

Life-Changing Words

Writer Dan Miller, in his book *Wisdom Meets Passion*, tells of growing up in a conservative, rural family in Ohio. With no radio or TV in the house, Miller found his information in books. Consequently, he became an avid reader.

When he was about 12 years old, however, something happened that would change his life dramatically. He was introduced to a phonograph recording (some of you will remember those) by a noted motivational speaker of the time named Earl Nightingale. The record was titled *The Strangest Secret*. On the recording, Miller heard the gravelly-voiced man say that he could be everything he wanted to be. All he would have to do is change his thinking.



In his recorded talk, Nightingale introduced to Miller six words that he said could dramatically change a person's life. The words were these: "We become what we think about."

Reflect on those words for a moment: "We become what we think about." Miller recognized if that were true, the possibilities of what he could do with his life were limitless. Nightingale's secret, of course, was based on a familiar biblical principle, "For as (a person) thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). Miller was also influenced by a famous preacher of that day, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, and his *Power of Positive Thinking*.

This approach to life was radically different than the more rigid way of thinking in which Dan Miller had been raised. That meant he could become more than he had ever dreamed of if he just thought the right things. He knew such ideas would not be welcome in his house, so he hid Earl Nightingale's record under his mattress, bringing it out night after night to hear again the promises of a better life.

He said that while his friends were hiding girlie magazines under their beds, he was hiding Earl Nightingale's message of hope and opportunity. It had captured his imagination as it has captured the imagination of hundreds of thousands of other persons over the years.

Have you ever had something to capture your imagination? Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." What is imagination? It's a mental picture of something, usually something desirable, that could become a reality if we do our part.

Sometimes it comes to us as a dream or a vision. Often, this dream or vision is the first step toward great accomplishment.

Jesus said it: *All things are possible for one who believes* (Mark 9:23 ESV).