THE BATTLE OF THE MIND

(No More Stinking Thinking)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Jesus said, “as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37). In other words, the conditions of the world before the coming of Jesus will be like the conditions of the world before the flood:¹

- Exploding population (Genesis 6:1)
- Sexual perversion (Genesis 6:2)
- Demonic activity (Genesis 6:2)
- Constant evil in the heart of man (Genesis 6:5)
- Widespread corruption and violence (Genesis 6:11)²

We live in a world that has gone wild. And I want to tell you exactly where the problem is. The problem is in the minds of people. The problem is in the thought life of the people of this world. Genesis chapter 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

God destroyed an entire world because the imagination of their thoughts and hearts was only evil continually.

Most of our battles as Christians is either won or lost in the mind. What we think is vital to our success as Christians.

Proverbs 23:7 say's “As he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

Another translation puts it this way, “As a man thinks in his heart, so does he become.

Our thoughts influence our attitudes, our attitudes affect our actions and our actions become habits and our habits become a lifestyle. That is why the Devil wants control of our minds. He knows that if he controls our minds, He can defeat us and bring us into bondage. Have you ever had any of these thoughts? (I cannot live the Christian life. I do not feel saved therefore I must not be saved. I cannot live in victory. I cannot overcome my bad habits. The people in that church do not love me or care about me. The list could go on)

Every time someone in my family goes to the doctor, there is someone in the family that thinks the worst. There are some people in the church that are living their lives in defeat because that is the way they think.

Before I get into this message to far let me point out some things from this passage of scripture.

- There is a war that is going on. Paul says, “Though we walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh”. This warfare is spiritual.

- We are given weapons in which to fight this war.

1. Our weapons are not carnal (They are not physical).

2. Our weapons are mighty (They are powerful).
3. Our weapons are useful (They serve a purpose).

Paul tells us that this war is fought in the mind. Look at verse 5. (Read from Bible)

With that in mind let me show you from the word of God how to win the Battle of The Mind and Gain Control Of Your Thoughts. Let me show you from God's word what kind of mind a person must have to Win the Battle Of The Mind.

1) **We Must Have Saved Mind (2 Cor. 4:3-4)**

Our mind before salvation was darkened and desensitizd or beyond feeling because of our sinful nature.

*Ephesians 4:17-19* 17This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The Devil had all of us blinded to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. One day the Lord Jesus Reached down and removed the blinders from our eyes and allowed us to see the Light of the gospel of God's saving grace. By the Grace of God, you and I were saved and given a new mind set. However, that mind set must be developed through prayer, bible study and regular church attendance.
1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

When God saved us, we were called out of the darkness of sin into the glorious light of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are no longer living in darkness for now we are the children of light.

**A saved mind is a mind that has been Transformed and Renewed by the power of the Holy Ghost:**

Let us look at two passages of scriptures that reveal this truth to us.

**Romans 12:1-2**  I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Ephesians 4:22-27** 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.

**When You and I got saved God gave us the mind of Christ therefore we now possess the mind of Christ:**

1 Cor.2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.
We are to be controlled by the mind and thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, it is up to us to allow the mind of Christ to control us. **Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2) **We must be Single Minded (2 Cor. 11:3)**

3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The word simplicity means single-minded devotion or to be sincere. There are many that call themselves Christian who are not single minded or sincere in their relationship with God.

We have been corrupted from a single-minded devotion to Christ and are no longer sincere to Him.

**Acts 5:3 (NCV)** 3 Peter said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your thoughts to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep for yourself part of the money you received for the land?

It amazes me how many Christian allow Satan to rule their thought life with negative and destructive thoughts. It is amazing how many Christians think the worst about someone or something without knowing the facts or the truth.

Jesus said, they draw nigh unto me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

That is what we call lip service. People talk the talk but fail to walk the walk.

**Matthew 15:8** This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.
Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Paul was a single-minded man devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3: 13Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

3) We Must Have A Sanctified Mind (2 Cor. 10:4-5)

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We must use the weapons that God has given us to pull down the strongholds that are in our minds. What is a stronghold? A stronghold is a thought or pattern of thoughts that keeps you from being everything God wants you to be or hinders the work of God in your life.

A stronghold is a fortified dwelling place. A strong hold can be a source of protection for us from the devil, Psalm 18:2 say's The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer:

On the other hand, the stronghold can be a safe dwelling place for the devil to operate from. When Paul speaks of pulling down strongholds, he is telling us to use the weapons that God has given us to destroy Satan's dwelling place in our minds that allows him to safely operate in our lives. If we pull down these strongholds Satan has no place from which he can operate.
We have negative thoughts, lustful thoughts, greedy thoughts, and sinful thoughts. Someone may object by saying I cannot stop those negative and destructive thoughts from entering my mind. No, you cannot. You cannot stop a bird from flying over your head either, but you don't have to let him land and build a nest in your hair. We take every thought captive and bring it into obedience and submission of the Lord Jesus Christ before it finds a resting place.

We must destroy these strongholds in our minds. As Christians we are to have the mind of Christ. We are to think God's thoughts or Godly thoughts.

Our weapons are: God's Word, The Blood of Jesus, The Word Of our Testimony, and Prayer just to name a few.

4) **We Must Have A Surrendered Minded**

Surrender - To yield to the power, control, or possession of another; to give up completely; to give (oneself) up into the power of another; to give (oneself) over to someone or something.

(2 Cor. 10:5) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Ananias surrendered his mind to Satan and look at what it got him, it got him dead along with his wife.

We must surrender our minds to The Lord Jesus Christ and allow Him to control what goes on in our minds.

5) **Steps To Winning The Battle of The Mind:**

A. **Admit Your Dependency on God:**
James 4:10  NLT  
When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor.

B. Submit to the Authority and Will of God:

James 4:7  
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

C. Commit Your Works to God:

Proverbs 16:3  
Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Conclusion:

If we are going to win the battle of the mind, then we must have a converted mind. We also must realize that a converted mind can be corrupted from it's single-minded devotion to Christ. A corrupted mind can be conquered and controlled if we will use our God given weapons, to destroy the thought patterns that are contrary to God's word and His will for our lives. Then surrender the control of our minds to him.

Are you saved this morning? Do you have un-confessed sins in your life? Are you backslidden? Have you drifted away from your relationship with God? Have you grown cold to the things of God? If so I would like to ask you, if you would come and let me pray with you and for you this morning.