Bonfire [Sanctified Thoughts]
Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon focuses on the process of sanctification, specifically the battle for the mind. Jonathan challenges the congregation to consider what thoughts they have been entertaining that they would never want displayed publicly, and connects this to the biblical call to renew the mind. Drawing from Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:16, and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, the message explores how believers have been given the mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit, yet must still make daily choices about which thoughts they allow to take root.

The sermon emphasizes that transformation is not a one-time event but a daily surrender, like a living sacrifice that stays on the altar. Jonathan outlines a practical rhythm for dealing with destructive thought patterns: name the thought honestly, test it against God's Word, replace it with truth, be patient with the slow work of transformation, and invite others to hold you accountable. The overarching message is that obedience and renewal flow from gratitude for God's mercy, not from fear of His disappointment, and that the battle for the mind is winnable because Christ has already won.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to You today grateful for Your grace and mercy. As we open Your Word together, we ask that You quiet the noise in our minds and soften our hearts. Lord, we know that each of us carries thoughts

and patterns that we have not fully surrendered to You. We ask that You meet us right where we are today. Holy Spirit open our ears and help us receive what You want each of us to take away from this time together. We do not come with all the answers, but we come trusting that You do. Transform us, Lord, not just in what we know, but in how we think. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Ice Breaker

If a thought bubble appeared above your head right now showing what you were thinking about, what would it say?

Key Verses

- 1 Corinthians 2:16
- Romans 12:1-2
- Luke 9:23
- Galatians 2:20
- Ephesians 4:21-24
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- Philippians 4:6-8

Questions

- Jonathan described the mind as one of the most difficult battlefields we face. What is one area of your thought life where you feel the most tension or struggle?
- Romans 12:1-2 calls us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice and to let God transform us by changing the way we think. What does it mean to you personally to be a

'living sacrifice,' and why do you think Paul uses that specific image?
- Jonathan made the point that obedience should flow from gratitude for God's mercy, not from fear of His disappointment. How does that shift in motivation change the way you approach spiritual growth and renewal?
- Luke 9:23 says we must take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. In what practical ways does daily surrender look different from a one-time decision to follow Christ?
- The sermon described 'strongholds' as fortified thought patterns built from lies we have agreed with over time, such as 'I will never be forgiven' or 'God is disappointed in me.' Have you ever recognized a stronghold like this in your own life? How did you begin to address it?
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us to take every thought captive to obey Christ. What does that process actually look like in a real moment when a destructive thought shows up? What steps have you found helpful?
- Philippians 4:6-8 instructs us to replace worry with prayer and to fix our thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. What are some specific, practical ways you fill your mind with those things throughout a normal week?
- Jonathan emphasized that we were never meant to fight the battle for our minds alone, and that community and accountability are essential. How comfortable are you letting others into your thought life, and what would it take to build that kind of trust?

Life Application

This week, identify one recurring thought that has been pulling at you, one you would be embarrassed to have displayed in a thought bubble above your head. Write it

down, name it honestly, and then bring it to God in prayer. Look up one Bible verse that speaks truth directly against that thought, write it somewhere you will see it daily, and speak it out loud at least once each day. If you feel ready, share that thought and that verse with one trusted person in your life and ask them to check in with you about it before the week is over.

Key Takeaways

- Believers have been given the mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit, but they must still make daily choices about which thoughts they allow to take root and grow.
- Transformation is not a one-time emotional moment. It is the ongoing, daily decision to remain a living sacrifice before God, surrendering thoughts and desires that we would rather manage on our own.
- The command to renew our minds is a response to God's mercy, not an effort to earn His favor. Obedience that flows from gratitude is sustainable, while obedience driven by fear will burn out.
- Destructive thought patterns become strongholds when they are left unnamed and unchallenged. The path to freedom involves naming the thought, testing it against God's Word, replacing it with truth, and inviting others into the process.
- A renewed mind leads to better discernment, helping us recognize God's will, which Romans 12:2 describes as good and pleasing and perfect.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the time we have shared together today around Your Word. We confess that the battle for

our minds is real, and we cannot win it on our own. Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit and for the mind of Christ that You have placed within every believer. As we leave this place, help us to carry what we have discussed into our daily lives. Give us the courage to name the thoughts that have held us back, the discipline to test them against Your truth, and the humility to let others walk alongside us in this process. When we stumble, remind us that Your grace is the ground we stand on, not the reward we earn. Renew our minds, Lord, day by day, thought by thought, until we think more like Jesus and less like the world. We love You, and we trust You with every part of who we are. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.