

Kingdom of God Part 3

How to Have a Kingdom Mindset

Matthew 6:33

Ever feel like being a Christian is an uphill battle? Well I suppose it is uphill but it shouldn't have to always be a battle. Of course we're never free of our sinful nature or seasonal, unpleasant circumstances, but if we could practice harnessing a **"Kingdom of God" mindset by discovering some biblical keys, it could really open up the capacity for God's will to flourish in our lives**. Our prayer lives and thought lives can be the determining factor between being a Christian who's joy is ever fleeting, and an often smiling, more content Christian.

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Q1: What is "all these things" referring to? *Someone want to look that up?*

It starts at Mat.6:25 - Clothes and nourishment for our physical bodies.

Q2: What are some things we can do to "Seek first the Kingdom of God"?

So **Matthew 6:33** is really the quintessential key to the Kingdom of God and here's some other key verses that express what "seeking first God's Kingdom" looks like...

Romans 12:2-3 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is...his good, pleasing and perfect will. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Your mind is pretty much always thinking, right? What if we were to be more intentional with what we are thinking about. Think about your thoughts as a conversation...having a conversation either with God or with the spiritual forces of darkness. In other words, are you thinking about things that support God's Kingdom or thinking about things that support Satan's worldly kingdom?

John 18:36 - Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Colossians 1:13 - The Incomparable Christ - For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Proverbs 4:23-27 - Watch over your heart with all diligence

Q3: What does it mean by “**your heart**” in this verse?

SOME BIBLICAL DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD “HEART”

- The “heart” commonly refers to the mind as the center of thinking and reason (Proverbs 3:3, 6:21 and 7:3), but also includes the emotions (Proverbs 15:15 and 15:30), the will (Proverbs 11:20 and 14:14), and thus, the whole inner being (Proverbs 3:5). **The heart is the depository of all wisdom** and the source of whatever affects speech (Proverbs 4:24), sight (Proverbs 4:25), and conduct (Proverbs 4:26, 27).
- *J. MacArthur of The MacArthur Study Bible Nashville*
- Leb, or Lebab in Hebrew - Means heart, mind, or the inner man. May have been derived from an ancient Semitic root meaning “throb” which suggests “the pulse” or “what makes you tick”. In other words; what motivates an individual.
- The place where the rational, thinking process that enables us to understand God’s blessings, occur. - *Joshua 23:14*
- The central defining element of the human person; It is from the heart that all of one's thoughts and actions proceed. - *James Sire*

Q4: How do we “guard our heart”?

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

Proverbs 4:20-27 - My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; **Keep them in the midst of your heart**. For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body. ²³Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

Any thoughts or comment on these passages?

Q5: Any other ways, anyone can think of, to “guard your heart”?
or what are some ways in our do everyday life to “guard your heart”?

“Guard Your Heart” Means to Nourish the new nature, that you got when you decided to follow Jesus, with God’s Word, while at the same time you’ll be starving the old nature, expelling it with God’s Word.

Comments, Questions?

*Throughout the Bible we are taught that there is a direct connection between our hearts, minds and behavior. As we looked at **Proverbs 4:23**, we read that if we guard our hearts we will also be guarding our actions.*

Pause for comments.

Our minds are the key to the transformation that unleashes more of God’s will in and for our lives.

TAKE AWAY VERSES

Proverbs 28:26: Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.

Revelation 11:15 - The Seventh Trumpet - Christ’s Reign Foreseen - Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”