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**Genre:** *Personal & Practical Guide/ Self-Help (general)/ Religion (Spirituality)/ Inspirational/ Enlightenment/ Empowerment/ Philosophy (General)*

## FOREWORD

Thoughts to Enlighten and Empower the Mind is a compilation of 2001 questions and philosophical thoughts extracted from the authors' seminal work Five Foundations of Human Development (FFHD). These thoughts follow the same chronology of information that helps to promote fulfilling lives through human development from spiritual, moral, social, intellectual and physical perspectives.

The authors proffer that people possess the capacity to rise to a higher state of civilization when they allow their thoughts to permeate their minds with hope and optimism for the future of humanity. Our thoughts and our emotions have a significant influence on our carnal impulses and desires.

Many great religious and philosophical thinkers, past and present have concluded that thoughts transform and our innermost thoughts transcend out outwardly actions or reactions. Where do thoughts come from and why it is essential to think positive thoughts?" Thoughts originate in the mental realm and manifest in the physical realm.

Our thoughts are the totality of our experiences and circumstances, including, religious, racial, cultural, social, and economic. Our deeply contemplated thoughts determine our hopes dreams and aspirations. They motivate us to act or react to circumstances spontaneously or with pre-meditation.

Thoughts are the gatekeepers of the mind. Positive thoughts open gates for positive actions to blossom, conversely, negative thoughts opens gates for negative actions to blossom. Consequently, we have the capacity to direct our actions by our thoughts. The totality of human knowledge teaches that every action begins with a thought, and behind every thought, there is a thinking being, and no physical action, reaction, or creation can precede the thought or the thinker. Likewise, no action or object of creation come into being without a thinker.

It is for this reason that we believe that we (human beings) are capable of creating a better world, and making new history when we revolutionize the way we think. We present many of the critical inquiries of our modern era in this anthology of revolutionary thoughts taken from our main body of work: Five Foundations of Human Development (FFHD) (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Intellectual, and Physical), and the companion text, Five Preeminent Foundations.

These selected verses challenge conventional thinking regarding issues that have a significant impact on human existence. Some of these problems include, but are not limited to Christianity, religion, hope, charity, peace, humility, leadership, authority, race, self-esteem, intelligence, education, militarism, capitalism, knowledge, capability, and health.

We strive to present a revolutionary response to problems and solution perspectives to some of the challenges of our modern era. Though our message relies extensively on references to Biblical Scripture, it is not literature exclusively for Christians. Our discourse recognizes the

message of other world religions, researchers, and revolutionaries regarding their approach to solutions to the myriad of problems that confront us in the global village. We believe that it is only through a new and revolutionary way of thinking about human life, liberty, and justice we can revolutionize our mind, our sphere of influence and our world.

**Genre:** *Personal & Practical Guide/ Self-Help (general)/ Religion (Spirituality)/ Inspirational/ Enlightenment/ Empowerment/ Philosophy (General)*

## PREFACE

Many great religious and philosophical thinkers, past and present have concluded that thoughts transform, and our innermost thoughts transcend out outwardly actions or reactions. Where do thoughts come from and why it is essential to think positive thoughts?" Thoughts are birthed in the mental realm and manifest in the physical realm. Our thoughts are the total of our experiences and circumstances, including, religious, racial, cultural, social, and economic. Our deeply contemplated thoughts determine our hopes dreams and aspirations.

They motivate us to act or react to circumstances spontaneously or with pre-meditation. Thoughts are the gatekeepers of the mind. Positive thoughts open gates for positive actions to blossom, conversely, negative thoughts opens gates for negative actions to blossom. Consequently, we have the capacity to direct our actions by our thoughts.

The total of human knowledge teach that every action begins with a thought, and behind every thought, there is a thinking being, and no physical action, reaction, or creation can precede the thought or the thinker. Neither, can an action or object of creation come into being without a thinker?

It is for this reason that we believe that we (human beings) are capable of creating a better world, and making new history when we revolutionize the way we think. We present many of the critical enquiries of our modern era in this anthology of revolutionary thoughts taken from our main body of work: *Five Foundations of Human Development* (FFHD) (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Intellectual, and Physical), and the companion text, *Five Preeminent Foundations*.

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## SYNOPSIS

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Colossians 3:15–17 (NIV)

887) What is leadership? What qualities make a great leader? A leader is someone who knows that servant-hood and humility are the core strengths of leadership.

888) A servant leader knows that when he or she makes available equitable opportunities for growth, his or her followers benefit from enhanced mental and productive capacities.

889) There is a growing body of individuals in every occupation expressing some level of discontent with leadership in our modern era. Many search for leadership worth following.

890) They search for a new leadership that is authentic, and can engender, sustain, and nurture societies and nations, but only he or she who serves is qualified to lead.

891) What are the moral considerations of a leader? A leader is acutely aware that fear cannot effectively stimulate cooperation, ambition, initiative, or creativity in others.

892) A leader recognizes that the existence and moral growth of individuals, societies, and nations depend upon the moral imperatives of leadership. (Reference: *Five Foundations of Human Development* (FFHD) —Figure 18: Three Attributes of Human Leadership, —Figure 19: Three Attributes of Human Leadership, and —Figure 20: Three Key Recognized Human Limitations).

893) When the exercise of leadership conforms to God's plan for humanity, He enables both the leader and the nation.

894) In a general sense, one can view leadership from two distinct perspectives: (1) leadership, which derives its authority from human beings; and (2) leadership, which derives its authority from God.

895) Regardless of the origin of leadership and its inherent authority, leadership should never be the imposition of one's will upon others.

896) God, who is the supreme authority for humanity, does not impose His will on humanity.

897) Western nations have built their political structures upon the principles of New Testament (NT) Christian thought. Nevertheless, Western nations have, within their history, particular tendencies to oppose the will of God.

898) Writers of the great constitutions and national anthems of Western democratic nations must have known, either by spiritual discernment, intuition, or by intellectual insights that a nation's guidance by a superior authority is crucial to leadership and the nation's survival.

- 899) There is a natural tendency for us to assume that what qualifies the individual as a leader is his or her position of power, election to an office, or personal attributes – erudition, charisma, or courage.
- 900) One naturally assumes that being the head of an organization or institution equates to leadership.
- 901) Is leadership inherent in positions of authority? Not necessarily. Leadership begins with spiritual discernment, spiritual development, and the recognition of human limitations.
- 902) The Apostle Paul teaches us that God's guidance ought to be at the heart and center of leadership, but this does not occur naturally. In order to manage God's creation, leaders must seek His guidance.
- 903) The evidence of this need underpins Western nations' constitutions, and national anthems, which recognize freedom, justice, and preservation and protection as the inalienable rights of every human being.
- 904) True leadership, is the exercise of moral duty without regard to color, race, culture, language, religion, nationality, or social or economic class. This leadership perspective can only come from a heart informed by God.
- 905) Henry Grady Weaver (1889–1949): “The Romans were never able to solve the problem of true constitutional government. But their partial recognition of human rights under law brought the problem into the open and was not without value in leading to its solution some 1,400 years later.”
- 906) Henry Grady Weaver (1889–1949): “Try to rewrite the Declaration of Independence without reference to the Christ axioms. You'll find it can't be done.”
- 907) Despite the noble goals of world nations, the reality of human leadership often falls short of our intentions.
- 908) Leadership may bear conscious or subconscious prejudice against others with whom we have no common bond or heritage, and this has been an integral part of our recorded history for six thousand years.
- 909) Leadership is a way of life, which brings increasing opportunities to transform ourselves as we give unwavering service to those whom we lead.
- 910) Positions of authority do play a part in leadership, but only from the point of view of appointment, because the essentials of leadership are its functions.

*(Excerpt, taken from THOUGHTS TO ENLIGHTEN AND EMPOWER THE MIND. FOUNDATION 2: MORAL FOUNDATION. 2.1 LEADERSHIP (GUIDANCE), PP. 101-103.  
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## EPILOGUE

We have chronicled *Thoughts to Enlighten and Empower the Mind* to present an alternate perspective from which to engage in discussions of human development in our modern era. In this innovative “*Reading by versus*” format of our main text *Five Foundations of Human Development* (FFHD), we present you with our deep concern for the plight of humanity in our modern age, and the stark evidence of greater challenges on the horizon.

We put forward these 2001 questions and philosophical thoughts—a Biblical potion for the chronic ills assailing modern man. Though we may never meet in person, we can mutually agree in our spirits that there is a need for a revolution of our thoughts.

We recognize the challenges that many throughout the world face in their daily struggle for fulfilled living. The book resonates with a recurring message that history repeats itself. The threats of war, hunger, poverty, and natural and humanly inspired disasters are present, and underpin our mortal fears.

Our past is full of practical demonstrations of the futility of self-reliance to the exclusion of God. Every nation, every society in history, has known that its knowledge was incomplete, as we know today; despite the advancements of human knowledge, science and technology, and great material wealth built up over the centuries.

The scientist, the doctor, the nurse, the lawyer, the engineer, the professor, the politician, the philosopher, and the ordinary person, feel a dual sense of hopefulness and hopelessness. Whether the model is a rural farming village or the global village, the foundation of hope is crumbling. You have discovered that we wrote this book to offer a view of the world through a different set of lenses; not merely to pan the horizon with fear of emerging crisis informed by our observations and the mass media, but with hope for a better world through a revolution of our thoughts.

We urge you now, not to dismiss the power of these 2001 questions and philosophical thoughts as “mere idealism.” The unquenchable light of idealism lives within and underpins our hope for survival in the twenty-first century and the new millennium. You must now engage in the global struggle to create a better world. This struggle requires a new *blueprint of hope* for our survival.

It begins with an understanding that only God knows all, and only through God can we hope to achieve our full potential for enlightenment and empowerment of the mind. It begins with the transformation and renewing of our mind, as we bring all negative thoughts under subjection, and let positive thoughts imbue our mind. Let your journey begin with these 2001 questions and philosophical thoughts herein.