the effects of the poison.”

The Holy Scriptures say in **Proverbs 10: 12**; “Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.” (KJV)

Dictionary.com defines strife as; “vigorous or bitter conflict, discord or antagonism.”

When you live in hate you cause your body to be in vigorous or bitter conflict with itself – which can eventually cause sickness and/or disease. But look at the rest of that verse, it says; “love **covers** and **overwhelms** all transgressions [forgiving and overlooking another's faults].” Love is a choice. And so is hate. Have you ever seen a hateful person? They're miserable. They're no fun to be around – unless you're a hateful person too. But if you're not, you won't like being around such a person because their hateful nature darkens the mood and will eventually depress your spirit.

Hateful people are miserable – and miserable people are easily led to hate. Miserable people usually hear a bunch of lies that they choose to believe, so in their minds their hate is justified. Surely, you've heard of someone hating someone else because they were told some negative rumor about that person – and they chose to believe the rumor without a shred of evidence - or an ounce of proof.

So, let's talk about the hate that is so prevalent, not only in the United States, but also around the world – hate of other people because of the way they look [or their skin color] – most commonly known as bigotry and/or racism.

Racism is defined in Dictionary.com as:

1. a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others.
2. a policy, system of government, etc., based upon or fostering such a doctrine; discrimination.

Racism, in my opinion, is a mental disorder. **It's wrong thinking - or a wrong mindset.** I say this because if you think you're better than someone else based on the color of your skin - if your mindset is that you're somehow more intelligent, more gifted, more deserving of a good life than someone based purely on the color of your skin - you're believing a lie. And anyone who believes an unmistakable and obvious lie, in my opinion, has a mental disorder. Let me tell you why I believe this.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Acts 17: 27**; "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:" (KJV)

Let me ask you a rhetorical question; "Who gave you your ethnicity?" Now let me answer that question. You didn't. Nor did your parents give themselves their ethnicity - nor did your grandparents or your great grandparents - and so on and so forth. If you're human and you live on this planet - **you got here one way and one way alone - male sperm fertilizes female egg.** That is it - period. That makes EVERY human on this planet equal. You are no more - or no less human - than anyone else on this planet. I'll tell you what else makes us equal - we all must leave this place one day. We all die. None of us - I don't care what your ethnicity is - I don't care how light you are - I don't care how dark you are - it doesn't matter what shade you are - one day you will leave this physical life and pass away. So, this notion that anyone is better than anyone else is pure lunacy. It's absurd, ludicrous, and preposterous. It's like saying - you own a

white Rolls Royce and I own a black Rolls Royce – but yours is better because it's white. Can you see how absolutely nonsensical – how utterly ridiculous – how crazy – that is?

This is why I say people who are bigoted and racist – people that believe they're superior based on the color of their skin – have a mental disorder. And I'll go one further – people who have that racist mindset are really miserable and afraid (deep down inside), and in my opinion, they actually have an inferiority complex. Why do you think racist people are obsessed with Black and Brown people? Why do you think they spend so much of their time worrying about people that don't look like them? In a word – fear.

Hate is also defined in the online dictionary MerriamWebster.com as: “intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury, extreme dislike or disgust.”

Fear is the principal reason racist people do the hateful things they do. Let me explain. **Racist people say they're superior, or they're the superior race, but their actions say the exact opposite.** Their actions say I'm afraid of you, so I have to do a whole bunch of evil things to try and keep you down. That's not superior – that's fear – that's an inferior mindset. Let me give you an example.

Let's take a human and an ant. A human is superior to an ant. A human is maybe a trillion times bigger than an ant. A human can do a whole host of things an ant could never do. A human could dominate an ant in no time flat. All things being equal, there's no ant that could enter your home and drive you out, right? Even if the ant had some poisonous bite or painful stinger, no single ant could dominate a single human. One spray of insecticide or one good boot stomp would remedy that “ant problem” in a millisecond. So, as the superior human, you don't sit around worrying about an ant – or ants for that matter. You don't make laws to try to keep the ant down. You don't see an ant move in across the street, pack up, and move to a different neighborhood. You don't try to keep the ant from voting. You don't call the ant derogatory names. You don't form groups to hate the ant – or devise evil plans against

the ant. You don't cross the street, clutch your purse, or flee in terror when you see an ant. You don't call the police when you see the ant doing everyday ant stuff. You don't harass the ant - or shoot an unarmed [or defenseless] ant. Why? It's because you have absolutely no fear of that ant. That ant doesn't pose even an inkling of a threat to you because it's not on the same level as you - and you know that.

But, on the contrary, racist people are afraid of other people that look different than them - because they know in the deepest depths of their souls that other people who look different than them are just that - they're people. People who can do the same things they can do. People who can do all the good things they do - and people who can do all the bad things they do. This is why racist people devise laws and become judges and police officers - so they can do their evil deeds under the guise (and the protection) of what seems to be just. That - in my opinion - is cowardly. That - in my opinion - is fear. That - in my opinion - is an inferiority complex. Why do I say this?

Because if racist people really believed - I mean really believed in their heart of hearts that they were truly superior - they would not hate. They would have no reason to. Like I said - nobody sees an ant and runs in terror. Nobody sees an ant and calls the cops. Why do you think so many racist people flock to guns? Fear. Why do you think so many racist people hide behind the protection of a police badge? Fear. Why do you think so many racist people hide in hateful groups to feel safe? Fear. If they were truly superior, they wouldn't need a gun. If they were truly superior, they wouldn't need a badge. If they were truly superior, they wouldn't need to belong to some group. If they were truly superior, they wouldn't be angry at people who've done absolutely nothing to them. If they were truly superior, they wouldn't blame other people for the problems in their life. If they were truly superior, they wouldn't need to devise evil plans to try to keep other people down. If they were truly superior, they would be exactly that - superior - above it all - untouchable. Their life would be an absolute joy - because they've got it all figured out. They wouldn't have problems - as we all do. They

wouldn't have health issues from time to time – as we all do. They wouldn't pass away – as we all do.

Have you ever heard the phrase; “Hurt people hurt people.” Racist people are angry, bitter, mean, and hateful because they're hurt inside. Some are hurt because their lives are miserable, and they want to take out their misery on people they perceive as weak and defenseless. Some are hurt because they believe America owes them something that's been given to Black and Brown people. Some are hurt because they live with the constant fear that Black and Brown people will become the majority in this country and begin to treat them the same cruel and disrespectful way, they treat them. These alone prove that racist people are anything but superior. Superior beings aren't angry or hurt. Superior beings don't waste their time in hate. So no, racist people are NOT superior, but I'm gonna tell you who is – All-Mighty God.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 Timothy 2: 5**; “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures also say in **1 Timothy 6: 15** (speaking of Jesus); “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;” (KJV)

God the Father – God the Son – God the Holy Spirit – is superior. Not any of us. Like I said earlier – we all pass away. All of us. **None of us gets out of this life – alive.** I don't care how rich we are. I don't care how poor we are. I don't care how popular we are. I don't care how inferior someone believes themselves to be. And I don't care how superior someone believes themselves to be. One day – any and every hateful person – will pass away.

The Bible also says in **Galatians 6: 7 - 8**; “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall

of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (KJV)

If we have a mindset of hate we need to pay particular attention to these verses, because we are sowing to our flesh. In other words, we are drawing from our sinful capacity – and acting upon our disgraceful impulses. So, if we keep sowing seeds of hate – one day we will reap a harvest of hate. The hate we give can and will be given back to us. (What we sow we will reap.) The violence that we give will be given back to us. This is coming from heaven above. As verse 7 says; “God is not mocked.” And whether we know it or not – or believe it or not – we are no match for Almighty God. So, if we continue in hate – one day – without question – we will suffer ruin and destruction. We can count on it.

The Bible also says in **1 John 4: 7**; “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” (KJV)

So – to all the haters – all the racists that call themselves Christians – or Evangelical Christians – STOP!!! See. Anyone can call themselves whatever they want – but if they have a constant mindset of hate they don’t know God – and they never knew Him. **They’re a Christian – in name ONLY.** In fact – they’re no more a Christian than the devil himself.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 John 4: 8**; “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” (KJV)

God is love. Our very ability to love comes from Almighty God. If we have a constant mindset of hate, we are not of God – we don’t know Him – and we never did – even if we think we do.

My advice to anyone – is to humble themselves – open their mouth and call out to Almighty God – read scriptures in the Bible concerning love – pray and express their true feelings to God – ask Him to deliver them from that hateful mindset – because as I

said earlier – none of us gets out of this life – alive. I don't care how big our organization is. I don't care how scary we think ourselves to be. I don't care how many guns we own. I don't care how many evil plans we devise or carry out. One day – we – everyone we know – and everyone we love – will pass away. And **HATE IS NOT ALLOWED** in Heaven!!!

The Holy Scriptures say in **Revelation 20: 12 - 15**; “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (KJV)

So – if we don't want to end up in that lake of fire – first of all – we need to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior [because believe it or not – He is Lord, and everyone on this planet **needs** Him as their Savior], as I said – and will say again and again – nobody gets out of this life – alive. So first – we need to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior by simply asking Him to come into our life and save our soul. Secondly – stop living in hate. **Try to identify the source of your hateful mindset – AND DEAL WITH THAT!!!** Because **NONE OF US WAS BORN A HATEFUL PERSON**. We were not born hating people. This was something we learned from somewhere – or from someone.

For example, if we put any number of toddlers of different ethnicities in a room and let them play – guess what they'll do – they'll play – that's it. You won't see the White one shunning the Black one – or the Asian one shunning the Latino one. They'll play as children because they only see themselves and the other kids as children. If these kids grow up to hate each other based purely on their different ethnicities it's because they learned this hate from someone at some time. This hate has to be taught to them.

As I said – we all need to seek Almighty God – and ask Him to help us change our minds. In fact – that’s what it means to repent – it means to change our minds – from evil thoughts – to good thoughts – from hateful thoughts – to loving thoughts.

FEAR

Fear is defined by Dictionary.com as; “a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; the feeling or condition of being afraid.”

Having a mindset of fear is at the root of all wrong thinking. Whether it’s overt or subliminal, it can be traced back to all manner of wrong thinking. Fear controls people – it drives people – it causes people to make wrong decisions. So why do we fear? We fear because we either don’t know Almighty God or we don’t fully trust Almighty God – or we don’t have a full understanding of his power and love for us.

The Holy Scriptures say in **1 John 4: 18**; “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”
(KJV)

If we don’t know or trust (or have faith in) Almighty God and His Word, it’s easy for fear to creep into our minds. Think about how many fears (or phobias) people have. People are afraid to go to the upper floors of buildings because they’re afraid of heights. People are afraid to get on planes because in their mind they believe that any plane they get on is surely going to crash. People are afraid of insects because they believe those insects are going to bite them and cause some deadly harm to them. People are afraid of the dark because they believe once the lights go out, some-thing, be it a monster or some evil entity, will inhabit that space and surely attack and kill them. People are afraid to get on a boat because they believe the moment they get on that vessel it’s going to sink and they’re going to drown. People are afraid of dogs because they believe that any dog they encounter is going to bite them. People are afraid of many – many – many

things. Look up the list of phobias sometime. It's amazing how many different things people are afraid of. As I said, "Fear is at the root of all wrong thinking," but the fear of DEATH is at the root of all fear. It's the fear of death that makes people afraid of heights, afraid of flying, afraid of insects, afraid of the dark, afraid of being in large bodies of water, afraid of dogs, and afraid of a thousand other things.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Isaiah 41: 10**; "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (KJV)

When we accept Almighty God's gift of love [the Lord Jesus Christ] as our personal Lord and Savior - and trust that God's Word is both true and infallible, this scripture [**Isaiah 41: 10**] will come alive in us and fear will be a thing of the past. Now this is not to say we won't get scared or experience the sensation of fear. Let's say we're walking down the street and a snarling, barking dog jumps out and surprises us. This will most certainly trigger something in our human psyche called the "fight or flight" response.

This "fight or flight" response is defined by Lexico.com as; "The instinctive physiological response to a threatening situation, which readies one either to resist forcibly or to run away." The fight or flight response is God-given and actually a good thing. Think about it, if we didn't have this fight or flight response, we would react to danger the same way we react to things that aren't dangerous, which could potentially cost us our lives. For instance, let's say we're in a building that suddenly catches fire. If we didn't have this fight or flight response, we wouldn't see this as a threat, we would go about our business as if the fire wasn't dangerous at all. Having said all that, the fight or flight response is not the same as having a mindset of fear.

When we have a mindset of fear we think about the thing or things we fear even when the thing or things are not even present. If someone has a fear of bugs, they are more than likely thinking about bugs when bugs are not visibly present. They are

thinking bugs are just out of sight and could pop up at any minute. I used to have a fear of flying and would sometimes have nightmares about being on a plane – without ever having set foot on a plane. I knew I wanted to fly because it was the fastest way to travel far distances, but I stayed away from flying because in my mind as soon as I boarded any plane that plane would somehow crash – for no other reason than I was on it. I got over that fear after I put my trust in Almighty God and believed that He was not only **able** to keep me safe, but that He would **indeed** keep me safe.

Now I know some people will say there are those who fly and do any number of other things without fear and without trusting in God to do those things, and that's fine, but I can almost guarantee, those same people have a fear of something. Most, if not all of us have a fear of something, whether it be a person, a place, or a thing. It could be a fear of our supervisor, a fear of a certain section of town, or a fear of public speaking. The key to eliminate a mindset of fear - or to keep from developing a mindset of fear - is to first, get to know who Almighty God is, and secondly, put your trust (or have faith) in His Word.

In **Isaiah 41: 10** the Word says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (KJV)

If we can trust (or have faith in) the Word of Almighty God the same way we trust and have faith in the word of our most trusted confidant – whether that be our parent, our sibling, our spouse, or our best friend, we will eliminate that fearful mindset and keep any and all fears from creeping into our psyche.

WISDOM

Wisdom is defined on Dictionary.com as; "the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight."

I'm not sure if you've noticed, but every mindset I mentioned above is a negative or wrong mindset. I did that for a reason, and it's this; a mindset of wisdom can and will nullify every negative mindset if we allow it into our psyche and adopt it.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Proverbs 4: 7**; "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." (KJV)

This scripture is not talking about knowledge. Knowledge and wisdom are two totally different things. Knowledge is something you can acquire by studying or doing a certain thing over some period of time. Knowledge is an accumulation of information. Wisdom is the correct application of knowledge. I'll give you an example of an incorrect application of knowledge. Someone can study for years and become a lawyer. They could be a highly skilled and successful lawyer, but if that lawyer decides to participate in some shady dealings and break the law, thinking they can "get away with it" because they know the law so well, they can circumvent it, they have just acted unwisely. Just because a person has knowledge doesn't mean they'll use that knowledge wisely.

True wisdom only comes from Almighty God. Why? It's because He is the only wise God.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Romans 16: 25 - 27**; "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." (KJV)

Almighty God is the only wise God because He's the creator of all things. He knows how everything works because He created everything. If someone creates something, doesn't it stand to reason they'd know everything about the thing they created? This is why true wisdom - perfect wisdom - only comes from Almighty God.

The Holy Scriptures say in **Proverbs 8: 12**; "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions." (KJV)

Godly wisdom resides with good judgment, moral courage, and astute common sense, meaning God's Word will help us make good and right decisions. It will give us moral courage, meaning when a majority of society says a thing is right and okay just because they say so, we will have the courage to call out wrong and not follow the way of the world. Godly wisdom will give us astute common sense, or the ability to see things for what they are and not what they're supposed to be. Let me give you a quick example of what I mean by this. Have you ever heard or perhaps seen some advertisement that offers some product that is supposed to be so great and life-changing that they offer a second model for "free" - if you pay the price of shipping and handling? You'd be surprised at how many people only hear the word "free" and never pick up on the fact that the extra model could never be "free" if the company **asks you to pay** for shipping and handling. If the second model were absolutely free, the company would just ship it with the first model you paid for. Some people would call this "common sense," but so-called common sense is not so common for everyone. Godly wisdom also finds **knowledge and discretion**. Let me give you a couple examples of why we all need knowledge and discretion.

First example:

There are men and women in this world who, for whatever reason, make the decision to allow their new partner, who they haven't known for very long, to babysit their young children. And too many times, even though once is too many, the children end up paying some horrific price for their parents misguided decision. Parents like this don't use knowledge or discretion. In my opinion, they only think about how the person makes **them** feel. They give little to no consideration as to how the children feel or how that person will react to, or treat their children, especially when they're alone with their children. Godly wisdom would tell that person not to have any new love interest around

their kids - ever. Why? It's because it's new, and at this point it's just interest. How many times has someone been interested in something, let's say a car, and after they've had a chance to thoroughly check it out, they found out this wasn't the car for them? People who bring a new love interest around their small children are not using Godly wisdom. They're not using good judgement. They're basically gambling that this new relationship will work, without ever considering what may happen to their children's mental or physical health if they continue to see a carousel of new men or new women in and out of their lives. If these kids get attached to these new partners only to have them suddenly ripped from their lives over and over again, they could grow up to have trust or abandonment issues.

Second example:

There are people in this country, some of them U.S. Senators, who continue to look past or make excuses for our 45th president. Many of these people call themselves Evangelical Christians and believe that the 45th president was sent by Almighty God. These people are surely not using Godly wisdom. I know Almighty God can and does use flawed people, but the tell-tell sign that the person is sent by God is that their bad behavior - stops. Moses didn't commit murder after he met God. Paul didn't persecute Christians after he met Jesus. And Jesus certainly didn't lie, cheat, and steal His way to the cross. Meanwhile, 45 told lie after lie throughout his entire presidency. That doesn't sound like the behavior of a man sent by God. If he truly was a man sent by Almighty God, he wouldn't have to lie to try to steal an election. This man started lying about the election, saying the only way he could lose is if it were rigged, long before the election ever took place. He was making the waters muddy for those who don't have the ability to exercise Godly wisdom. And there are literally millions of people in this country who quite obviously don't possess this ability and blindly follow every word this man says. Some of them actually believe he's sent to save them. Talk about not having Godly wisdom, these people think that a man who insulted people regularly, routinely lied, and was impeached twice for improper behavior, is an example of a man sent by

Almighty God. Two words; NOT TRUE. The problem is too many self-proclaimed Evangelical Christians neither know what it is to be Evangelical – nor what it is to be Christian.

So, in conclusion, our mindset is what drives our life. Whatever we truly believe, is what's going to direct and determine the quality of our life. If we truly believe we're going to be a success in life – however we define success – we will eventually reach that goal because we'll never give up on that goal. Notice I didn't say if we truly believe for a month or a year – I said if we truly believe. True belief has no time limit. True belief is another way of saying trust – which is another way of saying faith. When we have faith we see the unseen – we realize the unrealized – we truly and spiritually believe we have the thing that we don't physically have yet.

True – real – authentic – faith comes from Almighty God – which is why we should have faith – and we should trust – in the Word of Almighty God?