

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 3-17-24
Christianity 102 – Message 33 Part 7
Understanding spiritual warfare.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) As a believer, know what to do:
 - a) “Neither give place (ground) to the devil.” Ephesians 4:27
 - b) Growing spiritually is like reclaiming and or protecting your ground.
 - c) Be “sober”, be “vigilant”. Because –
- 2) This battle for the mind/heart is real. We learned that...
 - a) Thoughts can be embarrassing.
 - b) Thoughts can determine actions.
 - c) Thoughts can be deceiving.
- 3) The mind is a strategic place to control because the mind is able to control you.
 - a) Proverbs 23:7
 - b) It is impossible for a person to live consistently contrary to their belief system.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) A reminder as we look at the authors of thoughts today.
 - a) Proverbs 23:7 – Observations
 - b) Your belief system is who you are therefore to change who you are you must –
 - c) Our lives reflect what we believe, what we believe reflects what we think about, what we think about is the product of the influences we allow.

2. Authors of thoughts:

a. There are basically 3 authors of thoughts in our life:

b. First – Ourselves: Proverbs 23:7

- 1) Matthew 5:28 –
- 2) Matthew 15:19 –
- 3) Romans 1:28 –
- 4) I Cor. 3:3 –
- 5) Thoughts can range from fleshly to spiritual. They reflect the spiritual battle that rages within.
- 6) We are responsible, accountable to train our minds to:
 - a) Isaiah 26:3 – a mind that is “stayed” on the Lord.
 - b) I Samuel 12:24 – “...for consider how great things he hath done for you.”
 - c) Phil. 4:8 – Think on that which is “true”, “honest”, “just”, “pure”, “lovely”, “good report”.

c. Second – The Spirit of God:

- 1) Teaching – John 14:26 – “...he shall teach you all things...”
- 2) Leading – John 16:13 – “... he will guide you into all truth...”
- 3) Conviction – John 16:8 – “...he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness...”
- 4) As you grow you are learning to discern and respond in obedience to the Spirit of God’s teaching, leading and conviction.

d. Satan, our enemy –

- 1) Matthew 16:23 – Get thee behind me, Satan, thou art an offense unto me; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of man.”
- 2) James 1:12-15 – “...for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.”
- 3) He moves from tempting to accusing very quickly.

3. Waging the war for the mind.

- a. satan the accuser:
 - 1) Revelation 12:10 –
 - 2) II Corinthians 10:10 –
 - a) Accusations lead you to compare.
 - b) Accusation can wreak havoc in your life if believed.
 - c) These accusations are meant to place your eyes upon yourself, instead of the Lord.
 - b. Jesus our Advocate/His Word our Exhorter:
 - 1) We have Jesus – our Advocate:
 - a) I John 2:1 –
 - 2) We have Jesus – His Word – Our Exhorter
 - a) When the accuser says –
4. Today's Take Away:
- a. Three sources of thought – Ourselves, the Spirit of God and our enemy.
 - b. Proverbs 23:7 – Think about any needed changes in what you believe.