

CASTING DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS

The Territory Of The Mind

I. The enemy targets the mind

- A. He targets the minds of the lost-By what he does in their minds, he's able to keep them from getting saved-**2Cor4:3**-*If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the gold of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believed not*
- B. He targets the minds of believers-**How you think and what you think on**
1. How you think and what you think on is the tipping point in the earthly life of a believer-You can get born again, but if the enemy can win in your mind he can destroy your life
 2. The enemy is the source of these wrong thoughts-He's a defeated foe, but he is our adversary and these wrong thoughts come from him**2Co10:3**-*Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds 5 Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*
 3. You have to fix your mind on these things because Satan works to get you to fix your mind on other things-**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*
 4. You can be saved and conformed to the world in your mind-Think like the world, operate like the world, get what the world gets-**Rm12:2**-*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*
 5. You can be saved and carnally minded-**Rm8:5**-*They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit; 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*
 6. Believers can walk in the vanity of their minds-**Ep4:17**-*Walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind*
 7. He wants to shake us in our minds-He did this to Peter-**Mt14, 2Th2:1**-*We beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken (disturbed, overthrown) in mind, or be troubled (in the mind), neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

II. In the spiritual warfare there is no more key territory, key ground than the mind-In natural battle there are key territories to possess

- A. It's why God told us to guard our minds more than anything-It affects everything-**Pr4:23-CEB**-*More than anything you guard, protect your mind; CJ-Above everything else; GW-More than anything else; KJ-With all diligence (care, attention, circumspection)*
- B. It's why God told us to cast down EVERY imagination. and bring EVERY thought into captivity-**2Cor10:5**
- C. It is why God told us to think on His Word DAY AND NIGHT-**Js1:8**-*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate (ponder) therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shalt make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success*
- D. Your mind is a point of emphasis for the devil-He's desperate to get you thinking on what He wants you to think on
1. All hell might be breaking loose in my life, but you will not win in my mind-God didn't tell us to fix our situation, He told us to guard our minds
 2. King of the hill-Plant the flag of God's word in your mind and under no circumstance retreat or relinquish that territory
- E. The next thing you need to here after you know you're saved is gird up the loins of your mind-Sharp, strong, ready-**1Pt1:3**-*Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His boundless mercy we have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 [Born anew] into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change and decay, unsullied and unfading, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are being guarded by God's power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time. 6 [You should] be exceedingly glad on this account, though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials and suffer temptations, 7 So that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested, [your faith] which is infinitely more precious than the perishable*

gold which is tested and purified by fire. [This proving of your faith is intended] to rebound to [your] praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Without having seen Him, you love Him; though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and exult and thrill with inexpressible and glorious joy. ⁹ [At the same time] you receive the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ The prophets, who prophesied of the grace which was intended for you, searched and inquired earnestly about this salvation. ¹¹ They sought [to find out] to whom or when this was to come which the Spirit of Christ working within them was indicating when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow. ¹² It was then disclosed to them that the services they were rendering were not meant for themselves and their period of time, but for you. [It is these very] things which have now already been made known plainly to you by those who preached the good news to you by the [same] Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Into these things [the very] angels long to look! ¹³ So brace up your minds; be sober (circumspect); set your hope wholly and unchangeably on the grace that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ [Live] as children of obedience [to God]; do not conform yourselves to the evil desires [that governed you] in your former ignorance [when you did not know the requirements of the Gospel]. ¹⁵ But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living; **1Pt1:13-Therefore** gird up the loins of your mind (When engaging work, to bind long flowing garments closely around their bodies and fasten them with a leather belt) (be ready and strong in mind), be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **AM-Prepare** your minds for action

III. **We need to not be ignorant of how our enemy works-2Co2:11-Lest Satan should gain an advantage over us: for we are not ignorant of his devices (purpose, plan, thoughts); NLV-We know how he works; PH-We don't want Satan to win any victory here, and well we know his methods; TL-We know what he's trying to do**

- A. EX: Our Highschool basketball scout team acted like the opponent we were playing-We were not ignorant of our opponents plans and this is why we were one of the best teams year after year
- B. We are told to resist the devil, but what is the devil?-If you look for two horns and a pitch fork or something you can see with your eyes that's very scary you'll miss it **Js4:7-Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you**
 - 1. Wrong thoughts, these are the enemy-Your mind doesn't produce wrong thoughts apart from the enemy- **1Co2:16-We have the mind of Christ; 2Tim1:7-Sound mind**