

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN QUAD: Developing a Balanced Life

Becoming Mentally Mature

Introduction:

Many people think learning is something limited to school. We are forced by law to spend 12 years and learn whatever we need to pass tests and move on toward graduation. Later we tend to learn what we have to in order to function in our job and at home in the practical areas of living.

I have come to realize that learning is a never-ending quest for knowledge that encompasses every area of my life. It is truly said, "The more we know, the more we know we don't know." Whether we like it or not we are life long learners. The question is what are we learning and is it true?

You cannot imagine how excited I was when Rick Balogh began his Creation Classes with a lesson on "Critical Thinking VS Brain Washing."

The church should be at the forefront of encouraging critical thinking and the development of a reasoned world-view so that we can cut the word strait and discern how God wants us to live in this present world. One of the best study books for youth was titled "*Don't Check Your Brians At the Door.*"

The Bible does not feature a blind, emotion, rote following of God but appeals to the use of a sound mind and clear thinking. Even faith is built on a foundation of understanding who God is and what He does. That gives a solid reason to follow him without question.

In fact using our mind in concert with God's leading is at the very center of God's will for us:

Mark 12:29 and 30--*Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' These are the great commandments.*

Proverbs 16:9--"*The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.*"

Proverbs 18:15--"*The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*"

Romans 12:2--"*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1Corinthians 2:16--"*For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ*"

Colossians 3:2--"*Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*"

Another thing to notice is that the Scriptures often equate the mind to wisdom. How did Jesus grow mentally? "*Jesus grew in wisdom.*" The word "wisdom" appears in Scripture 222 times which indicates it is important.

Our first question has to be, "What is wisdom?"

Webster says wisdom is "accumulated . . . learning: KNOWLEDGE, good sense: JUDGMENT," and "a wise attitude or course of action."

The word used in Luke 2 is SOPHIA that is defined as "human wisdom in spiritual things" or "insight into the true nature of things."

Some scholars define it as "the God given ability to apply knowledge to our living."

So the mental development God wants in us has to do with our ability to use our knowledge to understand the facts of spiritual truth that will enable us to apply it to our everyday lives.

Our next question is, "Why is wisdom important?"

The proper God directed development of the mind is important because the mind is that part of us through which character develops. This concept is illustrated in numerous passages of Scripture.

Related to a selfish desires for riches, but applicable to other selfish desires, Proverbs 23:7 states, *"For as he thinks within himself (thinks in his heart), so he is (or so he becomes)."*

The process is traced clearly in James 1:14 and 15, *"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."*

Conception comes from our mental processes. This includes our thoughts, attitudes and motives.

Conception leads to Conduct. The fruit of our thoughts, attitudes and actions form our works.

Conduct leads to Character. We become what our ongoing life style makes us, a reflection of our innermost being.

The word wisdom contains the old English word "wist" which means "to know." This indicates that to have wisdom we first have to know something. This agrees with the Scriptures:

Colossians 1:9 and 10 says, *"For this reason also, since the day we heard {of it} , we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please {Him} in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

Knowledge of God and His will leads to wisdom and understanding which leads to a worthy walk with the fruit of good works.

First we will look at our Mental Development; the very conception of character, our thoughts, our attitudes, and our motives.

I. THOUGHTS

Philippians 4:8--*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **let your mind dwell on these things.**"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, *"A man is what he thinks about all day long."*

Marcus Aurelius, known as the wisest man in ancient Rome wrote,

"our life is what our thoughts make it."

Solomon said, *"as a man thinks in his heart, so he is."*

Matthew 12:35 Matt. 12:35 *"The good man out of {his} good treasure (innermost being) brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of {his} evil treasure brings forth what is evil.*

A. PROBLEMS

1. Nature of Temptation

Satan's approach to temptation always begins with the mind. Eve was drawn away when Satan deceived her mind. Paul mentioned this fact in I Corinthians 11:3:

*"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity {of devotion} to Christ.**"*

2. Nature of the Mind

The computer principles: GI/GO and nothing is truly erased.

We are what we read, hear, see, and experience and nothing is truly erased.

3. Negative Influence

We have the influence of newspapers, television, radio, newsmagazines, movies, literature, the inter-net, etc. But good news is no news, so all is negative!

Regardless of the problems, God's desire is still:

B. PERFECTION

1. To be totally acceptable to God.

Psalm 19:14 put it, *"Let the words of my mouth and the **meditation (or thoughts) of my heart** Be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."*

Romans 12:2 says, *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

2. To move our minds toward God (Be God Conscious)

J. Dwight Pentecost, in his book *Pattern for Maturity* wrote,

"The new mind was given because of man's one great deficiency in the area a mental activity, his inability to exercise his mind God-ward. If the child of God is not exercising his mind God-ward, then he cannot know fellowship with God, and he cannot fulfill the purpose for which he was recreated in Christ Jesus."

3. To bring glory to God.

This is the purpose for which all was created. Pentecost continues,

"... if the Spirit of God takes charge of this mortal body, the Spirit of God will reproduce the life of Jesus Christ and use this mortal body as His instrument to reveal Christ so that God may be glorified."

But, does God have a way to get us from problem to perfection?

C. PLAN

1. Renew you mind.

Give your mind over to Christ's thinking patterns.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 tells us, *"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ."*

One very old commentary explained it like this,

"The man whose mind is illuminated by the Spirit of God, and shares the thoughts of God, has a criterion by which he can test every principle of conduct. In so far as he conforms to the mind of Christ he is beyond the natural assessment of man."

2. Saturate the computer.

Fill your mind with the Word of God and other good stuff.

Joshua 1:8 instructs us, *"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."*

We must meditate on the Word just as a cow chews her cud taking out the nutrients, swallowing it, bringing it back up again and again to chew more and get more out of it.

And if you believe, as many of us do, that all truth is God's truth you will find great joy in much of science, history, literature, theater, movies, etc.

3. Think right.

Philippians 4:8 clearly explains, *"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."*

The second area of the mind has to do with ATTITUDES as we continue in Lesson 2

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN QUAD: Developing a Balanced Life

Becoming Mentally Mature (Continued)

Introduction:

We began our study of a Balanced Christian Life by noting that

Maturity is a process not an event!

We also saw that Jesus

"... kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Jesus, our example, the only perfect person who ever lived developed in four distinct areas of life:

1. In wisdom--*MENTALLY*
2. In stature--*PHYSICALLY*
3. In favor with God--*SPIRITUALLY*
4. In favor with men--*SOCIALLY*

We started in the area of Becoming Mentally Mature with the observation:

Thoughts, attitudes and motives lead to **actions**, which
lead to *who we are in our innermost being*.

Conception leads to Conduct and Conduct leads to Character.

First we have our :

I. THOUGHTS

A. PROBLEMS

1. Nature of Temptation

*"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds should be led astray** from the simplicity and purity {of devotion} to Christ."*

2. Nature of the Mind

We are what we read, hear, see, and experience and nothing is truly erased.

3. Negative Influence

We have the influence of newspapers, television, radio, newsmagazines, movies, literature, the inter-net, etc. Good news is no news! (my experience)

Regardless of the problems, God's desire is still:

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2. To move our minds toward God (Be God-Conscious)

We need to keep our hearts and minds focused of Jesus.

3. To bring glory to God.

This is the purpose for which all was created.

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Fill your mind with the Word of God and other good stuff.

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The second area in the mind is the realm of:

II. ATTITUDES

Philippians 2:5-8 is the quintessential example of what God expects:

*"**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**"*

This takes us beyond just thinking and on to our heart attitude.

Bill Bright once said, *Victory or defeat occurs in the heart before it occurs anywhere else. God has called us to win the battle of **maintaining a correct heart attitude.**"*

What is the battle in our mind and heart? To develop a servant spirit!

A. PROBLEMS

1. Attitude can cancel words.

Did you ever notice that how a person says something is as important as what they say. Why is that? Because attitude comes through.

In Matthew 15:8 Jesus said of the Pharisees, ***THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.***

2. Attitude can cancel actions.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones, in one of my favorite books *Spiritual Depression, Its Causes and Cures* writes,

"The essence of sin, ... is that we do not live entirely to the glory of God....you can be innocent of all gross sins and yet be guilty of this terrible thing of attitude.... Being satisfied with your life, ...having pride in your achievements, looking down on others."

These things can totally negate the actions you might perform.

3. Attitude can cancel relationship.

James 1:4-8 *"And let endurance have {its} perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, {being} a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.***

And, of course God's standard in the area of attitude is

B. PERFECTION

1. Love

Paul tells Timothy in his first letter, 1 Timothy 1:5. *"**But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.***

And in 1 Corinthians 13:12 and 13 he tells the church,

*"When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.***

2. Humility

Philippians 2:3 instructs us to,

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Paul illustrated this heart attitude when he stated that he would be willing to be cursed and lost himself so that others would be saved if that were possible. *Humility is the basis for a servant spirit.*

3. Obedience

God personally expressed his desire to his people in Deuteronomy 5:29 when He said, *'Oh that they had such a heart(attitude) in them, **that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!***"

Again, God wants to move us past our problems and toward perfection:

C. PLAN

Dwight Pentecost wrote, *"The child of God must sit in judgment upon his attitude in the use of the things of the world, for worldliness is not concerned principally with acts but with attitudes that control the acts."*

1. Ask God to examine you.

In the very familiar verse Psalm 26:2 it says, *"Examine me, O LORD, and try me; Test my mind and my heart."*

In the *Berkley Translation* that reads, *"Examine me, O LORD, and test me; Test my soul and know my attitude."*

2. Be obedient.

Lloyd-Jones says, *"... go on to learn that in the kingdom what matters most is not the length of service but your attitude of obedience to Him, your desire to please Him."*

Or in 1 Samuel 15:22 states,

*"And Samuel said, Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, {And} to heed than the fat of rams."*

3. Serve God heartily.

Colossians 3:23 and 24 makes God's will clear, *"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."*

Another area of the mind we deal with is:

III. MOTIVES

We can read thoughts and even attitudes from a person's facial expression, words, tone of voice, and body language, but deep down inside, hidden from us are the motives or "intents of the heart."

1 Corinthians 4:5 puts it this way,

*"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, {but wait} until the Lord comes **who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of {men's} hearts**; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."*

A. PROBLEMS

1. Selfishness

Lloyd-Jones wrote, *"It was Paul who said, 'Look not every man on his own things, but every man look also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.' You see what that means? He did not consider his own interests only; He made Himself of no reputation. He laid aside the insignia of eternal glory ... He humbled Himself, He forgot Himself ... looking only for the glory of God."*

And as it says in James 4:3,

*You ask and do not receive, because **you ask with wrong motives**, so that you may spend {it} on your pleasures."*

2. Hypocrisy

In Acts 5 Ananias and Saphira joined others in their fellowship in selling personal property to meet the needs of the poor and persecuted in the early church.

Their act was right. They sacrificially gave for others.

Their attitude was right. They gave joyfully.

What then was it that caused them to be punished by the Holy Spirit? Their motive was wrong. *Acts 5:4 "While it remained {unsold,} did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? **Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart?**"* What deed? *"You have not lied to men, but to God."*

3. Ungratefulness

Forgetting what God has done for us in the past is an indication that we are wrapped up in our own creature comforts and advantages. An illustration of this is presented in Acts 7:39, *"And our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him (Moses), **but repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt,**"*

B. PERFECTION

1. Desire God's best.

1Corinthians 12:31 instructs us to, *"... earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way."* That way is presented in *chapter 14:1 "Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual {gifts,} ... "*

2. Do all for the glory of God.

1Corinthians 10:31 *"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**"*

3. Strive to be like Jesus.

Pentecost said, *"... God's purpose for your life is to reproduce the life of Jesus Christ in you, so that when men look at you they will see the Lord revealing the Father, thus bringing glory to God. There is no higher goal (motive).*

Or as Paul puts it in Colossians 1:27 and 28 *"to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ."*

C. PLAN

1. Study the Word.

In 2 Timothy 3:10 Paul said, *"you followed my teaching (**thoughts and beliefs**), conduct (**attitudes and actions**), purpose (**intents or motives**), faith, patience, love, perseverance (**action or works**)...."*

Hebrews 4:12 says, *"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge **the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**"*

2. Let Christ control your life.

From where does the supernatural motivation come? Galatians 2:20 answers, "*I have been crucified with Christ; **and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the {life} which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*"

3. View your life motivation in proper perspective.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Matthews 6:33

As we saw in our introduction:

Conception comes from our mental processes. This includes our thoughts, attitudes and motives.

Conception leads to Conduct. The fruit of our thoughts, attitudes and actions form our works.

So we continue by looking at the fruit of right thinking:

IV. WORKS

1Corinthians 10:31 instructs us, "*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*"

Proper motives form proper attitudes creating proper thought patterns that bring proper responses (works).

This concept is clearly taught in 1Peter 1:13-19,

*"Therefore, **gird your minds for action**, keep sober {in spirit,} fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts {which were yours} in your ignorance, but **like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all {your} behavior;** because it is written, '**YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.**'*

*And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, **conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay {upon earth}** ; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, {the blood} of Christ."*

But the area of our actions also have:

A. PROBLEMS

1. We are commissioned to work until Jesus returns.

In a parable Jesus told his disciples to emphasize the fact that Christianity is an active not passive life, He told of a rich man who left on a trip and handed out money to his slaves.

Luke 19:13 records, "*And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business {with this} until I come {back.}' "*

What is this never ending work?

Matthew 28:19 and 20 tells us,

*"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

2. Our faith is proven by our works.

New Testament writers agree that the natural outflow of true living faith is faithful God appointed activity. James says in chapter 2:14,

*"What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? And verse 17, **"Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself."***

And in 2:26, "For just as the body without {the} spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

Paul emphasized that salvation comes by faith alone and that works have no part in it, however his letters are full of commands that we run the race, walk the walk, and live the new life in Christ. But he instructs Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:11-12:

*"But flee from these (sinful) things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance {and} gentleness. **Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.***

The writer of Hebrews says it this way in chapter 10:22-24

*"... let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled {clean} from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and **let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,"***

Peter agrees that function follows faith. Look at 2 Peter 1:5-8

"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in {your} moral excellence, knowledge; and in {your} knowledge, self-control, and in {your} self-control, perseverance, and in {your} perseverance, godliness; and in {your} godliness, brotherly kindness, and in {your} brotherly kindness, love.

For if these {qualities} are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. We often lack a proper perspective on work and works.

In his letter to Titus Paul often uses the term "good works."

To young men he writes in Titus 2:7, *"in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, {with} purity in doctrine, dignified, ..."*

This can mean works or deeds that advance the cause of Christ of course. But it can also be defined as "honest occupations, daily callings, profession, that which occupies your daily life.

Think of that as I read Titus 2:12-14:

*"deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to **live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age**, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."*

Again God has a standard which is,

B. PERFECTION

1. Be doers of the word.

James 1:22-25 states the truth clearly,

*"**But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for {once} he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the {law} of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.**"*

Jesus made the point many times. One of them is in Luke 11:28, *"But He said, "...blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it."*

2. Do all for the glory of God.

It does not matter what our job is or what good works we are doing to advance the kingdom, our attitude is to always be the same:

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, *"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**"*

In this passage Paul is discussing everyday activities of believers and he drives his point home in 11:1 by saying,

"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."

3. Persist and persevere.

In 1 Timothy 4:15 Paul advises Timothy,

*"Take pains with these things; **be {absorbed} in them**, so that your progress may be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; **persevere in these things(ministry, use of spiritual gifts, and good works)**; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."*

Paul also tells Timothy to *"be ready in season {and} out of season;"*

since living the Christian life is 24/7, not just when we feel like it.

But again, fortunately, God has a:

C. PLAN

1. Live and labor only through Christ.

In Galatians 2:20 Paul said,

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the {life} which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

God has not only prepared a work and good works for us to do, but He has also prepared us for the work.

Ephesians 2:10 confirms this truth,

*"For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**"*

2. Do all to bring praise and glory to God.

I love the Psalmists prayer in Psalm 90:17,

"And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And do confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands."

Of course we must repeat 1 Corinthians 10:31,

*"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**"*

1 Peter 2:12 instructs us to,

*"**Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe {them,} glorify God...**"*

3. Do the small things well, where you are.

We are to be faithful, everyday, in the small things and leave the rest to God.

Joseph was a young shepherd, God made him Prime Minister in Egypt.

Moses was tending sheep, God called Him to lead the children of Israel.

Gideon was thrashing grain, God made him a great general.

Ruth was a pagan girl, God made he part of the line of the Christ.

David was a teen shepherd, God anointed him King of Israel.

Esther was a common young woman, God lifted her to Queen of Persia.

Elisha was plowing dirt. God called him to be a great Prophet.

Daniel was a young captive, God made him a Secretary of State.

Amos was a fig picker, God called him to be a Prophet.

Andrew, Peter, James, John were fishermen, God called them Apostles.

Paul was an intellectual enemy of God, God made him an Evangelist.

Lydia was a seller of purple cloth, God turned here home into a church.

LOOKING BACK WE SEE:

Conception comes from our mental processes. This includes our thoughts, attitudes and motives.

Conception leads to Conduct. The fruit of our thoughts, attitudes and actions form our works.

AND FINALLY:

Conduct leads to Character. We become what our ongoing life style makes us, a reflection of our innermost being.