

# Total Transparency

**“Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.” Nahum 3.5**

One of the classic Gilligan’s Island episodes showed how the castaways discovered a plant that would allow each of them to hear clearly the thoughts of the others. In the beginning, all seemed to be going well.

Just think of it - never having anyone grossed out by your talking with your mouth full. All you would need to do would be to think a thought and immediately your husband would know what to get you for your birthday. As a father, you could add the “thought-power” behind your posturing when junior did not immediately respond to your request that he take out the trash. There would never be a misunderstanding because of a misplaced word.

However, the shipwrecked septet soon learned that total transparency is not always the best method of communication between friends. While I am not suggesting dishonesty, it is often expedient not to tell everything you know either. Furthermore, it is a good policy to think through a matter before opening one’s mouth. Someone expressed it as, “Be sure your mind is in gear before your mouth takes off.”

Uncontrolled lips do more damage than we could possibly calculate. The wise man said, **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” (Proverbs 18.21)** Furthermore, the Apostle warns, **“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell... But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3.5, 6, 8)**

While the tongue can be stalled prior to disclosing some innermost, destructive thought, every thought - even the most intimate and carefully hidden - is open in the eyes of our Father. **“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4.13)**

Sometimes our good motives are mistaken by others - never mistaken by God. Sometimes our actions do not measure up to our lofty and spiritual aspirations - never misconstrued by God. Sometimes our good works are misinterpreted

as self-serving or evil by those we are trying to help - never macabre in the sight of God.

Remember, man looks on the outside, but God looks into the heart - He understands our mind and heart.

While all of those thoughts should bring comfort to the children of God, they should bring conviction to any who are separated from Him. That same Almighty God who knows us from the inside out is the same Almighty God who sees the heart of each lost individual.

The verse above (*Nahum 3.5*) is set toward the end of the Great Tribulation during the battle of Armageddon. All through their lives, those merchants who have not discovered the goodness of God through Christ Jesus have built their businesses upon faulty foundations. Whether those foundations were philanthropic or openly profiteering, they were not built unto the glory of God.

Remember that nothing not built unto the glory of God will last. It is as a structure built upon the sand that falls when the storm comes.

During the battle of Armageddon, the piercing eyes of the Lamb of God - the Lion of the tribe of Judah will see through the facade of goodness and into the selfish, corrupt heart. God will “discover” (“bear openly, denude”) the “skirts” (“private parts”) of all those who have opposed Him. He will make their deceitfulness and divisiveness transparent. He will allow all to see clearly that these merchants have worked evil and that He has worked tirelessly to bring blessing to the world.

Although we may think we would like to know everything there is to know (i.e. the very thoughts of God), we are much better off leaving the infinite in the hands of the One who knows the end from the beginning - the One who knows best what to reveal to us and when it should be revealed.

Never worry - God is still in control. When the time is right, God will bring everyone into account for his or her deeds according to their heart attitude, and you will have perfect knowledge so you may see the righteous goodness of God.

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