

## *Musings on how the LORD thinks upon us...*

by John Joseph

People usually care about what others, particularly significant others, think about them. We, who know the Lord Jesus, know that He is the most significant Other above all others, and in the end, if all our worlds collide, He becomes and is the only significant Other in our lives. Hence, His thoughts of us outweigh the thoughts of all others toward us. The psalmist knew this when he said: *How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.* Psalm 139. 17,18.

Reflect on this for a moment. Have you ever had a dog and he's done something he ought not to have done, like chew up your favourite slippers when you were out, and you come home and discover his delinquency and you show him his handiwork and he knows how unhappy you are with him, and his tail goes down between his legs and he knows guilt and he becomes very forlorn as though it's the end of his world, and eventually he rolls over on his back in submission as much as to say – ok, you are the master, do what you want with me. And when you see that he is sad, that he admits it, and that he “repents”, then you have mercy and tell him you forgive him and tell him to get up and friendship is restored, whereupon he for joy leaps all over you, licking and wagging because the most important thing to him is you and your approval of him.

I know when I've done wrong, after a short time, the most important thing to me is what are the Lord's thoughts. How does He see me? It's not so much a sin thing, He forgives us all our sins in His great mercy through our Lord Jesus. It's something like, well... is He pleased with me still, and will He trust me in the future? Maybe you've had these thoughts too, dear brothers and sisters, or maybe it's just me.

On an occasion with some similarity to that described, when I was a young Christian, and the Lord had chastised me and I was greatly humbled, I said: See, Lord, I like to be humble. Your Word says that if we humble ourselves before You, You will lift us up, but I don't want that. I just want to stay here on the ground – humble. [it's kind of safe!]. Then the LORD said to me, If you don't let me lift you up then you are very proud indeed.

The dog analogy, like all analogies, carries truths, but is incomplete in all the truth. It illustrates, among other things, a power relationship and our absolute need of God. After all, it is He, the maker of the stars, who condescends to lift you up because He loves you... and far more than the stars. The LORD does not treat you as a dog, but as a Son to be lifted up with Him into heavenly places.

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.* Psalm 51.17.

*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to REVIVE the spirit of the humble, and to REVIVE the heart of the contrite ones.* Isaiah 57.15.

In Genesis we have a picture of the LORD Jehovah pronouncing all is good. It is actually a picture of the LORD bowing before His creation. Perhaps only before the Throne will we see that God Almighty is more humble than any part of the creation. He comes down to where we are to take us up to where He is: *I go to prepare a place for you, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.* John 14.2,3.

After He has done a good work in you, don't wallow in your shortcomings, don't stay in the basement which is not any longer your place, but take a ride in His elevator to the top floor to your newly prepared place. That's what He wants.