

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 3-24-24
Christianity 102 – Message 33 Part 8
Understanding spiritual warfare.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Last week we explored the different authors, or sources of our thoughts.
 - a) Ourselves, the Spirit of God and our enemy, satan.
 - b) Satan is the accuser.
 - c) Jesus is our Advocate and His Word our Exhorter.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Paul in Philippians 2:5 – “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”
 - a) The mind of Christ is in us because His Spirit is in us.
 - b) Thus, it becomes a matter of control – let this mind control you, let this mind -
 - c) Some of satan’s tactics include –
 - d) Every believer deals with the battle for their mind.
 - e) God is at work in and through you to develop the mind of Christ in you.

2. Things fighting for the control of your mind to confuse you:

a. Thoughts of the past. The question of WHY?

- 1) What is interesting is how much time and control something we cannot change can continue to change us into something we do not want to be.
- 2) Application – The past can paralyze you with guilt.
- 3) Principle of the Past – Things left unresolved never go away. If you don’t deal with your past it will forever hinder your future.

b. Thoughts of the present. The question of HOW?

- 1) Things can get out of control, and we worry.
- 2) Application – If fear/worry consume your thoughts in the present then indifference can settle in and impact decisions.
- 3) Principle of the Present – While you cannot control what happens you can choose how you will respond.

c. Thoughts of the future. The question of WHAT?

- 1) Life can seem to take a drastic turn. Worry about the unknown?
- 2) Application – If fear/worry consume your thoughts of the future then you are not walking by faith but actually by sight.
- 3) Principle of the future. Our greatest hope and comfort is found in Who We Are and What We Have in Christ. Learning to REST in Him.

d. Questions:

- 1) Has God answered, solved and provided everything a believer needs to deal with the past?
- 2) To live in the present?
- 3) To look forward to the future?

3. The Battle for the Mind: “When I do good, evil is present with me.” Romans 7:21

a. Remember – accusations can control you. II Cor. 10:1-5

- 1) The strategy – undercut the truth you have accepted by the suggestion of doubts –
- 2) Through trials – we come to understand that God is real, and His Word is true.
- 3) Here is what they said about Paul –
- 4) Remember – Proverbs 23:7 –

4. The Battle for the mind is a spiritual battle. II Cor. 10:3

- a. Observations:
 - 1) Being a new creation moves us from the darkness into the light.
- b. Be a soldier for Christ.
 - 1) Our war, our fighting is not a physical fight but a spiritual fight.
 - 2) When we are in the physical, we are not fighting in the spiritual.
- 5. The Battle for the mind involves spiritual weapons. II Cor. 10:4
 - a. Did you know, Jesus Won!
 - 1) Colossians 2:15 –
 - 2) No physical weapon is able to defeat a spiritual stronghold.
 - 3) There are spiritual weapons available but useless unless fired.
 - b. Ephesians 6 – the armor of God.
 - 1) Hold to the TRUTH!
 - 2) Stand in the RIGHTEOUSNESS that is yours in Christ.
 - 3) Walk in the GOSPEL which is your peace with God and your threat to the enemy.
 - 4) Your FAITH, which acts as a shield, is the covering for your life.
 - 5) Let everything that SALVATION gives you protect your head, your mind.
 - 6) Your SWORD – the Word of God
 - 7) PRAYER – your guard duty.
 - c. What is a stronghold? II Cor. 10:4
 - 1) “pulling down of strongholds” – speaks of a castle. Figuratively speaks of anything on which one relies. Argument and reasonings by which satan endeavors to fortify his opinion and defend it against you.
 - 2) Strongholds are confronting your belief system in areas such as:
 - a) Morality, Values, Truth, Hard Times, Obedience, Family, Church, Workplace.
 - d. Remember:
 - 1) Your belief system is WHO you REALLY are. Who you are flows from what you believe. What you believe is either authored by God or satan.
- 6. Battle plan for the mind involves a battle strategy: II Cor. 10:5
 - a. **Verse 5 - Casting**(refute, destroy, demolish) **down imaginations** (reasoning’s hostile to the Christian faith), **and every high thing** (elevated structure or barrier) **that exalteth itself against the knowledge** (the knowing of God, personally) **of God, and bringing into captivity** (lead away captive, bring under control) **every thought** (mental perception, thought specifically brought about for evil) **to the obedience of Christ;”**
 - b. Cast/Capture/Investigate/Sentence:
 - 1) Cast down any thought, idea, dream, plan that is hostile to your faith or that suggests a higher priority or place in your life than the Lord and knowing Him.
 - 2) Capture other thoughts for the specific purpose of identifying through interrogation/ investigation.
 - 3) Investigate – When you investigate the thoughts you have captured, you will learn about your faith, the value of your faith and the power of your faith.
 - 4) Sentences – you will judge based on the evidence you found whether this thought is acceptable or not.
- 7. Today’s Take Away:
 - a. What has the Lord revealed to you today about your thought life?
 - b. How familiar are you with the spiritual weapons God has provided?
 - c. Are you willing to begin applying God’s Word to your thought life?
 - 1) Cast – Capture – Investigate and Sentence.