

2 Corinthians 10:5

casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

We are told in today's verses to "*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*" Yet how often are we taking our bad thoughts and holding them captive in our hearts and minds? How do you know if you are? Well, simply listen to how you speak about others, to others, or even to the Lord about others.

Regardless of how that person is, are you speaking demeaning words against him or her, or are they words that build up that person, who is made in the image of God? Didn't Jesus say that, "*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*" Luke 6:45

If you are speaking judgmental, downgrading words against others, based upon what Jesus just said, "*For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*" where is your heart at? What evil, bad, judgmental, degrading thoughts about others are you holding onto, and even hiding in your heart?

Do you in the same breath speak how nice that person is, or how good that thing was that they did, and before you can even inhale to take another breath, you end it with a derogatory remark about that person? We have all done it, but just because we all have, it doesn't make it right or ok. Yet we speak against those who do so, yet do not listen to ourselves doing and saying the same type of thing.

So here is something to think about when you are talking about others.

Does what you have to say about him or her bring glory to God, or are your words trying to bring glory to yourself, trying to form him or her into your image.

Also think of this, would you say it if they were standing right there next to you? If not, then it's gossip and demeaning words that are tearing down God's child.

† **Romans 12:3** *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

† **Romans 15:1-2 (NLT2)** *We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.*