

Winning the Battle of the Mind Part 4

Message: We've been in a series called, "Winning the Battle of the Mind." And over the last three weeks I have been stressing to you the importance of guarding your thought-life, guarding your mind. Now, I realize that we are spiritual-beings and that faith is a big part of our life, but if we don't address the roll that our mind plays in our walk of faith, we will never live an overcoming Christian life.

See your natural mind, the Bible says, if it's not renewed with God's word, it is the enemy of God. In other words, your mind will desire and do the things of the flesh not the things of God if it is not renewed. **You see you cannot expect to live a positive, overcoming, victorious Christian life with a negative, worried, anxious mind. It just doesn't happen that way.** God's word, the Bible tells

us eventually we become what we think. Proverbs 23:7 says, "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he*". I find it very interesting how much Jesus talked a lot about the mind. The Bible talks a lot about the mind. In Ephesians 4:23 says, "*Be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind, having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude.*" And one day Jesus was walking through a village and a man came up to him and said, "Jesus, what's the most important commandment there is?" And Jesus said to him, "*you must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all of your mind and strength.*" Mark 12:30 NLT and I would encourage you to circle, "*all of your mind.*"

See Satan knows this also and if he can affect the way we think, he can hold us back from being everything God wants us to be. Amen, do you the point I am making here?

See Satan knows if he can affect the way we think, he can keep us back from fulfilling our destiny that God's planned for each of us. God's word, the bible says in II Corinthians 4: 3-4 "*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost (to those who are perishing) in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not.*"

I realize today that we have two types of people here with us, we have those who have stepped across the spiritual line and have made a personal decision to have a personal relationship with God through Christ as their Lord and Savior. And we have those here who are still just considering the claims of Christ and in saying that I want you to know that there is no place you are more welcomed then here at Calvary. I encourage you to just sit back and relax and consider the claims of Christ

See it is my belief from God's word, the bible that the truth of the Lord has just not been illuminated in your life yet. See we all have friends and family members and loved ones that aren't born again Christians. We all have those who have never accepted this free gift of having an eternal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And that is what I want to talk about today... What's holding you and them back? What's hindering you and them from making that decision? What are their big hang-ups?

See mankind stands in a strategic position. We can be contacted by both God and we can be contacted by Satan and we have the final say of which one we choose to listen to. We are the creatures of choice. God didn't make any of us robots. He gave us all a will of our own. We all have the power to choose. And if we choose to listen to the negative thoughts of the enemy, they will lead to defeat,

they will lead to misery, anxiety, fear and eventually it will lead to eternal death.

However, if we choose to listen to the thoughts of God and the voice of God it will lead to everlasting life, perfect peace, happiness, joy; He will fill the void that's deep down within each of us, that void that's there.

But you see it's so important that we choose to listen to the thoughts of God. And what I want us to see is that God's thoughts are in His word. The enemy bombards your mind with his thoughts all the time and **if you don't know the thoughts of God, if you don't get the scriptures out of the Bible and into your mind, you're not going to even know when the enemy is telling you a lie.**

II Corinthians 2:11b says, "*For we are not ignorant of the enemy's schemes.*" You know I was studying this week and

the word "*scheme*" in the Greek comes from a root word that means "the mind." Isn't that interesting?

So I want to talk about two things today.

1. Just how does Satan blinds the minds of people who don't believe in the truth of God?

2. What can you and I do as a born again believer to keep Satan from blinding their minds. How can we break that power.

You know I had somebody just a couple of weeks ago come to me and he said, "Bill, you're always up there happy and preaching about a good God, a loving God, your always positive in your thinking, you're always talking about a loving and a compassionate God, and it seems like almost everybody here at Calvary is happy." What's with all that... are you real? You see friends I think this is so important for us. I have found out most people think God's

out to get them. I found out most people think God's out to punish them. **They think God's out to send them to hell and you know what that is? That is Satan blinding their minds to the gospel of Jesus. That's the way he works.**

But listen friends that why we need to let our light shine. That's why we need to be about sharing the "Good News" with our friends, family, and loved and for that matter any one who cokes a cross your path. How will they know if we don't tell them? Does this sound like a God who is out to send someone to Hell?

John 3:16. It says, "*God so loved every one of you. That He gave his only son.*" He gave it for you. He gave it for me. You see, I have an only son. I can only imagine what kind of love that must have taken to give my son for some wrong somebody else did. But yet, that's what God did. He's a good God. *He gave His only son that if we'd*

only believe on Him, we would have everlasting, eternal life with God. Friends that's the goodness of God and don't let Satan blind your mind by telling you that God's out to get you. Friends, God does not have a sledgehammer, He's not walking around in heaven with a mischievous grin on his face, looking for people that He can slam and send into hell. He's not waiting for you to make a mistake thinking in His mind. Make my day. You know, so many times, it's comical but you think about it. You think He's walking around saying, "Hey Gabriel, come over here with Me and help Me. Let's find somebody there's somebody to send to Hell." Baam! You know, "Send another one to hell, Gabriel. High five. Let's go get somebody else."

You know what I mean? It doesn't work that way. As funny as that is, let me share people think that God has

nothing better to do than to watch them and try to send them to hell. We are living under a New Covenant, and your sins have already been forgiven. Don't let Satan blind your mind.

You want to hear another way Satan blinds you. I know some of you say, "But Bill, you don't know what kind of life I lived, if you only knew who I was, if you only knew my past. If you only knew the evil mistakes I've made in my past life. But listen friends, that's another lie of the enemy too. Let me ask a question of some of you who are born again Christians. How many of you here, before you came to Christ, were perfect? I don't see anybody. But listen, none of us are perfect. You don't come to Christ because you're perfect. You come to God just as you are and then He changes us. If we all got what we deserved, you know what? If we all got justice, we would all be in

trouble. We'd all be hell bound. But it's not justice; it's the mercy of God that lasts from generation to generation to generation.

Jesus died so that even in all of our sins we would have ability to come to God. And I'm convinced most people think, and it's the way that Satan blinds their mind, they think that, you know, God's got His back turned toward them and that He's angry with them. And if you go up and ask Him for anything, it's almost like you're bothering God. You think like He will turn around in disgust and say to you, "What do you want? Leave me alone." That's not God. That's not the image you've got to have of God, friends. We serve a good God and when you think of God, you've got to think of the most powerful, loving creature in the whole world. He's got His arms held open wide toward you. He's not mad at you. He's not

looking at you in disgust. No Friends, He's got a smile on His face. And you know what He's saying. He's saying, "If you will come to Me, I will give you rest, I will help you. If you just put your trust and confidence in Me, I will see you through this life." And He says, "Not only that, I'll make a way that you can live with Me forever." He's says, "I'll never leave you. I'll never forsake you." See that's the goodness of God.

And we need to expose the lies of the enemy that keep people back from receiving Him because they think differently. It's the way Satan blinds the mind thinking that God's out to get them, that He is not a good God. I have always preached the about the goodness of God. Why, because that's what leads people to repentance, turning from their way to God's way.

You know another lie we need to expose that the enemy tells people, "You're just as good as those church folks. Those church people are just a bunch of hypocrites. He says man, you're as good as they are. All that religion, all that Christianity, all those smiles, that's just something to fill their emotional needs. It's all just a big hoax, man". See, these are lies from the enemy. And he usually tops it off with this: "And all those people want down there at the church anyway is your money." Have you ever heard that? Listen friends, I'll tell you this, we're not interested in your money, we're only interested in you. Don't let the enemy deceive you—Amen, all right.

Don't let the enemy deceive you with those lies. Don't let him blind your mind with that kind of thinking.

Nowadays the enemy tells people, "You don't need God," "You're God in yourself. You've got everything in

yourself that you need. You've got all the power you need." And see a friend, there is nothing that could be further from the truth. Without God I am just a big zero.

The bible says, "*I set before you, blessing and curses, life and death, choose life.*" Deuteronomy 30:19 The choice is yours. God gives us the answer here, "*choose life*". And let me tell you this, friends, when you make that choice for the things of God; when you ask Jesus to come into your heart, do you know what happens? The powerful Holy Spirit in an instant infuses the very life of God into your spirit being. The bible says you will be totally and completely made new. You will be born again. And do you know that veil that was over your mind for all those years, it is disintegrated in a second by the power of the living Christ, but the choice is up to you. You can choose to listen to the lies of the enemy or to believe what God says.

What can I do as a born again believer... **What can you do when your loved ones, your family and friends are not concerned about the things of God and you feel there's nothing I can do.** Friends we need to realize, that there is a thick, dark veil that Satan has put up over the minds of them that don't believe. And no wonder they're not interested in the things of God, Satan has blinded their minds. I have talked to many people, many with tears in their eyes. They said, Bill, "I'm so concerned about my children, my parents. They won't listen to me about the things of God. They won't come to church. They won't have anything to do with it." We'll first we need to understand something here it's Satan blinding their minds. "*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. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) And I know you mean well, talking with them with persuasive speech and that might help a little bit and trying to reason with them that might help a little bit also. Even debating the scriptures, that might help a little bit. But listen careful, those things will not break the power of the enemy blinding their minds in life. There's only one Name and one power that can break the power of the enemy over their minds. And that's the name that is above all names. That's the name of our resurrected Savior. Jesus Christ"

What we must realize is that we are in a spiritual warfare for our loved ones, for our friends and family and we must engage in that warfare. We can think it's not there but it is and it has its blinding hold on your loved ones, family and friends. I'm convinced of something... if we would spend

more time on our knees binding the powers of darkness over our friends and family member's minds, I truly believe that we would see God send the powerful Holy Spirit to break that veil; to penetrate that veil; to pierce that veil and illuminate the things of God to them. And then we would see them begin to come into the kingdom of God. You must realize somebody's got to stand in the gap for them. Somebody's got to be there. The warfare going on around us is in the spiritual realm. You're not going to do it with persuasive speech or reasoning.

I just want to challenge you. You've all got loved ones. You've all got friends and family members. Maybe they won't listen to you, but hey, if you bind the powers of darkness over their mind, that's when you're going to see results. Satan, the god of this world, has blinded their

minds. We've got to fight him on his own territory that's in the spiritual level.

You know and the bible says in Matthew 18:18, *whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" The bible says in the next verse, *if any two of us agree as touching anything, God said He would do it for us.*

How many of you today have people you're concerned about? Let's take time right now. Let's stand up together. Everybody stand up and we're just going to bind the powers of darkness over their mind. Join hands together, if you would.

Father, I just thank You and praise You. We come to You Father according to Your word. We come to You in agreement. We're touching each other in agreement. Now, Father, we come to You and ask You that Your powerful

Holy Spirit would pierce that dark veil against the minds of our loved ones that are represented here today in our minds.

Devil and demon forces, we serve you notice. We bind your power. We command you to take your hands off of our loved ones, off of our friends, off of our family members.

Father, we thank You and praise You that Your power is greater than any power in this world. We thank you Father that it's not by might, it's not by power, but it's by Your Spirit. Father, we thank You and praise You that they will begin to respond to the things of God after this time. We thank You that the Holy Spirit is convicting them, piercing that darkness, in the name of Jesus. Father, we praise You now that You hear us when we pray. We just thank You and praise You for it. Amen. Amen. I believe it is done.

You may be seated. Amen.

See what I want you to know today, You have the power to break the power over the friends and family member's minds. When the enemy comes against us, we have to resist him. Friends, we can win the battle of the mind.

I want to end on this scripture from God's word, the Bible, it says "*...if we would resist the enemy, he would flee from us.*" James 4:7 KNJV

Let's just praise the Lord and thank God for His word.

Father, we praise You and we thank You. You are worthy to be praised, Father. And we thank You for Your word.

We receive it. We will be doers of the word. You have made us overcomers. In Jesus' name.

If you don't mind bowing your heads in prayer for a moment. I want to talk to those who are here considering the claims of Christ.

You know that you can be born again today. You can start that relationship with God right now today through our Lord Jesus Christ... I've talked about it a lot today. If you will simply just call upon the name of the Lord, you will be changed. All you have to say is, Oh God, come into my heart. Be my Lord. Be my Savior. Jesus, I'll serve You all the days of my life. It's just a simple prayer. You don't have to make it complicated. If you prayed that and mean it with your heart, you will be totally and completely changed. And I believe you've done that today. We've got a bunch of loving caring people who would love to come along side of you and encourage you in this new relationship and today I am going to ask you if you said that prayer to raise your hand.... God bless you.