

Winning the Battle of the Mind Part 7

We have been in a series called “Winning the Battle of the Mind” and this is the 7th message in this series and will be the last. I have a great deal of response to this message and I give God all the glory and honor if you allowed Him to use these words to help you in your relationship with Him." I want to start off today by looking at this scripture and I would like for you to read it with me.

Consider him (talking of Jesus) who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself lest you grow weary and faint in your mind." Hebrews 12:3 God's word, the bible tells us:

The first place you lose the victory... is in your mind.

That is the most common and easiest way to give into the enemy – to grow weary and faint in your mind.

Many of you today are believing the promises of God.

You're holding on to something that God's told you.

You're believing for maybe your loved ones to come into the family of God. We've all got big hopes and dreams in Him and that makes God worthy of all our praise. But what happens is the enemy begins to come and bombard our minds with these negative thoughts. And if we are not careful, it will be easy to grow weary and faint.

If the enemy can get you to begin to try to figure out how your problem is going to be resolved in your own human reasoning, then you're probably on the wrong track. It's too easy to give in and faint if you do that. And friends, we don't have to grow weary and faint. We can stand guard. We must stand guard over our minds. You know, Satan bombards people's minds with suicidal thoughts and many of them faint and sorry to say, give in.

It's a real tragedy. Satan bombards people's minds with poverty thoughts. And a lot of them grow weary; they faint. I guess God wants me to be poor." But friends, don't grow weary and faint in your mind. It is absolutely imperative that we are cautious every day of our lives and stand guard over our lives. You cannot think poverty and expect to get out of debt. You can't think depression and expect to have joy. You can't think sickness and expect to have health. You know the Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, basically, "*As a man thinketh in his heart so he will become.*" **And this is the way that the enemy deceives us into getting into defeat.**

You know even psychologists tell us today that our lives move in the direction of our most dominant thoughts. If you continually have thoughts like, "*I can't*"; "*I'll never overcome*"; "*I'm not able to do it*"; "*Nothing good ever*

happens to me"; "*Nobody loves me*". Friends, you're life is going to move in that same miserably negative direction. And it doesn't have to be that way. So many people have lived in this negative mindset for so long that they don't realize that their own thinking is the root cause of most of their problems. Their own thinking is a major part of the problem with their life and from that type of thinking they always see the problems that may come up and never the blessings that God may have for them in the midst of it all.

Listen friends, if you want to be negative, you can be negative about anything and everything.

But listen; what I want us to see today is we need to realize where those thoughts come from and how God encourage us to act on them. But remember you can do whatever you want you have that freedom of choice.

Three things you need to do when negative thoughts come your way. They will seem very simple to you, but I want y'all to listen carefully. These three actions can change your life.

The **first thing** is or Number one, **you've got to recognize where those thoughts come from.**

If you get a distinctively negative thought into your mind that brings fear, that starts to brings worry, that brings anxiety, or even causes you to want to be critical about something or about someone or sour towards something or someone, you've got to realize that thought is not your own; that thought is coming from the enemy.

Also I want to include in this if you get a thought that makes you upset or gets you uptight or disturbs you, that is Satan trying to infiltrate your life through your

mind. We must realize how he works. And friends, if you can't decide where the thoughts come from, you will never wage a winning warfare against the enemy because you will always be confused.

You've got to know which thoughts are your own; you've got to know which thoughts are the enemy, and you've got to know even when God's speaking to you. See God speaks to your spirit and it comes up to your mind and you've got to be able to recognize that.

The second thing you've got to do is to reject that thought immediately. Reject that thought immediately.

Don't think about it for five or ten minutes or even say to yourself, "I will deal with it later when I have more time and to figure out in my own human reasoning: What I mean is for example you start thinking, What if this pain I have is cancer? Or you start think of all the, "What if this

doesn't happen or that doesn't happen." You start thinking well just how am I going to make my bills if this does happen?

Don't give it any thought. Remember you are a child of God and you are in His hands. The longer you dwell on a lie from the enemy, the more likely you are going to be deceived. There's no need to dwell on his lies for five or ten minutes even. It's no need to just say I will figure this all out another time in my human reasoning. You need to deal with each thought individually and deal with it immediately. There's no need to let him set up a stronghold in your mind in that area. If you deal with each thing as it comes up, God will help you to win the victory.

The third thing is to replace that thought instantly with the Word of God. You've got to replace it instantly. It's not enough to recognize where the

thought comes from. And it's really not enough just to reject that thought and say that is it... Because when you reject that thought, what happens to your mind is your mind's wide open.

And do you know what happens? Five seconds later another thought comes. It'll be a never-ending cycle. You have to learn to once you reject that thought to fill your mind with God's word, the bible

We've talked a lot about meditating on God's word here at Calvary, Why, because **in it** is the victory... Thinking about the goodness of God thinking of the mercy of God, meditating on His word, pondering on God's word, when those negative thoughts come this is where the victory is found. Joshua 1:8 says: "*This book of the law (or this Bible) shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall*

meditate on it day and night; then you will make your way prosperous, then you will have good success."

The book of Psalms says, Psalms, chapter 1: "*Blessed is the man that doesn't walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the way of sinners, but his delight is in God's word and in God's word does he meditate day and night.*"

Friends, we're in a spiritual warfare. The enemy's IS going to come against us. You will never win in this warfare if you can't recognize his lies and... if you don't reject them immediately. And then if you don't fill your mind with God's word.

And I know some of you today are facing tremendously difficult situations and it's not easy for you to think the way I am encouraging you to think. I don't want you to ever think I think it is easy to do this: But listen, it is the simple truth and I am speaking the truth to

you in love. This is truth. And if I can challenge you to grab hold of it and to understand how to defeat the enemy in the area of your mind, I promise any one of you in here that God will give you supernatural victory. He will give you supernatural victory.

In some of the darkest hours of my life, and I've shared a lot of them with church... in some of the darkest days of my life I chose to do this exact same thing that I'm talking about today. I recognized the evil thoughts, the negative thoughts that came into my mind about whatever situation it was and I rejected them immediately. I refused to worry. I refused to act on fear. I refused to try an answer the unanswerable question that I could only attempt to answer from my own human wisdom. You know the questions like: What if this happens? What if that happens? I refused to let the enemy try to use my own human reasoning to see

how a situation was going to be resolved. I would said, "No, Satan, I command you to leave." Satan you need to understand, "I'm just put my trust and confidence in God. I know that God is still on the throne and nothing, no nothing form against me shall prosper. I know God will see me through this." And you want to know what? In my darkest hour, God gave me the victory. He gave me a supernatural peace and a supernatural victory.

And see the enemy would have loved to see me right then just go home and sit and sulk, to blame God, have a pity party, stop coming and worshipping Him on Sunday's, stop going to small groups, allow my walk, my witness to be all bent out of shape because of the dark days and me allowing the negative lies to control my life. **But you know what? No way. I refuse to listen to the lies of the** enemy. I refuse to let him infiltrate my life through my mind. I've got that

doorway guarded. I have the choice here. And I want to challenge you to do it too. The Bible says if you keep your mind stayed on God, He will keep you in perfect peace regardless of the situation.

But what I want you to see today is when these negative thoughts come your way, friend, you've got to stand guard right then. Don't dwell on that. When you get that thought about, you know, maybe you're kids aren't ever going to come off of drugs; or your parents aren't ever going to be saved; or you're never going to get that promotion at work. Now, listen; don't dwell on that for two or three seconds. You recognize where it comes from. Friends, you've got to learn how to stand on your own two feet and recognize that's the enemy coming against you and give him no place, you just have to sometime put your shoulders back. And say, "Listen, Satan, I recognize your

lying, I recognize your stinking ways, I recognize your deceiving voice, and I command you to get out of here."

When are you going to realize that I'm never going to give into your lies? You might as well go find somebody else."

Friends, you just resist him in the name of Jesus.

And the Bible says he has to flee. But don't stop right there. Then your mind's wide open. Then you've got to fill your mind with God's word. And I like to do it in the form of praise. I like to just say, "Father, I thank you and praise You that the greater One lives on the inside of me and I am Yours. I am in Your grasp. And that you always cause me to triumph. Father, I thank you that no weapon formed against me will prosper because I'm more than a conqueror. And I thank you Father, Your word says that when my enemy comes against me one way, you will defeat the enemy for me and cause it to flee seven different

ways. And I just thank you Lord that it's not by might, it's not by power, but it is by His spirit that He is seeing me through."

And see friends, I challenge you to do that every time the enemy comes against your mind with a negative thought. Don't let it build up and become a stronghold. Do it individually and do it immediately. Some of you I know are saying, "Bill, man, if I did that every time he came against me, then I'd be doing it all day long as much as he comes against me." But listen friends that's fine. You may need to do that in the beginning. Do it all day long and I'll tell you what's going to happen: One day you're going to wear that sucker out! He's going to get sick and tired of coming back to you.

One day he's going to get sick and tired of coming back to you and you reminding him of his defeat and getting you

all stirred up in the things of God. And he's going to say, you know what, the more I go back after Bill the stronger he becomes in His faith. I'm not going back that way anymore. I'm going somewhere else.

See, we've got to all guard our own minds. I'm the only one who can do it for my life and you're the only one who can do it for your life. You've got to stand guard. And you know what? I'm going to tell you this. Every one of you has the power to do it. Don't ever let him convince you that you're not worthy or you're not qualified or you hadn't been saved long enough. If you have asked Jesus Christ into your life you are now a child of the Most High God. You are now in the family of God. The greatest power in the universe lives on the inside of every one of us.

So I challenge you today, like I said earlier, all of you have big hopes and dreams. You're holding on to the promises

of God. Don't grow weary and faint in your mind. That's the easiest place to lose the victory. You've got to recognize when those negative thoughts come against you. And then recognize where they're from. Reject them immediately. And then replace them with the word of God. We are in a spiritual warfare. Satan's going around trying to seize us, trying to devour us. I want us all to stand guard. Don't give him any access. Don't let him deceive you into having any access into your life through your mind. You control that doorway and every one of you can do it. Be cautious at all times. I guarantee you we will win the battle of the mind. Amen?

Would you bow your heads in prayer, please? If you've never made Jesus the Lord of your life, I want to give you the opportunity to pray a simple prayer. You know you don't have to make it real complicated. If you just mean it

from the bottom of your heart. God will save you and turn your whole life around. Just mean it from the bottom of your heart.

Say, Jesus, come into my life. Save me now. I repent of my old sins. And Jesus, I promise to serve You all the days of my life. Jesus, You are now my Lord.

Listen, friends, I believe that if you did that, you ought to get involved in a small group here at Calvary and allow this church disciple you. It would our honor to come alongside of you and let me share with you. “Welcome into the Family of God.” You’ll meet some greatest loving, caring people in the world here at Calvary. And we will disciple you in the things of God.