

## **What We Think – Supernatural Thinking or an Enemy of the Cross**

The old man was crucified with Christ (Romans 6). He's gone forever. It is finished. As Christ is, so are we. But the natural man must be crucified daily, and this is what Jesus was referring to when He said, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."* (Matthew 16:24) The natural man cannot receive the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14-16). No matter how smart or gifted or talented he is, he simply does not have the capacity, and the things of God are foolishness to him. The natural man is opposed to the things of God, and even wages war against the spirit and is hostile toward God (Romans 8:7). So unless we crucify the natural man, the new man is limited in his ability to function in our life. We are like the disciples in the midst of the storm, with Jesus asleep in the stern of the boat (Mark 4:37-41) or off in the distance walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). All of our ministry will come out of natural thinking and we will have just another organization, denomination, event, etc. Another man made, dead work. We have become rich and in need of nothing. It's Laodicea all over again; man doing what man can do in the name of Jesus. Its source being the natural thinking of the natural man doing what comes naturally.

But the new man is a supernatural man. New man training is concerned with supernatural thinking, with putting on the mind of Christ and thinking the thoughts of God. Its focus is more on revelation than information. It is crying out in the midst of the storm for Jesus to wake up and save us from the storm that is about to sink our boat. It's about being delivered from natural thinking so that if we need to we can walk on water with Him. Its about becoming less concerned about the world's economy and more concerned with operating in and succeeding in God's economy. It is going to Golgotha, the place of the skull – where the mind resides – and crucifying the natural man and all that he is, so that the new man can be released to function in our life and we can enjoy the benefits thereof. The cross is the only instrument that can deal with the natural man and release the new man. And the power of the cross is in knowing. Knowing what was accomplished on the cross. Knowing what we are now that we are in Christ and Christ is in us. Once the new man is released, we have new thinking and a new vocabulary. The cross crosses out everything we were. When the natural man comes back, we cross him out again. And how do we know when the natural man is back on the scene?

By our thinking. (I have literally gone to bed inspired, only to wake up the next morning thinking, "What was I thinking? I'm so foolish." That natural man had to be crossed out again to let the new life in - for the things of God are foolishness to the natural man. It was time to go to the cross). 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

By the onset of lukewarmness and the self-sufficiency of Laodicea ("I really shouldn't take my faith so seriously" – time to go to the cross). Revelation 3:14-22

By where our heart is ("I really don't want to go to that prayer meeting, give that much to missions, speak to that person about Christ, etc." – time to go to the cross). Matthew 6:19-21, 33; Romans 12:2

By our appetites ("Man, I'm excited about that BBQ we're having for lunch today" – time to go to the cross) Philippians 3:18-19

By the things we glory in ("Go hogs go" – time to go to the cross). Philippians 3:18-19

By the things we set our mind on (“I wonder how the stock market is doing today?” – time to go to the cross) Philippians 3:18-19; Colossians 3:2,3; Romans 8:6

When Peter made his confession of faith in Matthew 16, Jesus said, *“Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”* Peter had revelation knowledge. But just a few verses later, after Jesus had spoken to them concerning His death on the cross, Peter said, *“God forbid it, Lord! May it never happen to You.”* And Jesus replied, *“Get thee behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”* Jesus told Peter he was being an enemy of the cross right after He commended him for his confession of faith. That’s how quickly natural thinking can come on the scene and affect us. Time to go to the cross.

*“For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is [their] appetite, and [whose] glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”*  
(Philippians 3:18-19)

When we allow natural thinking to govern our lives, we are enemies of the cross. When our god is our appetite, we are enemies of the cross. When we glory in our shame, we are enemies of the cross. When we set our minds on earthly things, we are enemies of the cross. God have mercy. That is a powerful truth. “But that’s too extreme”, you say, “too radical, too unrealistic”. “Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.” That is nothing short of the lukewarm spirit of the Laodicean church that doesn’t want to get too hot for God. That is the natural man thinking natural thoughts. Its time to go to the cross.

I must confess that I have a long way to go to live up to this message. But I did not want to water it down, and so I will be the first to cry out, “Lord Jesus, arise, for I often find myself perishing in the storm because of my natural thinking. Take me to the cross that the natural man may be crossed out and that the new man may be released in me. I want to live a supernatural life of faith in you. I don’t want my appetite to be my god. You alone are my God. I don’t want to glory in my shame. You alone are my glory. I want to set my mind on the things above, not the things of the earth. I want to preach the cross, not be its enemy. I want to think the thoughts of God and have the mind of Christ in all things and at all times. So have your way, in me today, and renew my mind forever, Lord Christ. Command that I come to You, that I may walk on water if it pleases You. Deliver me from the limitations of my natural ways of thinking now and forever, bringing me to the place where all things are possible, that I may prove your good and perfect will daily as a new creation in Christ Jesus. Thank you Lord for this powerful word of truth, this revelation of the new man. May my thinking never be the same, in Jesus name, amen.”