

No. 2 Maintain Loyalty in . . . (Symposium)
 -Thought!

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

LOYALTY INVOLVES OUR ENTIRE PERSON (1 min.)

Our loyalty to Jehovah is motivated by our love for him
This symposium will consider how we can maintain our loyalty to
Jehovah in the following three areas: thought, word, and action

DISLOYALTY BEGINS WITH THOUGHTS (3 min.)

The perfect angel who became Satan allowed improper thoughts to
consume him

He entertained wrong desires and cultivated a disposition toward
untruth (Joh 8:44; Jas 1:14, 15)

He must have been disloyal in thought before telling the first lie
Eve, a perfect human, was disloyal in thought before eating the fruit
(Ge 3:6)

Living in the garden of Eden, she had every reason to be loyal to her
Provider

By contrast, Jesus "gave no consideration" to becoming equal to God
(Php 2:6)

His mental attitude was that of loyalty (Php 2:5)

If intelligent perfect creatures face the test of loyalty in thought,
how much more so must we as imperfect humans!

How can we maintain loyalty in thought?

BRING "EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY" (4 min.)

Having wrong thoughts cross our minds is unavoidable

But we can exercise tight control over what we allow ourselves to
dwell on [Read 2 Corinthians 10:5]

In this verse, the illustration was drawn from the ancient
practice of conquerors' taking captives (*it-1* 413-414)

How can we conquer wrong thoughts?

Pray: Ask yourself: 'Would I hesitate to call for help when facing an
emergency? Then why hesitate to pray?'

Read the Bible: By doing so, we fill our mind with God's thoughts

Dismiss wrong thoughts quickly: If wrong thoughts are permitted to
linger, they will likely grow stronger

Fill your mind with wholesome thoughts: We have no shortage of
upbuilding material to consider (Php 4:8, ftn.)

When we exert ourselves to conquer wrong thoughts, 'the meditation of
our heart' becomes pleasing to Jehovah (Ps 19:14)

LOYAL ONES GUARDED THEIR THOUGHTS (6 min.)

The Bible contains examples of those who were loyal in thought and
those who were not

David: King Saul did little to inspire deeds of loyalty

But it was "unthinkable" for David to lift his hand against God's
anointed king (1Sa 24:6; 26:11)

David was loyal in thought, both to Saul and to Jehovah

Baruch: He was serving as Jeremiah's secretary, but his mind was on
"great things" for himself (Jer 45:1-5; *it-1* 259)

Baruch changed his thinking, and this preserved his life

Asaph: At first, the writer of the 73rd Psalm, either Asaph or one
of his descendants, had difficulty in controlling his thoughts; he
became envious (Ps 73:3; w07 8/15 24-25 ¶9-11)

However, he brought his thoughts into captivity (Ps 73:22-24)

Jehovah protects and rewards a loyal person, even though other humans may not perceive his loyalty
In the following dramatization, note how our Christian sister has prepared herself to remain loyal in thought

VIDEO (3 min.)

YOU CAN MAINTAIN LOYALTY IN THOUGHT (1 min.)

Though imperfect, we can be loyal to God in thought

Jehovah appreciates our loyalty even before it is expressed in word and deed

Brother _____ will now consider the next part of this symposium,
"Maintain Loyalty in . . . Word!"

TO BE COVERED IN 18 MINUTES

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