

## CASTING DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS

### Guard Your Mind

- I. **Imaginations, thoughts, reasonings, things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God are to be cast down and all thoughts are to be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ-2Co10:3-For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup>[For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds <sup>5</sup> Casting down (take down with the use of force) imaginations (thought, reasoning), and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**
- A. To cast down a wrong thought is to take it down by use of force-Wrong thoughts are stubborn, rebellious, incessant and because they are from the enemy and therefore they must be taken down with force
- B. Every thought matters (EVERY high thing, EVERY thought)-Every spiritual defeat began with one wrong thought
- C. You can sense of the weightiness of this, by the severity of the language-Warfare, take down by force, every thought
- II. **We are to guard our minds above all else-Pr4:20-My son, attend (give attention) to my words; (YL-To my words give attention) incline thine ear unto my sayings. <sup>21</sup>Let them not depart from thine eyes (mental faculties); keep them in the midst of thine heart. <sup>22</sup>For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. <sup>23</sup>Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**
- A. We are to focus on (think on) God's words-Give attention, incline your ear, don't let them depart from your eyes
- B. We are to guard our minds-Keep-Guard, protect, watch over, preserve, watchman; Heart-Used very widely for the feelings, the will, the intellect (mind); BDB-Inner man, mind, will, heart; A.H-Seat of thought, emotion, the mind
- You guard your mind-God doesn't do this for you and my prayers won't cast down your wrong thoughts
  - Guard your mind against what?-Against anything that exalts itself against what God says in His Word
  - You are the bouncer at the door of your mind-Here's the list-**Ph4:8-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 (consider) on these things**
- C. You've been given the authority by God to think on whatever you choose
- My mind is my mind and I can think on whatever I choose to think on-If you believe you can't help what you think on, you believe a lie-**Lam3:21-This I recall to my mind**
  - You can't help what thoughts come to you, but you can help which thoughts you think on
- D. Guard your mind above all that you guard-Pr4:23-CEB-More than anything you guard, protect your mind; CJB-Above everything else; GW-More than anything else; DRA-With all watchfulness; KJ-With all diligence (care, attention, circumspection)
- We have not taken this seriously enough-You can become desensitized to what you've repeatedly heard
  - The scriptures place a higher priority on something because this issue affects multiple other things-This is weighty
  - We need to pay attention to what we're letting into our minds-If I let that in what will be the result; Every thought has consequences-(Circumspection-Caution; attention to all the probable consequences of a measure)
  - We need to be meticulous, persnickety, particular, extremely precise about what we let into our minds
- E. The thoughts you think on affect your life-It matters what you think on-**Pr4:23-ER-Above all, be careful what you think, because your thoughts control your life; Rm8:6-For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace**
- The thoughts you think on affect your life because they affect your faith-What affects your faith affects your life
- III. **The strength of your faith is directly connected to the thoughts you think on**
- A. Faith is quantifiable and can vary in degree or strength from person to person, from situation to situation-Rm4:18-Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. <sup>19</sup>And being not weak (without strength) in faith, he considered (fix eyes or mind upon) not his own body now dead, when

he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: <sup>20</sup> He staggered (doubt, waver) not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; <sup>21</sup> And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform; **Mt14:31**-O ye of little faith; (lacking confidence, trusting to little), wherefore didst thou doubt; **Mt15:28**-O woman, great (big, strong) is thy faith

1. Faith is confidence and from situation to situation the level of your confidence can vary-**Hb11:1**-Faith is the substance (confidence) of things hoped, the evidence (conviction) of things not seen; **Mk4:40-AM**-Do you still have no faith and confidence in me
  2. Two big mistakes about faith-1.Pretending like it isn't measurable-Many act like all faith is faith or all faith equal-**2Th1:3**-Your faith grows exceedingly; **Lk17:5**-Increase our faith; **2Co10:15**-When your faith is increased; 2.Being offended at the idea that the level of faith can affect the outcome of a situation-**Mt14:31**; **Mt17:20**-Because of your unbelief; **Mt13:58**-Because of their unbelief (want or weakness of faith); **Mk5:34**-Thy faith has made thee whole; **Mt9:29**-According to your faith be it unto you
- B. What you think on you feed on and this affects your strength of your faith-Abraham was strong in faith because he guarded his thought life; There were things he wouldn't allow himself to think on-**Rm4:19**-Considered not, staggered not
- C. One big reason we are told to guard our minds above all else is because our faith is on the line and faith in God is our only hope-The thoughts we think on affects our faith and if we lose our faith, that's it for us