

## DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE

It's Time To Win The Battle Of Your Mind . . .

### LESSON 4 – THE PATH TO VICTORY

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." **Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)***

The good news is that the outcome God has planned for us is *victory* and not *defeat*. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to mark out the path for our success through His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. Our Good Shepherd took on the curse of our sin, fought our fights, and overcame the enemy. While we still have battles to face, we can know that we are all overcomers and victors because of what Christ did on our behalf. When we adapt to this mindset, we begin to operate from a position of strength rather than weakness. We begin to recognize, despite what the enemy is telling us, that change is always possible because our Lord is always at work.

Reclaiming enemy territory is difficult and involves *active resistance*. It requires putting on the spiritual armor that God provides and waging war each day to win the battle for our minds. But in the end, we can know it is a war waging, for we have the promise that our ultimate victory has been secured through Christ.

#### OUR THOUGHTS

1. God's Word tells us that our **thoughts** dictate the kind of people we become.

*"For he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you." **Proverbs 23:7 (NIV)***

- A. We can't **harbor** thoughts that are against God's will and expect to live a righteous life. Giving shelter and sustenance to such thoughts will lead to a different outcome.

**Quote ~** *"Your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values, your values become your destiny."*

**~ Mahatma Gandhi**

2. The outcome God has **planned** for us is victory-to win the battle for our hearts and minds.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)***

- A. But the enemy has a **different** narrative. He is going to tell us we are not going to make it, we will never succeed, and we will never measure up to whatever it is that God has put into our hearts.

*"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them." **Isaiah 42:16 (NIV)***

3. God has given us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has moved us from death to life spiritually.

*"But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**1 Corinthians 15:57 (NLT)**

- A. The very life of Christ has now become our **life**. So, whatever we are facing today, it is not just us against the world. If we are in Christ, we are starting at a point of victory.

*"And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."*

**Colossians 3:4 (NLT)**

4. The **paradox** of the Christian life is that we have the victory, yet we still fight the battle.

*"Jesus said, 'It is finished'"* **John 19:30b (NIV)**

- A. But God still **instructs** us to fight the good fight. We must remember that we are not fighting for victory but are fighting *from* a place of victory.

**Quote** ~ *"When you are instructed by affliction, you can become a comforter to the afflicted."* ~

**Charles Spurgeon**

5. Like the twelve spies who investigated the Promised Land, we often decide our own fate based on what we **perceive** to be our ability to win the fight in front of us. But God is telling us that He is giving us the victory.

*"We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."* **Numbers 13:33 (NIV)**

- A. We still fight the battle, but we do so in the **knowledge** that God has already won.

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* **John 16:33 (ESV)**