

Winning the Battle Of the Mind Part 3

I can't think of no other subject or teaching that is needed in the body of Christ more than this subject of our thought life, of guarding our thought life, guarding our minds? See God's word, the Bible says, whatever captures your attention is going to capture you. Proverbs 4:23 *"Be careful how you think. Your life is shaped by your thoughts."* The spiritual battle for temptation is fought in your mind and I encourage you to reach out to those around and invite people to come and consider the claims of Christ.

You must understand this statement. The only entrance the enemy has into your personality, into your emotions, into your thoughts is through your mind. It all goes through your mind. And when you grasp this, when you really understand this and comprehend this, you'll realize that all you have to really do is close one door basically to the

enemy, a very important doorway though, the doorway through your mind; a very important gateway.

Everything starts with a thought: obedience or disobedience, divorce, adultery, envy, jealousy. It all comes through your mind to be checked out. Your mind is the leader; your mind is the forerunner of all of your actions and all of your thoughts. You cannot live a positive life with a negative mind. And many times the problems that we face are created from wrong thinking patterns that actually produce the problems.

Well the first thing we need to understand is that we are in warfare. **We are in a battle.** Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) makes it real clear. It says that, *"For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and*

against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Listen friends, you and I need to know we are in a battle. The Bible makes it very clear that there is a battle, a warfare going on. But listen, it says it's not a physical warfare, it's not tangible. In other words this battle we can't see it, we can't touch it.

Well if you and I are in a battle, the first thing I want to know is, Who Is My Enemy. I've got to know who I'm fighting against. And the Bible makes it clear in Ezekiel 28, It talks about that Satan was in heaven at one time and he was perfect in beauty and full of wisdom. And the Bible says that he began to exalt himself and to get proud and to get real haughty. And he tried to equal himself with God. That He was a god. He tried to get equal with God and God would have none of that. And the Bible states how God

cast Satan out of heaven and it says that now "*Satan is the god of this world*" II Corinthian 4:4.

The enemy is Satan and his demon forces.

And we need to realize that our mind is the enemies target. That is the bulls-eye and uses lies and deception as his weapons. See your mind is a priceless gift that God has given each of us. God could have made us like robots. He could have made us like drones where we just went around with no will of our own. But God didn't do that. He didn't choose to do that. He gave us all the power to make our own choices. He gave us all a will of our own. He gave us a mind so that we could be creatures of choice.

And God says we ought to guard our mind and take care of our mind. Now I know when I was growing up many people wonder if some of you had a mind because of some

of the decisions we made... but we do have a mind and we have control over it.

The Bible says that you are wonderfully and precisely made. Your human mind is an incredible thing that we shouldn't just take for granted. I've never seen a robot or a computer program where it could love God or worship God or fall in love or have emotions and a will. No, God made us uniquely and we should take care of it and guard this precious gift that He gave us.

In God's word, the bible, He says "*If you will keep your mind stayed on Me, I will keep you in perfect peace.*" Isaiah 26:3. That's a real simple scripture isn't it? God says I will keep you in perfect peace if you keep your mind stayed on Me, A very simple scripture, yet so profound.

You know let's talk about peace for a minute. Everybody in the world is looking for peace. People are

trying to buy peace with their money. Some people are trying to get peace from fame and fortune. Some people are trying to find peace by change relationships, getting rid of their wife or husband. They say, "Let me just do this then I'll have peace." But listen friends let me get real with you and just be up front with you. **The only way to have true peace and true happiness is to have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. You will never wage a successful warfare against the enemy in your mind unless you have a personal relationship with the Lord.** That's the basis of Christianity and please notices I am using the word, Lord here... Lord meaning you're under new management. Lord means you no longer call the shots but He does... I now walk under a new banner that says, "I am under new management..."

You see He is the only one that can fill the void that's deep down inside of every one of you. And I know some people, they tell me, "Bill, You don't understand. I'm going to go out and buy me a new car this week and that's going to give me peace and happiness" but no, friends; that's going to give you temporary pleasure. That will give you a little pleasure. But in a couple of months you'll be right back to where you were searching for true peace and happiness.

You know some people say, "I've have worked hard and now I am going to go to the hills of Montana and buy a house and I'm going to watch the sun come up and the sun go down. I'm going to get out of this rat race and then I'm going to have true tranquility and true peace." But you know what? That's not going to do it, folks. That's going to give you some temporary pleasure.

Some of you, like I said, you want to change relationships and that will give you peace. But listen folks, getting rid of your wife or husband or having an adulterous relationship, that might give you some pleasure. But the Bible says, "*The pleasures of sin are for a season*" Hebrews 11:25 NKJ. It might give you a little pleasure, but it's not going to give you lasting peace, the lasting joy you desire. You've got to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ to get that... will somebody give me a witness on that who has experienced what I am talking about. Just say Amen! T

You see, pleasure is temporary; peace with God is everlasting. It gives us a hope of everlasting life. It fills the void deep down on the inside of us. It lets us lie down at night and have sweet sleep because we have peace with God. We know where we're going.

But you know folks, this scripture says that God will keep us in perfect peace. Now think about this. I believe there's a difference between having **perfect peace and experiencing just God's peace**. You see from the time that I made that personal encounter with Jesus Christ. I made that decision and I invited Christ to come and be my Lord and Saviour. Do you know there were times in my life that I did not experience God's perfect peace? There have been times in my life where I've been confused; I've been worried; I've been anxious, I have been fearful. And I know some of you say, "Oh Bill, don't say that." But listen. I am not up here because I am better than you, because I don't have any human emotions. All of us, if you will be honest about it, there's been times in your life you felt these same things. You've been anxious, you've been

concerned, and you've been worried. Some of you today, you're probably facing some of those same things.

And you know I was thinking about, what is that? Why does that happen if we have peace with God? But what it is folks, I believe is that the peace of God, being born again it gives us the hope of salvation; it gives us the hope of being with God someday eternally in heaven. But you know what? We're not in heaven yet. We're not in the sweet by-and-by that we will be someday. We're in the nasty now-and-now where we have problems, where we have challenges and all that type of stuff.

And God is saying here that if we keep our mind stayed on Him, He will give us perfect peace. See there is perfect peace that we can experience here for this life. And God said here's this is how you're going to have to get it. He said, "*I'll give you this perfect peace.*" He said, "*I'll give it*

to you under one condition, under one simple condition."

But it's something that you absolutely, necessarily have to do. You have to do this to experience God's perfect peace. He said I'll do it if you keep your minds stayed on Me. See how important that is, friends. Keep your mind stayed on Christ. God works on our spirit—when we get born again, God works on our spirit man. He doesn't work on our mind. There's something that we have to do. We talked about that last week. It's so important. I've said before, never underestimate the important role that your mind plays in your walk of faith.

You see so many times we've been taught about faith. We've been taught so much about faith. And I'm a big believer in faith. You can't please God without faith. But folks, let's don't underestimate the important role that our mind plays. If we don't renew our mind and if we don't

address this issue of our mind, then our mind will hinder our faith. The Bible says that your natural mind is the enemy of God. There's something that you have to do, something that we have to do. We have to keep our mind stayed on Christ. And I know some of you say, "Bill, I'm busy. I've got a career and I'm working and I've got all this stuff going on in my life." But folks, it is not going to happen automatically. You're not going to experience God's perfect peace automatically. You have to make a choice. We are creatures of choice and God made us that way.

And we talked about last week, one of the best ways to keep your mind stayed on God is get the scriptures from God's word, out of the Bible and get them into your mind. This Bible won't do you any good on a shelf. It won't do you any good just alone reading it. You need to get it into

your mind and meditate on the Word of God. You know what "meditate" means? It means to ponder, to imagine, to say the same things over and over again. And folks, you can get to a point where your mind will line up with your spirit and it will not disagree. And I challenge you and I challenged you last week to get God's word into your mind. Begin to meditate on it. Then it will drop down into your spirit.

Sometimes I like to take a scripture that just talks about the goodness of God, how good God is. Like Galatians 3:13, "*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law.*" We are studying this book in the bible on Tuesday night at 7:00 over in the trailer come on out and join us study God's word. You know what the curse of the Law is? It's the misery, the sickness, the mental torment, the depression that this world system brings into our life. It's all the

miserable things of this life. You take that scripture one week and just meditate on that, think about that, ponder that. Then say to God. Thank you, Father, that I don't have to live a miserable life. Listen folks, you're going to have the perfect peace of God because your mind is stayed on Him. And let me also say this that's going to please God.

You see I found in my own life that every time I get worried, confused, concerned or overly concerned, anxious about the future, you know what's happened? I've taken my mind off the things of God and I've started looking at the circumstances all around me. You know I'm going against what God says and I start dwelling on how am I going to overcome these challenges. How am I going to overcome these obstacles? How am I going to overcome all these things that are coming against me? And you know what happens when you dwell on those? Satan's the

master deceiver. He will be sure they get magnified in your life. They'll get bigger and bigger and bigger. And then all the sudden you know what? You're feeling doubt and unbelief and fear. And you know what that is? It's just the opposite of faith. And friends, if you're operating like that or if you're feeling those fears, you just need to imagine that what you're really doing are you're taking God's hands and you're tying His hands, you're tying them up where He can't operate in your life. You're stopping the flow of God's blessings. You're stopping the flow of God's power. You're stopping the flow of God's perfect peace from coming into your life.

And let me say this to you today. And I'll say it all compassion and in all sincerity. If you are worried, if you are fearful, if you are doubtful, if you are full of anxiety, those are choices that you have made. We are creatures of

choice. Don't let anybody tell you that they just came from somewhere. No, you chose that. You chose to be fearful. You choose to be worried. You choose to be full of fear. You've got to realize that.

And what we're saying in effect and none of us would want to say that, but when you're doing that you know what you're saying? You're saying, "God, I know You created the whole world. God, I know there's nothing too hard for You. God, I know You flung the stars into space. But God, in this particular situation, in this particular instance I'm not sure, God, that You have enough power. God, I'm not sure You have enough might. God, I'm not sure You have enough ability. God, I'm not sure You're really in control.

And I know some of you today say, "Bill, you don't think I can go through this life without being worried?" Well listen, there's a difference between being worried and

being concerned. There's a difference here. It's an important difference. See Philippians 4:6 said, "*Don't worry about anything; pray about everything.*" Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. Listen, I going to challenge you. The next time you have the opportunity to worry, do me a favor, promise to do something for me, don't choose to worry. Choose not to worry, but pray about that situation. Get a believer and join hands with them call someone and pray in agreement—Amen. That's good stuff. Get somebody to agree with you and then thank God that the answer's on the way. And every time that you have that negative thought comes against you, folks—we're in warfare. The thoughts are going to keep coming. They're going to keep coming. I don't care how renewed your mind is; they're going to come. But every time those negative thoughts come, you

know what? Just praise God that you've have given it to Him and the answer's on the way. Choose not to worry. You know what you're doing? You're saying, "God, I know the situation may not look good, but I choose to believe You're still on the throne. I choose to believe You can still see me through." And you're going to experience God's perfect peace. This is good stuff gang. Let give the Lord some praise.... Amen

See when Edna-Wynne was diagnosed with breast cancer a few years ago. Some people were concern about me because I didn't seem worried about what was going on... and some actually came to me and I told them yes I am concerned. See but, it was a choice. God didn't make us robots. You've got to choose and I had a choice. I could have gone all to pieces. Here's the women I love that unfortunately has cancer. But you know what? God saw us

through in our darkest hour. But it's because we chose to keep our mind on the things of God whatever the outcome would have been.

We can't have a positive, Christian, overcoming life with a negative, worried, fearful mind. And the enemy is going to use every opportunity he can to get you to worry. Every chance he can.

The Bible says in Matthew 6, it says, "*Which of you by worrying,*" Jesus said this, "*can add one cubit, can add one inch to your stature?*" None of you can do it. All this stuff we worry about, it doesn't change a thing. Jesus went on to say, "*Don't worry about what you're going to eat, what you're going to drink, what you're going to wear.*" He said instead, "*Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.*" In other words, you're going to have everything you need and don't get side tracked but seek

first the kingdom of God. What does that mean? Keep your mind stayed on Christ. Keep your mind stayed on the things of God. Then you're going to experience His perfect peace.

Prayer: I want to give you an opportunity to have that personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest decision you could ever make. All you've got to do is pray a simple prayer. The bible says, "*Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" Just pray this prayer. Say, Jesus, come into my heart. Be my Lord. Be my Savior. Jesus, I want to serve You all the days of my life. And I give my life to You. Listen, I believe if you prayed that simple prayer you ought to tell someone here today that you made that decision, because you need to be a disciple. We will love you. We will teach you how to live a victorious Christian life. And we're so glad you've joined us today. God bless you.