

CASTING DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS

You Must Look At Him

- I. **What you look at, think on, focus on is directly connected to the level of prosperity, success, victory that you enjoy**
- A. Joshua has a truckload of problems and God tells him that the key to his success is what he thinks on-**Js1:8**-This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate (ponder-think about) therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success
1. Problems-Moses, a great man of God, their leader is dead; Joshua is called to do what he failed to do; He is leading descendants of a rebellious generation; Giants and the walls are still there; First task is to pass over the Jordan
- B. Many fail to make the connection between what they think on and victory-Joshua could have thought what does meditating The Word have to do with successfully leading these people, giants, walls, or the Jordan river?
1. Why did Peter lose? Why did Adam and Eve lose? They didn't control their minds-**Mt14:30**-When he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; **Gn3:6**-When the woman saw that the tree was good for food
 2. Why did Abraham win? Why did Jesus win-They controlled their minds-**Rm4:19**-He considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: **Mt4:4**-But he answered and said
 3. There is a very select group of people who enjoy perfect peace: It's those who control their minds-**Is26:3**-You will keep him in perfect peace (safe, well, happy, prosperity, health) whose mind is stayed on thee; **AC**-The one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You]; **MS**-People with their minds set on you; **NLT**-All whose thoughts are fixed on you
- C. Controlling your mind is paramount in living a victorious and prosperous life-If you can't control your mind you're finished
1. People say what's that got to do with my problem-You're showing your ignorance – Do it and watch what happens

II. If you want to win, you MUST control your mind and look the right direction

- A. If you want to win there are things you can't look at-**Nm21:8**-The Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looks (consider, gaze, look on, think, look at intently, gaze at, give attention) upon it shall live (revive, save life, nourish, quicken, be whole, live prosperously);⁹ And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
1. There are things that if you think on them, you'll die, you'll lose-Being snake bitten there's a lot they could focus on (pain, swelling, redness, vomiting) and if they focus on that they die
 2. He won't focus on or look at the trouble-**2Cor4:8**-We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal
 3. We're not pretending it's not there, but we're not focusing on it-I'm looking at it through lens of The Word
- B. You can be quickened, helped, and enjoy victory but there's a direction you have to look-**2Ch20:1**-It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. ² Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. ³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. ⁵ And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶ And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?⁷ Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?⁸ And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, ⁹ If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. ¹⁰ And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; ¹¹ Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. ¹³ And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. ¹⁴ Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation; ¹⁵ And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this

great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁶ To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.

1. You don't have to know what to do, you don't have to be stronger than your enemy, but you have to look at him-
They get a death sentence and his response was to not look at the report, but turn his mind upon God
2. In this life in the midst of an attack there's a lot you could focus on, but if you want to win, you have to look at HIM-
Jn3:14-As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up

C. To look at the right things and not think on the wrong things you have to be able to control your mind-To look at the serpent on the pole you have to not look at the symptoms-**Pr7:25-KJ**-Let not your heart decline to her ways; **DRA**-Let not thy mind be drawn away in her ways; **TL**-Don't let yourself think about her

1. The ability to control your thought life is paramount particularly in times of pressure

III. You receive everything you need to live victoriously when you look at Him

A. God uses natural things to teach us spiritual things-He used natural sowing laws to teach us a spiritual principle-**Mk4**
B. God is a sun or like the sun-**Ps84:11**-For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give (bring forth, cast, distribute, give forth, send out, shoot forth, yield) grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly

1. The sun emanates with what we need to have life on this Earth-It gives off light and heat
2. God emanates with everything we need to live prosperously-**Pr16:15**-In the light of the king's countenance is life
3. God emanates with grace and glory-With enough grace from God you can overcome anything; The glory of God is the manifested presence, goodness, power of God (Throne of Grace, Moses-Didn't have to turn the glory on)

C. To receive and reflect what God emanates we have to face him-Your heart and mind can turn and face

1. The only way the moon can receive and reflect what the sun gives off is by facing it-The moon does not produce light or shine of itself, but receives and reflects; The moon when faced away from the sun is cold and dark, but as it turns and faces the sun it absorbs and reflects the light looking lively, vibrant and strong
2. God's giving off what you need to live in victory, but you can't receive it if you don't face him-No matter what I'm facing if I'll turn and face Him I'll absorb and reflect, receive and bear everything I need to overcome
3. When you look at Him a quickening comes-**Ps34:5**-The looked unto him and were lightened (shine, radiant, to beam, cheerful); **CSB**-Those who look to him are radiant with joy; **CEV**-Keep your eyes on Lord. You will shine like the sun; **TPT**-Gaze upon him, join your life with his and joy will come. Your faces will glisten with glory; **Ps16:8-KJ**-I have set the Lord always before me (**HCSB**-I keep the Lord in mind always; **NIV**-I keep my eyes always on the Lord): because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, my glory rejoices (my tongue was glad): my flesh shall rest in hope

4. The battle is not to get this circumstance changed-If I'll just look at Him, He will get to me what I need to win-**Js1:8**

D. Things happen when you look at Him-**Hb12:1**-Run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus

1. **Vitamin D**-Vitamin D is made in our skin when we are exposed to sunlight; It is so important that your body makes it by itself, but only after skin exposed to sufficient sunlight; It's produced by the body as a response to sun exposure; It keeps us from having soft, thin, brittle bones; The symptoms of vitamin D deficiency include tiredness, aches, pains, and a general sense of not feeling well; Severe bone or muscle pain or weakness that may cause difficulty climbing stairs or getting up from the floor and can cause you to walk with a waddling gait; Stress fractures (pressure that cause a break); Recent studies have suggested that a substantial percentage of the global population is vitamin D deficient (1 billion people worldwide); People with higher levels of Vitamin D have lower risk of disease and some scientist suggest that it could be helpful in treating or preventing cancer, depression, diabetes, chronic pain, heart disease; It fights disease and reduces depression
2. **Vitamin G**-Exposure to the glory can prevent and remedy sickness, disease, depression, weakness and any other part of the curse that tries to infect you and if you're deficient in vitamin G it will cause great problems in your life; Vitamin G is activated in our spirit when our eyes are on the Lord

IV. You MUST learn to control your mind and look the right direction