**WINNING THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND**

**What’s Wrong with Our Minds**

Sunday, April 30, 2023

**WE Slide 1 How to WIN THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND- Desire to respond one way but something’s telling you not to. Slide 2** People will talk about having an angel/demon on their shoulders, not sure who to listen to. **I can tell you there’s no angel/demon on your shoulders, that battle is completely you- you against yourself! What is wrong with our minds? Slide 3** That’s what we want to talk about today and then cover some specific issues over the next several weeks- ­Fear/future, worry/kids’ future, negative self-talk/depression, and addictions.

**I LOVE THIS KIND OF SERIES, there’s so much hope for those who struggle with these issues.** God created life, knows how it is best lived, He’s infinitely powerful, and has given us the steps to take to experience His victory in the battle for our minds. **For many, even though God’s principles have given people victory since creation, they’ll choose to reject what He says and continue to think that our world/culture has the answers.** I pray that you don’t. **But for those willing to take a step of faith and do what our Creator says to do, we’re going to experience the victory over our minds that will bring freedom to our lives.** Be sure you’re here each week and invite those in your life who are struggling.

**If we’re going to win the battle for our mind there’s some things we have to nail down and believe.** Here’s 4 OVERARCHING POINTS to keep in mind.

**Slide 4-5 4 BIG POINTS**

1. God’s the Creator- only He knows the best way to battle through/win our mental/emotional struggles.
2. God created us for His glory- so that we’ll turn to Him, trust Him, give Him the credit for His victory, and make Him known to others through our struggles.
3. God’s using our mental/emotional struggle to either draw non-believers to Him for salvation or to make believers more like Jesus.
4. It may bring God greater glory, draw you closer to Him and make you more effective in showing who He is to others as you to turn to Him for the strength to fight through your struggle rather than experience a quick victory.

**The Apostle Paul knew all about this.** God chose to not remove the “thorn in his flesh”, the unnamed battle that Paul was having. **God kept it in Paul’s life because it kept Paul coming to Him for help rather than thinking he could do the ministry in his own power.** This BATTLE FOR OUR MINDS is important because WHAT WE THINK DETERMINES HOW WE LIVE. **Slide 6**

**GOD**

1. **WHAT I THINK DETERMINES THE COURSE OF MY LIFE**
2. **What We Think Informs Our Choices**
3. **Our Lives Are the Sum of Our Choices**
4. **Practice makes perfect-** continually thinking a certain way trains you to think more and more that way; we get good/become experts at thinking that way either for good/bad.
5. Here’s how the Apostle Paul summarized it in **READ Slide 7-8** Romans 8:6
6. Wrong thinking breeds destructive choices; right thinking breeds constructive choices.

**So, if we want to CHANGE how we live we have to CHANGE how we think/what we choose to dwell on, how we view our life/circumstances/situations we face. You might be thinking, “What’s wrong with my mind?** I get good grades, have a good job, raising a family.”Again, we go back to God who created us for the answer. **Let’s first look how God describes the mind of an unbeliever- a person who hasn’t placed their faith in Christ for their salvation/no relationship with God and then a believer.** I’m not going to read each Bible verse, you can do that at home- podcast/notes, take a picture. **Slide 9 The mind of an unbeliever…**

1. **WHAT’S WRONG WITH OUR MIND**
2. **The Mind of a Non-Believer**
3. Spiritually darkened, Ephesians 4:17-24
4. Depraved/morally corrupt, ruined, 1 Timothy 6:5
5. Defiled/morally impure, Titus 1:15
6. Hostile to God, Colossians 1:21
7. Veiled/lack understanding, 2 Corinthians 3:14
8. Blinded by Satan, 2 Corinthians 4:3

**Why does God describe our minds like this? Slide 10 Because without placing our faith in Christ and having our sins forgiven/removed, we are spiritually dead.** Look how Paul describes a person prior to them placing their faith in Christ, Ephesians 2:1-3 **READ Slide 11-14**

1. Spiritually dead, Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 2:13-14
2. God’s telling us that without Him in our lives we are going to think incorrectly, we’re going to think like Satan thinks- pridefully, selfishly, and thinking we’re the god of our life.
3. **Why do you think our nation is in the condition it’s in?** Take any social issue…
4. There’s no higher authority than self- it’s self-love, self-esteem gone wild.
5. People are doing whatever they want, they’re the god of their lives, no matter how much it hurts them or others around them.
6. No one can tell them they’re wrong, what they think is what is true.
7. That thinking destroys our earthly life/relationships, and eternal life if we don’t take God’s offer of forgiveness/salvation.

**But here’s the incredible thing God did so that you don’t have to continue to think/live in a way that destroys you/your relationships, more importantly, won’t experience an eternity in hell. READ Ephesians 2:4-9 Slide 15-19** When God saves us/gives us spiritual life now He can go to work on our minds, changing how we think and by changing how we think He changes how we live. **I want to share several verses on how God describes the mind of the believer.** The 1st is 1 Corinthians 2:16. **READ Slide 20-21**

1. **God Describes the Mind of a Believer**
2. We’ve been given the mind of Christ, 1 Corinthians 2:16
3. Nobody teaches God/Jesus anything, nor are they to tell Him how life is to be lived- though sadly we do this every time we disobey Him.
4. Now that we’re able to think like Him He can teach us which He does through time in the Bible.

**What is it that He’s going to teach us? Slide 22 All about the new life we are to live.** Look what God tell us in Romans 6. **READ Slide 23-26 Now there’s a new life to live, a DIFFERENT/BETTER way to live.**

1. Understands the new life we’ve been given, Romans 6:4-5, 10-11
2. The life Jesus lived He lived for God and His purposes.
3. We no longer think how we used to think, or make the decisions we used to make.
4. We think like Jesus thinks and make decisions as He directs.

**And this is where the BATTLE is for us who are believers.** We’ve been given spiritual life, to live this life for God, but we are still in our sinful bodies that want to think and live the way we used to live. **Even the Apostle Paul knew this struggle, look at what he writes in Romans 7:21-25.** **READ Slide 27-30**

1. In a battle to think/respond like Jesus, Romans 7:21–25
2. We have spiritual life but we’re still in our sinful bodies we want the authority in decision making.
3. We think we know better than God, or we’re just plain ignorant because of our lack of time in the Bible, and tend to respond how we’ve trained ourselves to think.
4. Peter showed this battle in Matt. 16:22–23- Jesus said He’d die on the cross. **READ Slide 31-33**
5. God had a plan for how He was going to save mankind!
6. Peter thought it was strange, wrong, not the best way forward so he made the choice to rebuke, try to instruct Jesus, which Jesus said was thinking like Satan.
7. When we choose our way over God’s we’re imitating Satan; our thinking is sinful, always.
8. We need to set our minds on God’s interests, thinking how God wants us to think and then our choices will be in line with God’s interests.

**So how do we win the battle for our minds? We’ll go to 2 passages for the answer.** The 1st is Romans 12:1, 2. **READ Slide 34-37**

1. Needing to be remodeled, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
2. “conformed”- susxematizo; modeled after, think the way culture thinks, our old way
3. “renewed”- anakainosis; passive tense, God remodels, takes out the old/in with the new- this is a work of God the Holy Spirit and God’s Word- the Bible as we read/study

**As God the Holy Spirit changes how we think and we respond how He says, our lives are transformed.**

1. “transformed”- metamorphoo; to be changed in the inner self, character, thinking

**But we have to do our part and take a step of faith to respond His way and not ours.** Paul explains that in Ephesians 4. **READ Slide 38-42**

1. **Our part is our steps of faith/our obedience- seeing the difference between how we used to respond- old self- and how God wants us to respond- new self- and asking God to empower us to respond how He says no matter how much we tell ourselves not to.**

**THAT’S THE BATTLE WE FACE- Slide 43 God’s way or another way- mine/culture’s? Come back next week as we get into some specific battles we face.** But for some of you you’re not in the battle yet. **You know something’s not right but you’re not sure what.** That’s because you haven’t yet given your life to Christ. **As the BAND comes up let’s look at some TAKEAWAYS- our response to what we’ve heard.**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Slide 44 UNBELIEVER- receive the spiritual life God’s offering you**

* Admit you’ve sinned against Him/separated from Him.
* Believe Jesus took your eternal judgment on the cross.
* Confess that you believe that to God.
* Tell someone or fill out a Connect Card and let us know.

1. **Slide 45 BELIEVER- live the spiritual life God’s given you.**

* God the Holy Spirit is there to teach/empower you.
* God’s Word, the Bible, was given to teach you.
* You have the responsibility to learn, take steps of faith.
* Need help? Fill out a Connect Card and let us know.

**Let’s stand and close our time of worship as the BAND leads us.**

**PODCAST: Is there something wrong with my mind? See what God says about that in the Bible.** 1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 6:4-5, 10; Romans 7:21-25; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:17-24