

“STEWARDING YOUR THOUGHTS” (Part 3)

Sunday, November 13, 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.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he:...

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

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

What you think about determines your attitude and actions. The longer you think a certain way, the harder it is to think differently. These are thoughts of anxiety and fear; discouragement and despair; anger and frustration; bitterness and hatred; guilt and shame.

These are Jerichos of thought and sin that lay before us in our Christian life, if not dealt with will keep us from having victory in our spiritual lives.

II. Understanding the WAY UP—Thoughts that lead to VICTORY

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)

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)

2. The thinking of this Word (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 renewed thinking

The way of RENEWING is the way of REPLACING. This **renewal** process is a **replacement** process. The old mind needs to be replaced with a new mind—the old thoughts must be replaced with new thoughts.

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

C. REMEMBER what God has _____ in His Word

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth [*to raise up*] itself against the knowledge of **God**, and bringing into captivity [*bring under subjection*] every thought to the obedience of **Christ**;

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

“...and every high thing that exalteth itself...” – These *fortresses* of thought are raised in opposition to God, Himself.

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

“...against the knowledge of God,...” – These fortresses of thought are raised **against** God in **unbelief**—not taking God to be true and faithful to His Word.

“...and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” – There is a great need to **imprison** these *fighters* against Biblical thought—temptations to return to old habits and thought processes. These are the temptations to rebuild the former fortresses of thought—these Jerichos.

“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.

D. REMEMBER what God has _____ (Joshua 4)

Read Joshua 4:1-7—memorial stones

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. They have yet found the rest and victory that only Jesus can give.

Q: Have you come to the place where you have trusted Christ alone for you salvation?

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

Here we see the mind of Christ. How did He think?

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Set your mind to think upon the heavenly truths—or stabilizing truths.

G. REMEMBER what God has _____ in His Word

Isaiah 26:3-4 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on Thee*: because he trusteth in **Thee**. **4** Trust ye in the **LORD** for ever: for in the **LORD JEHOVAH** is everlasting strength:

Cf. Philippians 4:6-9

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

“*think on these things*” – thinking is a **deliberate** action—learn how to think on the right things. It requires **concentration, focus, and meditation**.

We need to **examine** our thinking to see if it is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. When we our thoughts fail to line up with these Biblical truths we need to take deliberate action by replacing these negative thought with Biblical, Christ-honoring thoughts.

What is my next step?

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

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