



"Factors of a Healthy Mind" (II Corinthians 4:3-6)

INTRODUCTION: In Genesis chapter 6 you'll find where God destroyed the entire world because every imagination of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually. God had to eradicate an entire generation of people simply because of their thought life. But the good news is that God has a strategy that will give us the victory over our thoughts.

I. THE CARNAL MIND MUST BE CONVERTED (II CORINTHIANS 4:4)

There is a difference between your mind and your brain. Your mind refers to your soul, while your brain is the instrument of intelligence that your soul uses. When you get saved, you don't get a new brain; you get a new mind.

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

Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart (thought life) with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

"A man is what he thinks about all day long." – Emerson

If you are not saved, you have a mind that is at war with God.

Romans 8:6-7, "6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 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, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"

I Corinthians 2:16, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

II. THE CONVERTED MIND CAN BE CORRUPTED (II CORINTHIANS 11:2-3)

In verse 3, the word "simplicity" means to be single-minded or sincere. It is a heart-felt devotion to Christ. Paul is saying to saved individuals that they are to be single-minded in their devotion to Christ if they are to have a pure thought life.

III. THE CORRUPTED MIND MUST BE CONQUERED (II CORINTHIANS 10:3-5)

Take note of these words: "strong holds" (10:4), "imagination" (10:5), "knowledge" (10:5), "thought" (10:5). We see here that the battle is not in our physical flesh, but the battle is in our thought life.

A stronghold is a system of thoughts that brings a believer into bondage. Those strongholds begin to produce imaginations (10:5). Imagination comes from the Greek word "logismos" where we get the word "logic".

So, what are some of these strongholds?

1. Compulsiveness – Do you find yourself under compulsion just to do certain things? It's a stronghold.
2. Obsessions – Are you just obsessed with certain things you just think about all the time? It's a stronghold.
3. Fears – Do you have fears that just never seem to go away? It's a stronghold.

II Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

4. Bitterness and Resentment – The ugly presence of hate. It's a stronghold.
5. Uncontrollable Lust – Some people would be embarrassed and ashamed if others knew what controlled their thoughts. It's a stronghold.

IV. THE CONQUERED MIND MUST BE CONTROLLED (II CORINTHIANS 10:5)

If all you do is take back your mind, before long Satan will set up strongholds again.

Matthew 12:43-45, "43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."

When your goal is self-reformation rather than God centered transformation, you will only end up worse than where you began. Not only must Satan be dethroned, but God must be enthroned.

I Corinthians 2:16, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."