

Mind – Take Every Thought Captive that is Not of God.

(A message to make us aware of the power of our minds and to ensure that we do not allow any unwholesome thought to take root in our minds thus not allowing Satan to play havoc with us)

A SERMON DELIVERED AT THE HAENERTSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN HAENERTSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA 13th January 2019

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Main Scripture:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Introduction:

Well good morning to you all and to all those viewers on YouTube and those that are listening on iTunes or podcast. It is such an honour and privilege to have you connecting and sharing this time with us.

This morning the title for my sermon is:

Take Every Thought Captive that is Not of God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)

⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1. We are supposed to fight with spiritual weapons.

They are able to destroy certain strongholds that physical weapons are not able to destroy.

Every day, we are involved in spiritual warfare to some degree or another and we need to be alert and ready 24/7 365 days per year.

Many a time, we do not realize the power that we have at our disposal, but hopefully from today, we will leave here with a greater understanding of the power that you and I have in the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 1:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably

great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

This power that God places in our control is incomparable to any other power and greater than any other power for those of us that serve Him.

It is a similar power to that which raised Jesus Christ from the dead and seated him next to God The Father.

This is an incredible thought that God places that awesome power in our hands. Surely if this is the case, we should be overcomers and victorious.

We are called to be victorious, no matter what attacks or onslaught come our way.

We have the power through Christ to overcome anything the devil may throw at us.

Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Spiritual weapons:

1. Belt of truth.
2. Breastplate of righteousness.
3. Feet ready to spread the truth.
4. Shield of faith.
5. Helmet of salvation.
6. Sword of the Spirit.
7. Praying in the Spirit.
8. Be forewarned and alert at all times.
9. Pray continually.

One of the devil's best schemes is to begin worldly argument and pretensions.

And take note that this all takes place first and foremost in the mind.

2. We are to destroy strongholds in our minds.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)

⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God

Satan wants to be able to build a stronghold (OCHUROMA) in our lives thus overcoming us in that area of our lives which means that he will have victory in many other areas and aspects in our lives.

Let me give you some examples of arguments that Satan might try to set up:

To get you to question if God really exists.

To get you to doubt the infallibility of the Scriptures.

To get you to doubt that tithing to your congregation is a must.

To get you to doubt the incredible importance of the assembling of believers at church.

The strongholds that Satan tries to set up are all in the mind and in our thoughts.

He desires for us to entertain his thoughts which eventually result in strongholds in our lives such as:

doubt,

uncertainty,

ungodly thoughts,

a negative belief thought or opinion of the church, a friend or neighbour.

apprehension, and so on, thus giving him a foothold and doorway to control our minds, and ultimately influence our actions.

Resulting in:

bitterness,

hate,

fear,

anger,

anxiety,

an unforgiving heart, that is hardened to the things of God.

destroyed friendships,

sickness,

defeat,

worry,

greed,

theft,

murder,

guilt and eventually,

a destroyed life.

Eventually, what we will be is like a cow with a ring in our nose, where Satan just leads us exactly where he wants us to go.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NIV)

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

3. We are to ensure our thoughts line up with the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

One of the greatest battlefields in the world is the battlefield of the mind.

The amazing thing is that we have the power to be victorious and to be overcomers of a worldly or fleshly mind.

a. Ensure you take every thought captive.

2 Corinthians 10:5b (NIV)

we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

"The body manifests what the mind harbors."

Our minds are incredible things, as it starts with the thought, because it was preprogrammed in the mind and then it turned into an action.

Thus, if we take every argument or thought that is not in line with Scripture captive, we have very little chance of Satan, getting the better and use of our minds.

"A wise man changes his mind, a fool never does."

Thus, what we think about continually is what will shape our life and what we will become and do.

"Whatever you hold in your mind will tend to occur in your life."

b. Ensure your thoughts line up with truth.

Psalms 119:11 (NIV)

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

We have got to fill our minds with the undiluted Word of God.
If we are not to sin against God, there is no other way but to know His ways.

A man is known by the company his mind keeps.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1907)

Your mind is what makes everything else work.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Actually, Satan cannot destroy you as you are a child of God unless we give him a foothold in our lives and normally it starts in our minds.

If you don't control your mind, someone else will.

c. **Ensure you fill your mind with the truth.**

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

The Word of God has a great influence on our minds and ultimately our actions, thus we need to be very careful of what we allow into our minds.

God's Word is God's will.

And God's will is our victory.

Remember that the Bible says that the Word of God is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto our paths.

Then the devil cannot toss us around with doubtful thoughts, or discouragement, and gain supremacy over us. Then we will no longer be tossed back and forth, by doubts and lies and the like.

Jesus overcame by keeping his thoughts and his thought patterns pure and then took every thought captive and did not ponder on anything ungodly and used the Word of God which is the Sword of the Spirit when attacked by Satan.

Romans 8:6-7 (NIV)

⁶The mind of sinful man^e is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷ the sinful mind^f is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Satan wants to fill our minds with negative and impure, ungodly, destructive thoughts on a continual basis and we have to protect ourselves and be aware of his onslaught on a continual basis.

All actions start with a thought.

adultery,
alcoholism,
suicide,
divorce,
drug abuse and in fact
abuse of all and any kind
begin with negative or erroneous thoughts.

^e Or *mind set on the flesh*

^f Or *the mind set on the flesh*

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

When there is no doubt in our minds the power of faith can be released, and miracles can start happening.

d. Ensure you protect your mind from lies.

If you would perfect your body, guard your mind.

James Allen (1864-1912. As A Man Thinketh)

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

⁸ Finally, brothers, 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.

Thus, we need to choose on a continual basis to submit our minds to the Word of God. And this needs to take place daily.

James 4: 7-8 (NIV)

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

What does it help to be double minded and to hear the Word of God or read it and don't believe it?

“Let the mind of the master be the master of your mind.”

Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

For us to have His attitude, we must have his mindset.

**The key to any kind of improvement in life is in the mind.
The thinking controls the actions.**

TV and movies are powerful influences on both us as adults and our children.

Many of us may say O what rubbish.

Then you tell me why is it that companies spend millions of dollars on advertising on TV, if it did not influence us and affect our minds and thus affect our spending and eventually our budgets.

Movies are one of the biggest culprits of the immortality that has hit this century because of soap operas etc.

All spiritual battles can be won because greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world!

Colossians. 3:1-2 (NIV)

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

2 Peter. 3:1-2 (NIV)

3 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.

Conclusion:

Re-Cap:

- 1. We are supposed to fight with spiritual weapons.**
- 2. We are to destroy strongholds in our minds.**
- 3. We are to ensure our thoughts line up with the Scriptures.**
 - e. Ensure your take every thought captive.**
 - f. Ensure your thought line up with truth.**
 - g. Ensure you fill your mind with the truth.**
 - h. Ensure you protect your mind from lies.**

Watch your thoughts, they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become a character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Frank Outlaw.

Satan will be defeated and overcome when we choose to follow the truth and that is God and His Word and nothing else.

Let us now pray.

And now make the grace peace and fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you now and forever more, and may he bring you back safely next week so that we can grow together once again in He's awesome presence.

CLOSING:

So, the question this morning is are you going to guard you mind and ensure you fight not with earthly weapon, but spiritual weapons?

Amen.

This sermon was preached by Dr. Ian Loughor-Clarke at Haenertsburg Christian Church on the 13th January 2019. (c) Dr. Ian F. Loughor-Clarke, Haenertsburg Christian Church.

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