

COOPERATING WITH GOD – 2
JUNE 20, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

God has a wonderful plan for our lives, but because we are free will agents, we must cooperate with Him if we want His plan accomplished. **PROVERBS 3:1-10** – Was last week's example. Cooperating produces longevity, favor, guidance, health and provision. Not cooperating produces rebuke and judgment. **ACTS 7:51-60 (ESV)** – They resisted the Spirit by persecuting, betraying and murdering the prophets, and refusing to keep the law. **MATTHEW 23:29-39 (ESV)** – Jesus' commentary blames them for not cooperating with God.

LIFE AND HEALTH – PROVERBS 4:20-23

We attend by listening to, thinking about, and believing God's Word. This cooperation produces life and health. Then, we must diligently protect the heart from what is harmful.

THOUGHTS, IMAGINATIONS, STRONGHOLDS - 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

Thoughts produce images that produce strongholds from which Satan can control a life.
Examples:

1. Cain. **GENESIS 4:5-13 (ESV)** – Cain's demise was not God's plan. His refusal to cooperate with God caused his demise. It was up to him to choose to sacrifice God's way. Instead, he allowed anger, jealousy and rejection to control his thoughts and actions.
2. Ananias. **ACTS 5:1-5 (ESV)** – Ananias didn't protect his heart from the influence of Satan. The thought became an imagination that produced an action that dishonored God. Both Ananias and Sapphira were judged and died prematurely. They should've cast down the thought before it became an imagination and action.
 - A. We can grieve the Spirit. **EPHESIANS 4:29-30**
 - B. We can quench the Spirit. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:19** - This means to offend or frustrate.
 - C. We can neglect the spirit. **1 TIMOTHY 4:14**
 - D. We can cooperate with the Spirit.
 - By receiving Him. **JOHN 7:37-39**
 - By stirring Him up. **2 TIMOTHY 1:6**
 - By desiring His gifts. **1 CORINTHIANS 14:1**
 - By acknowledging His presence. **1 CORINTHIANS 6:19**
 - By praying in the Spirit. **1 CORINTHIANS 4:14 (AMPC)**
 - By maintaining a Spirit filled life. **EPHESIANS 5:17-20**
 - By allowing Him to guide us through life. **JOHN 16:13**
 - E. Paul's example. **ACTS 27:9-11** – Paul was aware of the Spirits leading and warned them not to set sail. They exalted reason above the Spirits influence, failed to cooperate with God, and almost lost their lives.