

SA4-Who's Winning the Battle for Your Mind?

As you pray each day and put on the armor of God you acknowledge you live in a battlefield. If you are a believer then you will come under attack because the devil does not want you to enjoy the joy and peace that comes with walking with the Lord. If you are a seeker then maybe today is the day you accept Jesus into your life. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, the devil tries to control your mind. How does he do it? Sometimes he gets your mind to wander and wonder. Other times he confuses your mind or makes your mind doubtful and unbelieving. He can use anxiety and worry or judgment or suspicion to pervert your thinking. Worst of all, the devil can make your mind passive. The devil is not a one-trick pony; he will employ different weapons or multiple weapons at the same time. The passive mind is his most successful weapon for men. The passive mind removes the servant leader mindset that God has designed for man and replaces it with lack of desire, lack of feeling, general apathy, a lukewarm attitude and laziness. The passive mind is so dangerous we devote an entire session to how to recognize it and how to replace it with the mind the Creator designed just for you. Joyce Meyer in "Battlefield of the Mind" devotes six chapters to explaining the devil's tactics. We strongly suggest you dig deeper since knowledge of the devil's tactics helps you resist his attempts to win the battle for your mind. Our goal in this session is not to cover the weapons in depth but to encourage you to reject the devil's attempt to distract you from God's design for your life.

Proverbs 23:7 tells us "For as he thinks, so he is". It is critical to win this battle because you cannot have a positive life and a negative mind. Scripture tells us to guard our hearts and minds because our Creator knows these are the center of His creation.

In **Philippians 4:8** He gives us the instructions we need regarding what we put in our minds. "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."

Today is the day to banish wander, wonder, confusion, doubt, unbelief, anxiety, worry, judgment and suspicion from your mind. Resist the devil and he will flee. Today is the day to ask the Holy Spirit to transform your mind. Today is the day to place Philippians 4:8 deep in your heart and mind. True, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, worthy of praise will definitely lead to a positive life.

We will have more to say about the Mind of Christ in a later session. Only when you have allowed the Holy Spirit to transform your mind will you experience the full depth of the design the Lord has for your life. He reveals His plan in **Jeremiah 29:11-13** -“a plan to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart”. These verses make it clear we must seek him with our heart if we want to experience the full joy of his plan for our life. The choice is yours --- a negative thought life or a positive thought life? A negative life or a positive life? Only you can choose!

Personal Reflection:

Who is winning the battle for your mind? What weapons is the devil using against you? Have you wrestled with a mind of wonder, confusion, doubt, unbelief, anxiety, worry, judgment and suspicion? Will you meditate daily on Philippians 4:8 and resist the devil?

Group Discussion:

How can this band of brothers encourage each other to meditate daily on Philippians 4:8?

How can you hold each other accountable for allowing the Holy Spirit to renew and transform your minds?