

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?



Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.
– Philippians 2:5

The Hawaiian word, *po'o* refers to the head as a part of the body but may also refer to a position of director or leader. In the physical sense, it is the center of our emotions and intellect, though our *na'au* (gut or intestines) may associate as well.

However, for our *kupuna* (elders), the *po'o* was a dwelling place of one's own spirit as well as a temporary home for *aumakua* (ancestors) and other good spirits. In this understanding, the head on down to the shoulders was considered *kapu* (taboo) as a part of the body. Touching and hitting of the *po'o* was not allowed, including to pat the head of a child, wear someone else's *papale* (hat) or sit and rest on a person's bed pillow. This cherished principle also applied to royalty. No commoner was allowed to sit or stand in a higher position (over the head) of a ranking *ali'i*. However, this changed as King Kamehameha III (*Kauikeaouli*) ended the *kapu* by building a raised area of seating directly over the royal pew in Kawaiaha'o Church.

When it comes to having a *po'o* for God, it's important to understand the "planting" of *mana'o* (thought, mind) that He has established through His Word. Our greatest problem isn't what we do, it is the way we think. That means, to transform what we do, we must first transform how we think. The writer of Proverbs wrote, "*As a person thinks within himself, so he is.*" (Prov.23:7). The mind is the key to our entire being, which is why we need to develop a "kingdom mentality". It is the only way to get God's perspective on the issues of our lives. The Lord declares that "*My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.*" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Whether we are talking about finances, family, even social issues, God's thinking on the subject will always be different than the way the world thinks, including our own viewpoint. So, if you commit your knowledge and wisdom to the Holy Spirit and let Him demonstrate His power through you, then God will respond because when you know the mind of Christ, you know the power of the Spirit.

Here's the bottom line: Whoever controls your mind controls the battle. When the enemy sends one of his thoughts your way, ask yourself, "Is this thought from God?" because if it's not in alignment with His Word, you need to get rid of it. Why? Because when you operate in the mind of Christ, Satan can no longer have any influence over you. I've come to encourage somebody today to develop a "war language". Paul put it this way, "*Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*" (2 Cor.10:5). That means, when the enemy shows up with his suggestions and wants to press it through your mind, guard your heart by grabbing hold of it, arresting it, and throwing it in jail. Don't allow it to get a foothold in your life. If you do, it will conceive hopelessness, despair, even cause you to sin. Stay close to God each day, abide in His Word and remain under His authority because when you live with a "mindset" of Christ, you will witness more of God at work in your life. SO, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND TODAY?