

Listening that Leaves a Life-Giving Legacy

Victory Over Stinking Thinking

Who are we going to give our ear to? Last week we discovered that giving our ear to the world is the wrong choice because it pushes God out. We saw how we need to choose God as our love and maintain that love by welcoming his word and getting with God's people.

God's word uses battle language for our call to obedience to the faith. Fight the good _____ (1 Tim 4:7), Stand fast in the _____ (1 Tim 6:12), be strong in the _____ (Eph 6:10).

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Notice God's word reveals that victory over stinking thinking is first of all;

1. A _____ battle. vs. 3
 - a. Stinking thinking can't be solved through positive thinking or any human solution.
 - b. We must understand that we are under Spiritual attack
 - c. Eph 6:10-12 What does God call us to? What does he promise? Who is the battle against?

Notice secondly, how this spiritual battle is fought; Stinking thinking is a ...

2. A Spiritual battle that requires _____ weapons. Identify how each one used spiritual weapons.
 - a. Joshua - Joshua 6:20

- b. Gideon (Judges 6-7) called to go against the Midianites with "divinely powerful" weapons...
- c. David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17

What is a stronghold? "strongholds are the fortresses Satan builds in our lives when we give him a foothold, a piece of ground on which to build. Jim Logan, Reclaiming Surrendered Ground

How does Satan gain a foothold in our hearts and minds?

Notice thirdly, how specifically this spiritual battle is fought; Stinking thinking is a

3. A spiritual battle that requires _____ actions:
 - a. Destroy arguments (speculations) and every lofty opinion.

Arguments = process of careful study or reasoning and arriving at a conclusion.

In the present context it speaks of reasonings/speculations that are contrary to or hostile to the truth of God.

- b. Take every thought captive: What thoughts have you been struggling with?

Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.

Consider the following scriptures for further study.

Moses in the context of instructions on debt cancellation, warns Israel to guard their thought life in this area, commanding them...

Beware, lest there is a base thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,' and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing then he may cry to the LORD against you, and it will be a sin in you. (Deuteronomy 15:9)

In Jeremiah, Jehovah says...

Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, that you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts lodge within you? (Jeremiah 4:14)

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that the Word of Truth is a "scalpel" which the Great Physician uses to probe and explore deep within our soul and spirit, exposing, analyzing and judging our "thought life"...

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge and intentions (in relation to behavior speaks of our resolutions - which represent a mental conception following consideration or deliberation) of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12-note)

In Romans 13:11-13, Paul in light of the urgency charges believers to...

put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision (Literally = a thought before = thoughtful planning to meet a need, plan a way to provide) for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

1 Thes 5:21-22 Three practical steps to take captive our thoughts: (Do not quench the Spirit) But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Philippians 4:8 God-centered thinking that follows prayer

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Ephesians 6:12-20 The full armor of God

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Pray for yourself and others

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.