

Psalms 139:7-8

*Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

“What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.”

A slogan we have all heard for Las Vegas, which actually means that you can go to “Sin City” (Las Vegas) and sin all you want and nobody will know, and no one will tell, because everyone else is there doing the same thing ... sinning.

Now before anyone’s feathers get ruffled, I know people do go there and don’t sin. But that’s not what today’s devotional is all about. No, its about the thought of getting away with sin, thinking that nobody will know or see. Maybe it’s not the actual action you are guilty of, but rather the thought instead.

Well, for those who think this way, there is Someone who knows and sees.

† **Psalm 139:1-3** *O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.*

So whoever is feeling real good about today’s devotional so far, raise your hands? Hmm, not seeing any hands raised, not even my own. Why, because we all know we are guilty of these things. Whether it’s doing things when others are not around, or just thinking thoughts that consume us of things we should never do. But we think it’s ok to just think about them as long as you are not performing the very act. But what does the bible say about such thinking?

† **Matt 5:28** *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

I guess that shoots the idea that it’s ok to think those thoughts, as long as you don’t perform the actual act.

So what’s the answer to all of this? Once again we need to turn to the bible.

† **Philippians 4:8-9** *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Before you start to go to a place that you shouldn't be going, or thinking those thoughts that you shouldn't be thinking, do a little preventive action.

† **Phil 4:8b (NLT)** *Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

If your thoughts are on going to Vegas, and thinking how you are going to drink, and party, and gamble, and see a few shows with nudity, and pick up on some stranger and sleep with them etc... Sure, you will end up doing these things.

But on the other hand, if your thoughts are never on Vegas, but rather on the things of God, then you will never go to Vegas to party.

My prayer for many years was to go to Israel someday, and I reminded the Lord (not like He needs reminding) that I would really, really like to go. But let's say I get the money to go, and I take my mind off of Israel, and start focusing on Vegas and the shows and music and gambling and party lifestyle, to the point that my thoughts are consumed with Vegas. You know what, I would end up spending, or should I say more of, wasting my money in Vegas and never make it to Israel.

So what places of sin have you been going too lately?

Maybe on the Internet, clubs or bars on Friday or Saturday nights? What about the type of movies you buy/rent or download, the music you listen to, etc...

Or what sinful thoughts have been consuming you lately?

Are you married or dating someone and your thoughts fantasize about someone else, or maybe it's thoughts of stuff you just want, a car, clothing, shoes, even food that you just have to have or you'll die, or maybe it's thoughts of harm to someone else, or maybe _____?

Today I think the Lord may be saying to some that it's time to stop, because He knows all and sees all and it's breaking His heart, because He knows what it's doing to you, and how it's hurting your family as well.

He may be saying instead to "*Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*"

Will you?

† **Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*