

Thinking#2

How to Fall Either In or Out of Love (Control Your Thoughts or They Will Control You)

Let's define *love* in English: Webster's describes it as "affection based on admiration or benevolence"

3 Greek words for *love* (#2 & #3 are found in the New Testament)

1. *eros* - "a strong sexual attraction"
2. *phileo* - "a tender affection" (a sense of deep admiration for a friend)
3. *agape* - "an act of will whereby one earnestly desires the best for the person being loved"

**infatuation* - "a foolish or extravagant love or admiration" (this intense emotion develops quickly and without adequate information or commitment)

VIP Any human being can be attracted to another by their intelligence, charm, good looks, etc. This "spark" of initial interest can easily be fanned into a "blaze" of emotions that our society calls *love*, but in fact, is an *infatuation*. This highly volatile emotion increases or decreases in direct proportion to the quantity and intensity of the thoughts we have for the other. For instance, a wife can *fall out of love* with her husband by consistently entertaining strong "uncharitable" thoughts about him. In the same manner she can *fall in love* with another man by regularly dwelling on intense "charitable" thoughts about him. This is why Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Mount that both murderous and adulterous thoughts can be so damaging to our personal relationships. This same wife can, if she so desires, ask God's assistance and choose to reverse the process and *fall out of love* with the illegitimate individual and *back into love* with her spouse.

**Facts* are the killer viruses of infatuation. (from Everyman's Battle)

What the Bible Teaches about the Importance of Our Thinking

1. Job 3:25 – what I feared has come upon me (NIV)
2. Prov. 23:7 – for as he thinks (reckons in his soul) within himself, so he is (NASB)
3. Rom. 12:2 – be transformed by the renewing of your mind (NIV)
4. 2 Peter 3:1 – to stimulate you to wholesome thinking (NIV)
5. 2 Cor. 10:5 – we take captive every thought (NIV)
6. Phil. 4:8 – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (NIV)

