

**“STEWARDED YOUR THOUGHTS” (Part 2)**

Sunday, November 6, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on *service* and *responsibility*—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

**1 Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God.

† **Stewarding your Thoughts**

Defeated Christian living comes from failing to *steward your thoughts*. This *stewardship* is an **intentional** process. It takes effort and repetition. It takes replacement of the old sinful thoughts with new Godly thoughts.

*Keep in mind:* Sinful thinking leads to sinful living. While Godly thinking leads to Godly living. In order to live RIGHT we must INTENTIONALLY think RIGHT.

**I. Understanding the WAY DOWN—Thoughts that lead to DEFEAT**

We need to understand what thoughts lead to *defeat* in order to make the necessary changes that lead to *victory*. **The way down is the way of defeat.** It is the way that we are prone to go. The way that leads away from God.

In the life of the Christian, a Jericho is a symbol of a *stronghold of sin* that hinders our walk with Christ. This stronghold of sin is encouraged and solidified by the way that we **think**.

**What you think about determines your attitude and actions.** The longer you think a certain way, the harder it is to think differently.

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**II. Understanding the WAY \_\_\_\_\_—Thoughts that lead to \_\_\_\_\_**

In order for each of us to confront these Jerichos of thought we must learn to fight this battle God’s way. This is the *way up*—the way that leads to victory. God desires that we rest in His **stabilizing truths** in order to have victory in our lives. We are assured victory when we live by faith, resting in God’s truth.

**A. RENEW your mind with God's Stabilizing Truths (Romans 12:2)**

**Romans 12:2** 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**.

As Christians, we must be an **instrument of change** seeing our own need to ever be **transformed** more into the **image of Christ**. As we change and reflect Christ, we can then be an instrument of change helping others to be transformed into the image of Christ.

**1. The thinking of this WORLD (v. 2a)**

This "*world*" speaks of the system of beliefs and values at any current time in the world which the devil uses to blind the hearts of the unbeliever. This world-system is an **anti-God culture** that **opposes** God's glory.

**2. The thinking of this \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2b)**

**a. It is transformed thinking**

It is a process of **daily surrender**. It is a daily process of change. **Being transformed is to be completely changed into something different than what you are.**

**b. It is \_\_\_\_\_ thinking**

This word "*renewing*" speaks of a \_\_\_\_\_, in the sense of a reversal from the old mind to a new mind.

The way of RENEWING is the way of REPLACING. Until you **intentionally** confront your Jericho God's way, it will remain a stronghold of sin and you will NOT enjoy victory.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the Word of **Christ** dwell in you richly in all wisdom...

Q: How is the old man "*renewed*?" (Colossians 3:10)

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The process of renewing your mind takes time and effort. **There is a cost involved**. The idea of this word "renew" is that of a **renovation**. The mind is renewed by spending time in God's Word. Moses spent 40 days and nights with God it was obvious (Exodus 34:29).

Q: Are you willing to pay the price? **Are you willing to take away time from something else in order to worship God with it?**

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**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the **Lord**, are changed [*metamorphosis*] into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the **Spirit** of the **Lord**.

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The renewal process is the same process found in Eph. 4:22-24. We must seek to “*put off*” the old man of sin, “*renew*” our minds with the truth of God and His Word and “*put on*” Christ by seeking to live out the characteristics of Christ. This is Biblical change—this is the attitude of transformation.

**B. RENEW your Living with God’s Stabilizing Truths (Romans 12:2)**

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**C. REMEMBER what God has commanded in His Word (2 Cor. 10:5)**

These “*imaginings*” are thoughts that are based upon human reasoning from our own experience.

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We need to rebuild our thinking on **what God says is true** not relying upon **what we feel is true**.

“*bringing into captivity every thought*” – the idea here is the total destruction of the fortresses of human wisdom. In turn we submit our minds to Christ in obedience. We forgo our human wisdom for the wisdom of God.

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**D. REMEMBER what God has done—Memorial Stones (Joshua 4:1-7)**

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**E. REMEMBER what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 11:28)**

Many struggle with a defeated thought process simply because they have never come to Christ. They have never trust Him alone for their salvation.

Q: Have you trusted Christ alone for your salvation?

F. REMEMBER what Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 11:29)

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

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Q: What consumes your thought process?

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G. REMEMBER what God has \_\_\_\_\_ in His Word (Isaiah 26:3-4)

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Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto **God**. **7** And the peace of **God**, which passeth [*transcends*] all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through **Christ Jesus**.

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Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. **9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the **God** of peace shall be with you.

We must rebuild our thinking process—think properly going forward! We must learn how to think on right things.

“*think on these things*” – This is a **deliberate** action—learn how to think on the right things. It requires concentration, focus, and meditation. We must shape our minds “things above” replacing the negative, anxious thoughts that are controlling our mind.

**What is my next step?**

Q: What are you going to do with the way that you are thinking?

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