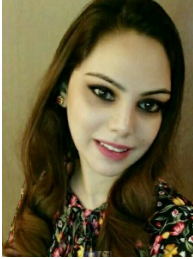


ARE YOU IN CONTROL OR IS YOUR MIND CONTROLLING YOU?

Heavenly Mindset



Contributing Author Sehrish Saleem. 3/12/21

In order to delve deeper into this subject, it is first necessary to understand its meaning. In Old Testament, the term “Heaven” or “Heavens” is part of the created universe. In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth (Genesis 1:1). Heaven thus refers to that part of the created cosmos that is beyond the earth. Therefore, humans don’t have access to it. According to (Psalm 115:16) the heavens are the Lord’s heavens, but the earth has been given to human beings. So, heaven can be said to be the place where God dwells, where He has established His throne, and from which He rules the earth. It is also a place of peace, love, community, and worship where God is surrounded by a heavenly court and other heavenly beings. On the other hand, if we review the word “Mindset” it means “Fixed state of mind”. When you refer to someone’s mindset, you mean the general attitude and the way they typically think about things. If the meanings of the two terms are combined “Heavenly Mindset” simply means: thinking about the things that are above.

NIV has two key verbs, “Set your hearts on things above” but the Greek is really just “seeking”, “Seek the things that are above.” It also gives us, “Set our minds on things above or things to come.” Now, what does “seek” mean? the word seek appears 160 times in the Old Testament which means conscious effort to get through the natural means to God himself to constantly set our minds toward God in all our experiences, and to direct our hearts toward Him through the means of his revelation. If you are a Christian it is your duty to seek heaven, you are to think of heaven every single day.

So, the question here before you are, “What are you seeking in your life? What do you want? What are you yearning for? What are the desires of your heart? A happy, healthy, holy Christian life begins with mind control. Are you in control or is your mind controlling you? This is the question we all need to ask ourselves. Paul says thinking on the right things and practicing them brings peace and the presence of God in our lives. Many people are controlled by their minds and the presence of God is missing in their lives because they have ungodly thinking, which eventually leads to ungodly actions. The way a person thinks is an indicator of his salvation and his fruitfulness. Paul says:

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-6)

A worldly person thinks only about the “desires” of his carnal nature. The carnal person may be spiritual, but he only wants things of the spirit to satisfy or glorify him. For instance, if a person says God gives me A on the test, give me a promotion, or take away my sickness. For such a person God is only a means to his desires. (James 4:3) says:

“When you ask you don’t receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. “A true believer or a follower of Christ desires what the Spirit of God desires. He wants God’s will to be done in his life as it is done in heaven. This doesn’t mean that we don’t pray for our desires; it means we are not consumed by them. The desire of the redeemed soul should be the will of God and you always ought to say, “If the Lord’s will, we will do this or that, we will get this or that.”

The mind is very important it tells you who you are and what you believe. It will also tell you whether you are led by the Spirit or by the sinful nature. Leonard Ravenhill an English Christian evangelist, revivalist, and author once said: “ There are two kinds of people in the world, only two kinds. Not black or white, rich or poor, but those either dead in sin or dead to sin.” Your mind will tell you what kind of person you are and what types of fruits you are producing. A tree that bears good fruit is dead to sin and a bad tree that bears bad fruit is dead in sin. Remember, there are only two kinds either you have sinful nature, or you’re consumed with the things of Spirit, there is nothing in between.

Paul encourages believers to think on the things above. He says a believer can develop a heavenly mindset by understanding their resurrected position in Christ. When Christ died, we died with Him and when He resurrected and ascended to heaven, we went with Him. When Paul says, “Seated with Him” he is referring to “authority” and “leadership”. The power that was at work in Christ in the resurrection seated Christ in heavenly realms. The Bible tells us in (Matthew 28:18-20) that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ. He is seated at the right hand of God and is interceding for us. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and rules over all things for His own glory. And so that is going on, the throne of God, the seat of power, the very thing that John saw when he came through that heavenly door. He goes through the heavenly door and there is a throne with someone seated on it. The figure John saw identified himself as the living one (Revelation 1:18). Paul is telling us that we have the same power and authority as believers, and we will judge the world and angels in His coming Kingdom. If we want to have a heavenly mind, we must start with understanding our position and relation with Christ. Everything that is the Son’s is ours. And seating with Christ reflects our unity with Him. We are different from the rest of the world because we are chosen, we are not of this world so we must not live like it.

Satan is a deceiver he wants us to impugn the nature of God and is always attacking the believer’s mind with doubts, fears, and worldly thoughts. He wants to keep believers from

focusing on God and His Kingdom. He wants to cause war in heaven and bring all humans to revolt against God the Father. One of Satan's ploys is to convince us that there will be no consequences of our sin, and living a carnal life is absolutely fine. However, clearly, there are lasting consequences that include the following: Separation from God, Shame, Guilt, and loss of confidence in the Spiritual dimension of our lives. When the nation of Israel sinned against God in the wilderness of Egypt, it resulted in leanness in their soul. They forgot His works and they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness and tested God in the desert. He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul. God wants us to endure temptation and pass the test that life brings each of us in regard to sin. "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which Lord has promised to those who love Him." Satan wants to steal our crown and is effectively doing his job. Once we start a pattern of sin, we become bold and do what we want to do. Satan convinces us that God does not love those who commit sin and ultimately, he wants you to believe that you are a powerless victim who is unworthy of God's love.

The enemy wants to steal your crown he wants you to drink a sea of wrath for a drop of pleasure. Brethren do not be a fool focus on the things above focus on Him who is seated in the heaven on His throne. So, whenever you sin and feel like you are indulged in the things of this world, come in humility and repent of your sin. That is all the Father asks of you. Turn away and strive to walk on the path of righteousness. God loves you no matter what condition you are in or what your circumstances are. Jesus calls us to be perfect, as our Heavenly Father is perfect, and to turn from the sin in our lives. Come to faith in Christ and trust Him. Put your sins on Him, let Him redeem you, and take you to heaven. Don't think that you hold the right to sit at the table without trusting Jesus. But if you trust Him, He will save you and bring you to His glorious place which is called the heaven the place of love, peace, community, and worship. I will close this with a beautiful quote of a great preacher of the past Charles Spurgeon:

"Hold everything earthly with a loose hand but grasp eternal things with a death-like grip."