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Humbly Desire to Understand

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

So many young people today abandon God’s Word when presented with evidence and arguments that seem to contradict it. Often this is because their faith rests on little more than indoctrination, having been taught to accept beliefs uncritically. Thus many are taken by surprise when critical arguments undermine that indoctrination, and they rely on their own minds or the minds of other men to resolve the matter. Rarely is God included in this self-reliant process. The danger with all self-reliance is pride. If we present concerns, ideas, or arguments to God, He will answer us, but only if we approach Him like Daniel.

The Angel of the Lord told Daniel, because “*you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words*” (Dan. 10:12). We see here two things: an honest desire to understand the truth of a matter and humility to understand that we cannot figure it out without God. And although it took a while, God answered him, because “*God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble*” (Js. 4:6b), so “*Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you*” (Js. 4:10).

Solomon tells us that when ideas came to his attention, “*I reflected [set my heart] upon it; I looked, and received instruction*” (Pro. 24:32). This is good—it is the first part—a desire to know the truth, but you’ll notice there is no mention of humility. Perhaps this is why he fell away from God, because although he desired to know the truth, he increasingly re-

lied on his own mind, and not God’s, to discern the truth. Daniel, on the other hand, humbly took all things captive to God.

Man failed to do this in the garden. When the Serpent told Eve things that contradicted God’s Word, she did not take the argument captive to God. After being presented with evidence that contradicted God’s Word, she immediately acted in “*the boastful pride of life*” (1 Jn. 2:16b), trusting her mind’s appraisal of the “evidence” that “proved” God’s Word wasn’t true. She relied on her own mind and not the mind of God.

As Believers, we have no excuse as we are expressly told we have access to the mind of God through the Holy Spirit Who indwells us. He “*will teach you all things*” (Jn. 14:26b), “*for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 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*” (1 Cor. 2:7-14).

God requires you to sacrifice ideas, arguments, and thoughts to His Holy Spirit—to take them captive for Jesus. By taking every thought captive to Christ, God destroys knowledge raised against Him in your mind. He may not resolve it for you immediately, but if you patiently and humbly wait on Him, He will. As Paul says, “*Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything*” (2 Tim. 2:7). Even so, Amen.

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