

## Winning the Battle of the Mind Part 5

I've been sharing with you the last several weeks on

"Winning the Battle of the Mind."

I've been encouraging you over the last few weeks on the importance of guarding your thought life, on the importance of guarding your mind. I know I have said this before but it needs to be repeated. You cannot expect to have a positive overcoming Christian life with a negative, worried, fearful mind and it is my prayer that this gets hold of you way down deep in your mind... and why do I say this; Because you will eventually become what you think.

In the book of Ephesians there is a principle we need to realize, there is a great truth there. And it says that, "we are in warfare". There's a battle going on and it's not a battle in the physical realm; but it's in the spiritual realm. You could even say it's in the unseen or mental realm.

You've got to realize you're in warfare and we have an enemy. And the only way the enemy can get into our personality, into our emotions, into our thoughts, is through our mind and we control that doorway to our mind. The only access that the enemy has to our mind is the access that you and I give him. Now speaking the truth to you in love with all sincerity I want to say this to you this morning.

- **If today you have a worried mind, a fearful mind. If today you have an anxious mind or even if your mind is racing around with anger, with unforgiveness, with bitterness, friend you have to understand you have opened up that doorway to the enemy and it is your own choice to give him access into your life.**

God's Word, the Bible says it's the truth that's going to make you and I free. God Word, says *"My people are destroyed for their lack of knowledge."* Hosea 4:6

Life is a series of choices. We are not robots. God gave us all the power to make our own decisions. God said you are creatures of choice. So therefore we all have the will and the decision making power on your own.

Now everyday you are bombarded with hundreds and hundreds of thoughts that come against your mind and you must choose which ones to believe, you must choose which ones will I will act upon, which ones to cast down and just throw aside and forget about. And that choice is yours to make.

See one way that Satan works is by fear and fear will bring you anxiety, worry, doubt, and unbelief. Everyday you are bombarded with thoughts that could bring fear into

your mind. That's what Satan wants to do. And you must realize he's trying to get you to fear the future, to have a fear of failure, to have a fear of not being accepted, to have a fear of not having enough money, to have a fear of not living a healthy, a normal life. But we must realize that none of those fears will come to pass if we don't listen to his lies. If we don't listen to them and believe them and act upon them.

See, friends, it's when you act upon fear that fear can bring things to pass.

- **Just like faith brings things to pass, fear can bring things to pass.** Job said,

*"The thing that I greatly feared came upon me."* Job 3:25

And what I want you to see today is if you have any of those negative thoughts, you've got to make the choice to cast them down. You need to quit thinking about them.

And whatever you do, don't act on fear because then fear gives the enemy the right to bring that fear to pass. See, please try and grasp what I am trying to say... what we must realize is that the enemy just can't do anything he wants to do to you any time he wants to do it. It does not work that way. He can only do in this area what you and I give him permission to do. You have to give him authority. He has to first deceive you and he does that by getting you to buy into his lies and his deceit.

- **His power over your life are totally and completely limited if you will refuse to listen to his lies. The battle's taking place right here, in our minds. And unless he can deceive us unless he can get us to believe his lies, and then we act upon that fear, then the enemy has a legal right to**

**bring that fear to pass. This is very important that we understand that.**

God word, the Bible says, "*As you have believed, so it will be done unto you.*" Matthew 8:13

I want to ask you something today. What have you been believing lately? Have you been believing the lies of the enemy? Or have you taken time to get into God's word, find the scriptures, meditate on them, and believe what God says unto you?

I ask that question because we as born again believers, I truly think we should take a regular inventory of what we've been thinking about. You should regularly examine your thought life. You know the enemy's going to send you all these negative thoughts all these lies and you've got to examine what you've been thinking about. You need to think what you have been thinking about what you've been

thinking about. Let me say it this way... You need to ask yourself the question. Be honest with yourself. What have I been thinking about lately?

- **The Bible says in Philippians 4:8; God's very clear about what we should think about. God said,**

*"Think on things that are pure, things that are lovely, things that are wholesome, things that are true, things that are honest, things that are of good report;" Phil 4:3*

- **Think on things that build you up not things that tear you down. But remember it's a choice and you have to make that choice. You have the power what to choose.**

If you have been coming to Calvary for any time you hear me talk about this society in general—it is so very negative. Society in general will normally tell you

what's wrong, not what's right. What's ugly, not what's beautiful. What you don't have, not what you do have. You know, it just tells you just the opposite of the things God says you are to think on.... And see friends, it's the choice you have to make. If you watch the news tonight, you know, the enemy will try to bring about a fear that the economy is going to crash or the enemy will try and bring fear in your life about the stock market's going to crash. Or if that doesn't get us then the fear of terrorism or children shooting children in schools. The break out of staff infection is everywhere. And that isn't enough the ozone layer's going to open up and get us. What I am trying to say is you will always have something to fear, if you choose to fear and that's what I want you to see today.

What I am trying to say is you're always going to have something to worry about if you choose to worry. There will always be something... You're always going to have something to fear. But God's word, the Bible.... Choose not to fear... You have to choose not to fear.

See Fear is a force. And I know some of you say, "Bill if you only knew my situation. You don't know what I'm facing. You don't know what I'm going through." But listen. One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of Jehoshaphat. You see Jehoshaphat was in a hopeless situation. He had every reason to fear and worry and to give up. But I love what he did. What back bone, what faithfulness he had... It's a tremendous example to all of us. If anybody had a right to worry and to be filled with fear and anxiety, to be walking around and feeling sorry for themselves and having a pity party it would have been

Jehoshaphat. The Bible says in 2nd Chronicles, chapter 20, he was surrounded by three large armies coming to destroy him and all his people. These armies were closing in against him. In the natural he was as good as dead. There was no way he was going to get out of this situation. But I love the man of God he was and what he was thinking... inverse 12 it says he prayed this prayer. It's one of my favorite prayers. He said, "*Lord, we have no power or might or ability in ourselves.*"

In other words, he's saying "God, we know we're outnumbered a thousand to one. We know there's no way that we're going to come out of this situation except for Your help, except for Your intervention, except with your power." he went on to say, "*God we don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.*"

What a great prayer that is. See, all of us, friends get to situations where we don't know what to do; there's nowhere to turn. But the answer to your entire situation if this is the case for your life is to keep our eyes on God and friends we miss this so many times, we will say a prayer like: "*God we don't know what to do.*" But then we stop right there. And you know what? The enemy will send you thoughts of fear and anxiety and panic. And we start to believe that instead of keeping our eyes upon Him and the minute you act upon fear that gives the enemy a legal right to bring it to pass.

We need to see what Jehoshaphat did. He didn't stop right there with one prayer. He said, God, we don't know what to do but he in fact said or in a sense said, God I refuse to worry. I refuse to give into panic. I refuse to give into anxiety. I'm going to keep my eyes upon you. In his

darkest hour, he said, God, I'm going to believe that you're still on the throne. That the Son of God is still seated at the right hand and I'm not going to give into the lying thoughts of the enemy. See, if he had given into fear and anxiety, I guarantee you we wouldn't be reading about Jehoshaphat victory. We wouldn't be reading about him at all. But he chose. See you have to make a choice in these situations. And a little while later we read how God supernaturally delivered him. He didn't even have to fight. God fought the entire battle for him.

And some of you today are facing tremendous situations. And you say, "Bill, I can't relate to that story. That's a guy in the Bible. You know he was superhuman. He didn't have feelings like me..." Stop don't bite off into that lie of the enemy if that's what you're thinking. The people in the Bible had human emotions and feelings just

like you and I do. Don't think it's not the same. If you do your being blinded by the enemy... Don't think for a minute that Satan wasn't bombarding his thoughts. But listen, Jehoshaphat was making a conscious choice to cast down those lies.

You see, if he would have given into anxiety, do you know what anxiety would have led to? It would have led to panic. And got out of God's will and probably would have been destroyed. See we have to, we can't listen to the lies of the enemy.

And I'll be real honest, what I'm saying is not the easiest thing in the world to do. I've worried plenty of times. But the truth is I made that choice. There's probably not a person in here that hasn't felt fear when you went to the doctor and had a test and you had to wait two or three days for the report to come back.

- But what you've got to see friends is that **fear is a force just like faith is a force.**

It's when you give into fear that you give the enemy this legal right to bring things upon us. And friends, Satan is already defeated. Let's not be deceived by his lies.

You've got to stop right now. You've got to stop right now today, you have to stop giving him a way into your mind.

The Bible says in Philippians 4:6, "*Don't worry about anything, pray about everything.*"

The Bible says, "*Perfect love casts out fear.*"

Isaiah 26:3, "*You keep your mind stayed on God and you'll have perfect peace.*" The book of Matthew, chapter 6 says, "*Which of you by worrying can change anything?*" It goes on to say, "*Don't worry about tomorrow, it's got enough problems of its own.*"

And what you've got to realize--this is very important--listen to this. Your enemy, Satan, is never satisfied until you are totally and completely destroyed. He doesn't want to leave you where you're at; he wants to totally make you useless for the kingdom of God. So important to understand.

My challenge to you today is to examine your thought life. Think about what you've been thinking about. If you give into fear, you're giving the enemy a right in your mind to enter your life and he wants to destroy you.

But thank God, I want all of us here at Calvary to be the victors and not the victims. God has given us tremendous power. He says the power of the greater one is on the inside of you. You don't deal with the enemy on a level where you're scared of him. No, you stand up and be strong. And say when he brings those lying thoughts to you that you're not going to make it; that your kids aren't going to get off drugs; that you're not going to come out of debt; you just say: Satan, listen, I recognize your voice. And I command

you in the name of Jesus to get out of my mind and get out of there right now. I am child of God.

See you have the authority. And only you can do it. Fill your mind with God's word. And I'm telling you folks, you will win the battle of the mind. Think about what you've been thinking about. And don't give into fear.

Would you bow your heads in prayer please? I am so glad each of you are here today. I am so glad you join us and I want to give you the opportunity to accept Jesus for yourself. You know it doesn't have to be complicated. All you have to do is call to the name of God and He will save you. Just pray this simple prayer. Say, Oh God, come into my heart and save me. I repent of my own ways. Jesus, come in and be my Lord and be my Savior. If you prayed that simple prayer and meant it from the bottom of your heart, you ought to tell someone right now... Don't let the enemy keep you from sharing the decision you made to become a born again Christian.