

BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

Someone said, "Christianity is all in your mind." There is much truth in that statement. The mind is primarily responsible for growth in the Christian life. Let us notice what the Scriptures say about your mind.

GOD KNOWS ALL YOUR THOUGHTS

Hebrews 4:12 says: *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

God is keenly interested not only in our actions, but also our thoughts. It is estimated that you have 10,000 thoughts a day. To God, your mind is a window without curtains.

YOUR CHRISTIAN BATTLEFIELD IS YOUR MIND

The world, the flesh, and the devil fight for your mind.

Romans 8:7 says: *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."*

Colossians 1:21 says: *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"*.

Hebrews 12:3 says: *"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

Man is a very complex creation. Have you ever seen a suicidal puppy or a depressed canary? You say, "What makes thoughts so difficult to control?" It is because of secrecy and the absence of restraint. A parent can control a child's actions but not his thoughts. God is very interested in our thoughts because thoughts produce actions. God destroyed the world by flood because man had unrestrained thoughts.

Genesis 6:5 says: *"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*

In Romans 1:28 God speaks of the reprobate (rejected) mind in the downward progression of a civilization.

In Romans 7:25 Paul says: *"...with the mind I myself serve the law of God;..."*

The mind is the control room or computer of the Christian life. The control room must be guarded. Lot never guarded his mind.

II Peter 2:8 says: *"(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"*

SEEING AND HEARING

When the mind is right, the actions are right. YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUT WHAT YOU THINK, YOU ARE! (Read that over until it sinks in.)

Proverbs 23:7 says: *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”*

In order for a Christian to alter his behavior, his thinking must be changed! You must plan and guide what enters your mind. An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.

That is one of the things wrong with hypnosis, drugs, and liquor. They put the mind in neutral so the devil can jump into the driver’s seat. Keep a busy mind!

Do you know one reason God destroyed Sodom?

Ezekiel 16:49 says: *“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”*
Idleness was a cause.

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. used to say: “Behind every human tragedy there is a slow process of evil, wicked thinking.” No one ever falls into sin. They have been falling a long time. We only saw them when they landed. It began in their thoughts.

Sir Francis Bacon was asked what he thought the outlook was for the next generation. He declared, “Tell me what the young people are thinking and I’ll tell you.”

THOUGHTS	produce	ACTIONS
ACTIONS	produce	HABITS
HABITS	produce	LIFE-STYLES

What you put into the computer comes out. Put in 48 hours of television a week and you will have someone who acts, talks, and thinks like television personalities. Put in 30 hours of rebellious radio music per week and you will have someone who has philosophies and rebellion like the groups he hears sing. What have you been programming into your computer?

True, you cannot help but have some evil thoughts cross your mind from time to time, but do you entertain them? Someone said, “If you nurse sin on the knees of thought it will grow into a giant.” You will never regulate your passions until you regulate your thought life.

TRANSFORMING YOUR THOUGHTS

Romans 12:1, 2 says: *“I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

“Transform” means an inward change that produces an outward change. A biologist cannot change a caterpillar into a butterfly - it has to come from the inside. So it is in the Christian life. Worry and depression are not solved by psychiatrists, but by thinking about what God wants us to.

Isaiah 26:3 says: *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”*

In Philippians 4:8, God gives us a list of things to occupy our thoughts: *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

Sad to say, the average mind is like a toilet. To keep it clean, it needs constant flushing with godly thoughts, much prayer, much Scripture, and a lot of grace.

THE THREE MINDS

There are three types of minds mentioned in Scripture. You have one of them. There is the natural mind, the carnal mind, and the spiritual mind.

NATURAL MIND - UNSAVED

I Corinthians 2:14 says: *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

This is a non-Christian. He has no spiritual appetite for the things of God. He cannot comprehend spiritual truth. He is dead in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:1). He may be outwardly religious and morally clean, but cannot comprehend the Christian life. His thoughts will be what are right in his own eyes, situation ethics, and humanism. The natural mind thinks what comes natural to a lost person.

CARNAL MIND - WORLDLY CHRISTIAN

Romans 8:7 says: *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*

Carnal means “of the flesh”. The carnal mind is a saved person who lives for the flesh. The church at Corinth was full of carnal Christians. Paul called them babies. He said they could only swallow the milk of the word. They were having to be taught, when they should have been teaching. They were cliquish, immature, divisive, and easily offended.

The Christian with a carnal mind does not get satisfaction in Christ alone. He chases after things, amusements, and delights himself else-where than in the things of God. He is quarrelsome, touchy, and often is the source of church problems. He has feeble digestion and cannot get his own food spiritually. Deep Scriptures do not interest him. There is very little difference, if any, between the natural man the carnal minded man.

The lost see no difference and have no conviction when around a carnally minded Christian. The carnal mind needs to get right with God, get serious, and fill itself with Scriptures! (See I Corinthians 3:1-4; Romans 7:14-15; James 4:4.)

SPIRITUAL MIND - SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

I Corinthians 2:15 says: *“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he him-self is judged of no man.”*

This is the Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit and his mind is full of Scriptures. He is mature, has understanding of spiritual things, has the ability to teach others Bible truths, and his life is fruitful. He has the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5 says: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"*

If you think the thoughts Jesus did, you will live the way Jesus did. To do that we must think Scriptures - meditate upon them. Because of that, our minds will be going forward, will not be in neutral, and will not have a chance to go backward (backslide). The spiritual minded man needs to make sure he does not get satisfied. (See Hebrews 5:12, 14; I Corinthians 3:3; Galatians 5:22-23.)

LET'S NOT GET SATISFIED!

NAME _____

REVIEW BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND – BIBLE BASICS 15

1. Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word of God is a discerner of the _____ and _____ of the heart.
2. The average person thinks _____ thoughts a day.
3. The Christian's battlefield is in his _____
4. Why are thoughts so difficult to control? _____ and _____ of _____
5. In Gen. 6:5 why did God destroy the world? _____
6. How did Paul serve the Lord? _____
7. What in this lesson was the mind compared to? A _____
8. What did Lot not guard, therefore corrupting his mind? _____ and _____
9. You are not _____ you _____ you _____ but _____
10. Write Proverbs 23:7 _____

11. Write Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.'s quote: _____
12. _____ produce _____
_____ produce _____
_____ produce _____
13. Transform means: _____
14. What Scripture gives us God's list for us to think about? _____
15. Natural mind is: _____
16. Carnal mind is: _____
17. Spiritual mind is: _____
18. Can an unsaved person understand Bible truth? _____

19. Out of the three minds, which two people would be most alive outwardly? _____

20. How do you get the mind of Christ? _____