

Taking Every Thought Captive

Notes from Bill Conklin's DVD

1. Introduction:

- a. In this teaching we are going to establish that there is a battle that goes on every day and it wages between our ears.
- b. We are not going to be able to establish the Kingdom of God with Jesus Christ all over this planet, unless we have established it within us first.
- c. The battle is in our hearts, our minds and our thoughts.

2. Spiritual Warfare

- a. Spiritual Warfare must first be established in our mind against our thoughts.
- b. There is a battle in our mind between establishing the kingdom of God and establishing the kingdom of flesh.
- c. **2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (KJV)** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) vs.3,our warfare is spiritual not carnal
 - i. vs.4,our weapons are:
 1. spiritual not physical or of this world
 2. mighty or very powerful, through God
 3. To the pulling down of strongholds
 - a. Stronghold: We know from **Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.
 - b. They are devices and schemes of the enemy.
- d. Cast down imaginations
 - i. **2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
 1. Cast down means to lower or to demolish
 2. Imaginations are our reasoning's, thoughts, theories, any high system of ethics, religion, mythology, metaphysics, sublime doctrines, etc.
 3. High things are anything that establishes itself contrary to God's word and to the truth of God's word.
 4. If we demolish these types of thoughts we demolish those things that are contrary to God's word. Such as thoughts we may think negative against self or another.

5. Taking thoughts captive means that we bring all of our thoughts into obedience with Christ Jesus.
6. We take every thought and grab it, hold it up to the light (truth) of Jesus Christ, and it does not measure up to truth, then we rebuke it and cast it from us. (We take authority over the thought and basically tell our flesh, and all spiritual beings that may be associated with the thought, that we are choosing to serve the Lord and to honor Christ even in our private thoughts.)

e. Real spiritual warfare begins with our thoughts:

i. If we do not have our thoughts in captivity we can bind and rebuke the enemy all day long, but he continually waltzes back in as he has clear access to our thoughts.

**The real battle is:
Taking Every Thought Captive**

- ii. If we do not feel worthy, loved, important, others are unkind, others do not accept me, etc. (By doing so then we are granting access to the enemy to taunt us.)
- iii. The real battle is: taking every thought captive
- iv. How do we do this:

1. Say you are in the middle of a conversation and someone states something that is very ungracious and unkind. You begin to feel it in the pit of your stomach like someone stabbed you with all the hurt and pain. You then get a thought of retribution and desire to attack back, with all the anger and rejection. You say "NO" to that thought, I know who I am in Jesus Christ and I forgive _____ for saying that.

Breathe in God and exhale God's love and go on.

- a. **Remember: Matthew 6:15 (KJV)** But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

f. A look at sin:

- i. Sin is defined as: Any act, any thought, any omission which separates us from God, ourselves or from another person.
- ii. How can we separate from such acts, thoughts or omissions? How do we resist the devil in these areas?
 1. **James 4:7-8 (KJV)** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.
 - a. The first step is submitting ourselves to God. This means to totally surrender & yielding our ways, thoughts, habits & will to God Almighty.
 2. Think about this: If you go to a grave and you begin to yell at the person in the grave, you go on and on with your foul, rotten thoughts about them. Do you ever hear a response? No - Because they are dead.
If we are truly dead to ourselves and alive in Jesus Christ why do we have to respond back to; whatever someone says about us, thinks about us or does to us?
 3. Remember, we do not look towards men but towards to determine whether we have value or worth.

4. So the key to how we separate from sin, how we resist the devil - it is in our thoughts - our mind and what we allow ourselves to entertain.

g. Satan's Devices:

- i. **2 Corinthians 2:11 (KJV)** Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

1. Devices used here is the same word in the Greek that is translated thoughts in 2 Cor. 10:5. Devices can be viewed as schemes, designs & purposes.
2. Therefore, we can expand our instruction from simply taking every thought captive to taking every scheme, design & purpose of Satan captive.
3. Spiritual discernment tells us that thoughts, schemes, designs, purposes can come from ourselves, Satan or God.
4. We cannot allow ourselves to be ignorant of those things planted into our thoughts by Satan and his evil.

We can expand our instruction from simply taking every thought captive to taking every scheme, design & purpose of Satan captive

- ii. A look back in the garden:

1. **Genesis 3:1-7 (KJV)** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ²And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. ⁷And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

- a. Satan had to speak to Eve from the outside because he did not have a door to come in.
 - i. **Proverbs 26:2 (KJV)** As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.
- b. He spoke from the outside and made Eve doubt the Word of God. As soon as Adam & Eve listened to the deception and partook of the sin then Satan began to attack their thoughts.

Thoughts that followed Adam & Eve's sin:

1. Hid from God - Spirit of Fear
2. Covered themselves - Spirit of guilt and shame
3. Blamed others - Spirit of Accusation

- c. Thoughts then came from within because the deception that was originally without was taken in by disobedience and provided the open door for their thoughts to be captivated.
 - iii. We must not be ignorant of Satan's devices, schemes, plans & thoughts. This is why Paul tells us **2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
 - 1. We need to be able to discern what Satan's devices are and we must take them captive.
- h. A deeper look at thoughts:
 - i. We see the same Greek word translated thoughts in 2 Cor. 10:5 again in 2 Cor. 4:4
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV)** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
 - 1. Translated "minds" here, in the same Greek word.
 - 2. This scripture shows us that the "god of this world" (Satan) has access to our minds.
 - 3. He is capable of blinding our minds if we fall into his trap.
 - iii. Some thoughts that he may blind us with:
 - 1. That is just the way that I am
 - 2. That is my personality
 - 3. I have always been this way
 - 4. This is how I was raised
 - 5. That is how we think and process in our family
 - 6. We just don't let anybody and everybody just walk all over us
 - iv. (We must take all these thoughts, no matter how deeply ingrained in us and hold them up to the light of Jesus Christ and if they do not line up then they must go!)
 - v. WWJD (What would Jesus do) - Jesus laid down His life for those who despised Him.
 - vi. (To take every thought captive -it takes work - we really need to analyze all of our personal truths and determine why we believe and therefore practice them and are they the way of the master.)

<p><u>Satan's Kingdom strives to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bind our minds 2. Deceive our thoughts 3. Put his nature into our feelings
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- vii. When we take the thoughts of Satan and take them on as our thoughts we are not aligned with God's nature nor His agape love, therefore, we will, in some manner, be separated from our loving Heavenly Father.
- i. Food for thought:
 - i. What does a hunter need to do to secure and attack his prey? He camouflages himself so he is not as visible to the prey. He does not want to stand out as out of place but instead as something that belongs and is acceptable.

- ii. Satan comes in camouflage so he can deceive. He does not come before you and openly identify himself as the evil one. He does not use the words of **John 10:10a [(KJV) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...]** and say I am here to steal, kill & destroy you.
- iii. We must know that this is his tactics and that we must take action to avoid them.
- iv. If we listen to the god of this world we enter into a process.

- 1. Sowing & reaping - when you sow a thought you reap an act.
- 2. Our challenge is that when we think a thought that is from Satan that we cut it off and not allow it to be put into action.
- 3. Pull the "bad seed" up out of the ground cast it away and repent for even entertaining the thought.
- 4. If we fail to do so then we will reap an sinful act and the process begins:

Progression of Sowing & Reaping

- 1. Sow a thought - Reap an act
- 2. Sow an act - Reap a habit or pattern
- 3. Sow a habit - Reap a lifestyle or character
- 4. Sow a lifestyle - Reap a destiny

- a. (To reap an eternal destiny with Christ Jesus we begin by sowing Godly thoughts
- b. If we continue to fail to discern the devices of the enemy we are in danger of losing the eternal destiny that God has provided to us through Jesus Christ.
- c. If you do not like where you have ended up in your destiny of your life to date, then it is time to evaluate your deeply held truths and change your habits. By doing so you will gain a new lifestyle and secure a different destiny while living this earthly life.)
- d. No matter what your age; 20's. 30's. 40's, 50's, 70's etc. If you go back and start ripping out all the thoughts, habits, devices, schemes, plans, etc that are contrary to God's ways as given us in the Word of God (Bible) and plant good seed in the now fertile soil.
- e. We decide to choose to love others because it is what we are commanded to do in The Word of God.
- f. Healing, forgiveness, being forgiven is all wrapped up together in James 5:14-16.
 - i. **James 5:14-16 (KJV)** Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: ¹⁵And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. ¹⁶Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availed much.
- j. More understanding on thoughts:
 - i. **2 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV)** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - 1. Satan's desires to corrupt our thoughts from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2. It is this simple: You are loved by God Almighty and according to Mark 12:33a, we are to love God, ourselves and others.
 - a. **Mark 12:33 (KJV)** And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *his* neighbour as himself
 - ii. Spiritual warfare is going on in our minds and that is where it must take place if we are to have victory. We win or lose battles in our minds.
- k. Deeper look at the word Captive:
 - i. Captive is a military word that literally means to be taken prisoner.
 - ii. Learn to interrogate your thoughts before you agree with them.
 - iii. A guard's duty is to keep the enemy out of the camp. As soldiers in the Army of God we are responsible to keep the enemy out of our camp.
 1. Our camp is our body, soul (mind) & spirit.
- iv. What Paul is indicating is that when a thought enters our mind we should be on guard and challenge it.
 1. Halt who goes there!
- v. To take every thought captive we should interrogate our thought with the Word of God in the light of His unconditional love.
- vi. Every thought has to prove itself to you before you let it pass. Before you allow it to come out of your mouth before you decide to agree with it.
 1. We should not take in those thoughts that cause a breach in love, that can fester over time and bring sickness and disease into our camp.
 2. Why do we allow thoughts like: I am of no use anymore, he / she does not love me, to fester and progress into, I might as well be dead, I might as well kill myself, - this is so contrary to God's truth.
 3. Please do not allow yourself to remain in this state of agreement with the god of this world that serves to separate you and others from God's love. Do not get to a point that you would just assume to stay where you are, in depression and headed towards divorce, sickness or otherwise.
 4. Will you continue to listen to everyone and/or every evil accusation instead of listening to God.
- l. Shine Light on Satan's devices:
 - i. Later in study we will learn about spirits of rejection, unloving, accusation, fear, heaviness, envy, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, anger & self-pity.
 - ii. To shine light of God's truth on these tactics of the enemy. By exposing it to the light, you will be able to see the darkness and easily identify it.
 - iii. Example: You get a thought that someone does not like you, you challenge the thought and counter it with "What makes me think that" and the response in your thoughts is like "If they liked you they would not have stated such and such, they would not have done this or that". You now have a choice, to continue to entertain the thought or to get rid of it.
It does not matter what they think, it is not truth and I am going to pray for them instead of being offended and separated from them.

Time 00:20:00

1. **Pray and believe Jeremiah 24:7 (KJV)** And I will give them an heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.
2. Respond in love and peace and not strife, contention, envy etc.
- iv. To do this we must separate ourselves from our thoughts and chose to put on the mind of Christ. We need to separate thoughts of who we are in Christ from what we are being told by the enemy.
- m. A closer look at thoughts:
 - i. Remember thoughts can come from self, God or Satan.
 - ii. Just because you are thinking, feeling and having emotions does not mean that they are your thoughts, feelings or emotions.
 - iii. Step back and separate yourself from what is going on in your mind and identify the origin of the thought: Is it from Self, God or the enemy.
 - iv. Put the thought to the test - if it does not line up with scripture then dismiss it and rid yourself of it.
 - v. While a thought not from God can be from you or the enemy there is a danger to defaulting that all thoughts are from one or the other.
 - vi. Do not make the mistake of believing that since you are holy and righteous that you cannot possibly have a thought from the enemy. After all, if you are in the Church, reading your Bible, doing your best to serve God, who more than would the enemy want to take out.
 1. If you take too much responsibility for sinful thoughts and ignore the possibility that it is from the enemy then you risk losing faith that you can serve God and turn towards self in rejection etc.
 2. We all have inappropriate thoughts, it is what we do with the thoughts that makes behave as children of God or children of satan, children of light or children of darkness.
 3. To behave like children of God we take hold of the thought and state: get out of my thoughts satan, I am a child of God, I am adopted into the family through Christ, I choose to live an example of victory through Christ.
 - vii. When we begin to buy into fear, is the time we need to take hold of the thought and redirect it.
 1. An example: You are driving in your car and a storm hits. A thought enters into your mind that you are going to lose control of the car and wreck and get seriously hurt. This is the god of this world trying to project something into your future. You take this thought captive by stating: Hush, my father God is around about me, I chose to stand in faith, what business do I have projecting into the future, I am going forward in faith.
Quote: Psalms 91:11-13
 - a. **Psalms 91:11-13 (KJV)** For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹²They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹³Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
 - viii. Walk in understanding and might:
 1. **Ephesians 1:18-23 (KJV)** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰Which he wrought in Christ,

when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:²² And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

- a. If Jesus Christ, who is far above all principalities and powers, and He is the head of the Church, and we are in the body through Christ, then this means that we are far above all principalities, powers, might, and dominion.
 - b. Let us therefore begin walking above our thoughts. Know that thoughts from the god of this world are intended to separate us in one of the three target areas: Love of God, love of others, or love of self. And begin to declare that I walk above these things and am seated with Christ far above all the powers of this world.
2. **Ephesians 2:1-6 (KJV)** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:
- a. We have been made alive in Christ. We need to put off the former self and walk in the newness of Christ.
 - b. We now sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and should not be walking in the ways of the world. Far above all principalities, power, might & dominion of the enemy.
 - c. We are in a position to look down upon all our mess, that is going on in our thinking, feelings etc. & we can take a superior position over them.

Time 31:15 1/2 complete

In Our Thoughts:
**We can take a superior position over our
thinking, feelings & emotions.**
**We either establish God's kingdom or satan's
kingdom.**

- d. Satan & his kingdom is an inferior kingdom and we can take the position of superior thinking not inferior thinking.
- e. Every moment, every minute, in our thoughts, we either establish God's kingdom or satan's kingdom.

- f. By taking captive our thoughts, feelings and emotions to rid out everything that is contrary to God's word we ensure that we further the building of God's kingdom in our life.

Can you determine & state?:
I will no longer establish satan's kingdom in my life
but will continually work on building God's kingdom,
His Word and His love in my life instead.

ix. Moving forward in the Kingdom:

1. Let's work together in love, with Jesus Christ our head, the cleansing of the Word and quickened by the Holy Spirit to serve the Kingdom of God.
 - a. **Romans 8:11 (KJV)** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
2. I will no longer hold onto the rejection of the past. I will no longer look for validation in men but find my validation in doing the will of the Father and working in the Kingdom.
 - a. Are we serving God to gain approval of men? Of course not. So why then do we allow the perceived or planted thoughts of rejection by men affect us so.
 - b. Set our minds on above not here on earth.
 - i. **Colossians 3:1-3 (KJV)** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
 - c. If we desire to do Kingdom work then we will desire to see restoral of all unto God and to see people set free.
 - d. We should not then allow ourselves to be taken captive with thoughts that cause separation in one of the three key areas:
 - i. Separation from love of God
 - ii. Separation from love of self
 - iii. Separation from love of others
 - e. Often times, possibly most often, when you are in a conversation you will hear words that are expressing how we feel & how we think etc. We can go on & on about all the things that flares our emotions. How can we minister restoral and see people set free when we constantly entertain and have such conversations.
 - f. How can we spot that we are in this trap? Take account of your conversations and see if you recognize comments such as:
 - i. But you do not know how I feel.
 - ii. You don't know what it does to me to have this happen again.
 - iii. It seems that every time this is the result.
 - iv. Did you think the same way I did when so and so stated.
 - v. When they say that, you do not know how it makes me feel.
 - g. Anita Hill, at Pleasant Valley Church in Georgia states:

- i. "You know it, when you talk to me like that, you don't know the Word of God. I'm gonna kick ya in the fanny and I'm gonna say: Get a grip! Get a grip on your life! Get a grip on the soulish realm of your thoughts feelings & emotions! Get a grip - go to the word of God and see if it matters what Aunt Sally, Uncle Fred, Mary, Evelyn, Peter or James says about me."
 - ii. You will see that it does not matter.
 - h. What does the Bible say about it?
 - i. **James 2:8 (KJV)** If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:
 - ii. **Matthew 5:44 (KJV)** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
 - iii. It does not say take it in and take yourself out. Instead take the thought out and do not receive it and pray for them.
 - i. We can stand before God and ask Him: Will you help me analyze them and compare them to your Word. You will see little by little that when you take these thoughts captive then begin to see the truth of Hebrews 4:12.
 - i. **Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 - ii. You begin to realize that the Word of God is:
 - 1. Alive and active
 - 2. Has power to separate the soul (mind) from the spirit
 - 3. Just because you have a thought, you do not need to feel condemned by the discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (our emotions) as we must realize that the thoughts are not you, they are perpetrated upon you by the lie of the god of this world.
 - 4. Of course, if you latch onto the thoughts and embrace them then you should recognize it as unrighteousness (sin) and take responsibility, renounce, repent, and remove it.
 - iii. Condemnation is of satan, conviction is of God.
 - 1. **Romans 8:1 (KJV)** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
 - iv. With the passing thought, that is not taken in but instead taken captive we have already won the battle and there is nothing to be convicted over. We most assuredly should not allow satan to condemn us over a thought and try to convince us that we are not worthy or that we have lost our salvation.
 - v. If you take the thought captive immediately or if you take account of your unrighteousness:
 - 1. How - by applying the 8 r's to freedom:
 - a. Recognize it
 - b. Take responsibility for it

- c. Renounce it as sin
- d. Repent of it
- e. Remove it
- f. Resist it when it comes back
- g. Rejoice in our sanctification
- h. Use our understanding to restore others

then we are cleansed and made whole in Christ and Romans 8:1 tells us we are not condemned. Why? Because we have choose to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

x. A more excellent way:

1. Do not entertain thoughts of failure in your Christian walk. Do not allow yourself to be condemned by satan or men. Think upon Philippians 4:6-7:
 - a. **Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV)** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - b. Allow God's peace to comfort you.
 - c. Do not be angry, stressed, worried, anxious or fearful.
 - i. What if you do have these emotions / thoughts?
 1. **1 Peter 5:5b, 7-8 (KJV)** ... for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble... ⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
 2. In other words go to God and pray from the heart. Talk to Him like a friend a confidant.
 3. Speak to him the way you feel, tell Him your confusion, voice your emotions. Ask Him for discernment as to why you have the thoughts, feelings & emotions you have and how you can overcome those that do not line up with His word.
 4. Meditate until you hear from God. Remember He sent the Holy Spirit to us as the Comforter.
 - a. **John 15:26 (KJV)** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
2. Respond with gratitude. He is a God of covenant and He does not lie.
 - a. **Psalms 37:7a (KJV)** Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him...
 - b. In Hebrew the word for wait patiently means to "set up an ambush" to grab hold of God. take hold of His favor and rest in Him.
 - i. **1 John 4:16,18 (KJV)** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him... ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
3. Do not allow the enemy to toss you to and throw but watch the current.

- a. Think of a toy sailboat in a stream left to its own, does it stay in the middle, no, it is tossed from side to side, bouncing off rock after rock, tossed by the current and the winds.
 - b. (We need to control the rudder of our ship, so we stay on the straight course and the enemy cannot toss us around like a toy under his control.)
 - c. Decide that you are keeping your head above water and allowing Christ to pilot your ship and rest in the heavenly places that are far above all principalities, powers, might and dominion.
 - d. I will sail above the thoughts and not be taken under by the current.
4. When you encounter thoughts:
- a. What are you going to do the next time thoughts come to you? Answer this question now - tell the person next to you the answer.
 - b. What should you do when a thought comes?
 - i. Compare them with the Word of God
 - ii. Interrogate them
 - iii. Compare them with the love of God
 - iv. Do not allow any to pass that does not line up to righteousness.
 - c. It is God's desire, and our desire, that you pray of your thoughts and emotions.
 - i. **Psalms 122:6 (KJV)** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
 1. (Jerusalem in the Old Testament is where the temple of God was built, in the New Testament every believer is a temple of God where He dwells. So pray for your peace so that the Kingdom of God will prosper.
 2. If there is no peace in the body of Christ, there will not be peace in the world. There will be no hope for those without.)
 - d. God is the architect of peace. Jesus stated in John 14:27
 - i. **John 14:27 (KJV)** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
 - ii. We can see two types of peace:
 1. Peace from God
 2. Peace for Men
 - iii. Peace from men is inferior to the peace God has to offer.
 1. Men & women will always let you down but God will never forsake His Word.
 2. Men & women will hurt you and fail you but God will always have your best interest in mind and will never fail.
 3. There is nothing within God that is evil that will disrupt peace.
 4. The counterfeit of peace offered by men & women is inferior and has a corrupt source. Where you have a corrupt source you have a corrupt root.

5. You plant a root of corruption of inferiority, the fruit that comes up and you eat of it and expect peace your will have corrupted inferior peace.
- iv. Christ is the only source of our peace.
 1. **1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. There is only one God of peace. All other Gods are "created" from corrupt seeds of men.
 3. Peace offered by Buddha is inferior to the peace Christ offers.
 4. Trusting in other sources of Peace, other than what is offered by Christ, will always be inferior. You will never gain the peace the surpasses understanding.
 5. The world claims "peace, peace, when there is no peace.
 - a. **Jeremiah 6:14 (KJV)** They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is no peace.*
 - b. Peace in the brokered world has an agenda of superiority but the peace is only as powerful as those at the top of the treaty. Intent with worldly peace treaties has an element of control in the name of good.
 6. Peace offered by inferior beings will never hold the test of time. It is imperfect and will fail.

xi. Sanctification

1. Another look at **1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. Sanctify in the Greek (Strong's #37) means:
 - i. sacred, pure, blameless, concentrated
 - ii. literally means to be purified.
 - iii. You are listening to these teachings because you want to remove inferior thinking and replace it with superior thinking.
 - iv. In other words, you are desiring to have your thoughts sanctified.
 2. To sanctify is to purify: So let us go to work to purify our thoughts.
 - a. (Once again I remind you of the 8 r's to freedom listed on page 11)

Time 00:45:30

- b. Identify those things we have in our life that are contrary to the Word & love of God and get rid of them.
 - i. (Note: God wants to purify our spirit, soul (mind) and body. He wants to remove the effects of sin from us completely. So this implies to me that God, through Jesus Christ, desires to:
 1. Purify or spirit - by the covering of the blood of Christ, cleansing of the Word and direction of the Holy Spirit.

2. Purify our soul (mind to include intellect, emotions and will) by aligning our thoughts, feelings & emotions up to the Word and love of God.
 3. Purify our body, our physical body, to heal our diseases.)
 - ii. Are you prepared to be restored at this wonderful level?
 1. We are to be made whole progressively and to continually work towards our sanctification.
 - c. A look again back to Eden.
 - i. Sin initially dwelt outside of men & women and had to attack from the outside. (God's perfection) What existed outside, Satan and his 1/3 host of fallen angels.
 - ii. Sin then entered men & women once they gave into the temptation and were able to be tempted by sin from the inside.
 - iii. Satan came to steal, kill & destroy
 1. **John 10:10 (KJV)** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.
 - iv. Inferiority came into men & women for the sole purpose to steal, kill & destroy. To take what was whole and make it no longer whole (inferior).
 - v. This is the state of mankind today. (But praise God that he sent Christ that we may have life and He sent the Holy Spirit that we can be purified and maintained)
 - d. Let us embrace this and work towards it. Let us be the clay in the potter's hand and be made perfect in Him.
 - e. The prayer in 1 Thess. 5:23 is a prayer to God that He makes us whole. Our spirit, soul & body be preserved.
 - i. (Preserved until the day that Christ comes again and this corruptible body is changed to incorruptible.)
 3. Why sanctification of spirit, soul & body.
 - a. The spirit has to be sanctified first.
 - i. Initially cleansed at salvation through Jesus' blood. Then continually through work of sanctification.
- Time 00:50:37
- ii. **2 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV)** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - iii. This scripture shows us that this is not a passive result but that it is a result that is birthed by proactive changes.
4. God has given us authority to overcome.
 - a. **Luke 10:19 (KJV)** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
 - i. (We have access to the power of God so that the work of God can be completed in us. But we must proactively use this power and not operate in our own power or just passively set by and let whatever befalls us remain.)

- b. **2 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV)** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - i. Shows us the responsibility is upon us to be sanctified.
 - ii. It is tough to take a look and challenge all of our beliefs and doctrines, but it is truly the only thing that makes sense.
- c. In this area. we need to look inward and not allow the enemies thoughts to remain. Such thoughts as:
 - i. Oh, it's just me.
 - ii. It is just my personality.
 - iii. It is just the sin of my flesh. The thorn in my flesh that I must carry.
 - iv. It is something I will just have to learn to live with.

Cast off these thoughts and work to cleanse yourself.

- 5. Can you identify with the thoughts of your soul (mind), your personal psychology, often match the evil thoughts of your heart? If so do you recognize this as a problem?
 - a. If we become spiritually and psychologically intertwined with sin, then we are in need of purification.
 - b. This purification begins in our spirit.
 - c. Can failure by Christians, be why the world views most Christians as hypocritical people? Can your failure to take action be part of this perception of the children of God?
 - d. Do you want to be part of changing this perception of the world and show forth the truth of serving Christ. To show that Christ is the only way.
- 6. As we strive to be pure at the spiritual level our soul (mind) follows and our body is ruled by our spirit and mind.
- 7. Remember **Matthew 12:34b (KJV)** ... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

xii. Overcoming.

- 1. Our five senses can be an entrance for sin to come in.
- 2. If we however, absorb the Word of God through our senses and put His Word in action we overcome.
- 3. If we work to overcome, then our soul, the composite of our long term memory, our psychology of life, our emotions, our thoughts, our feelings, and our memories slowly become washed through the cleansing of the Word, and our spirits become more pure.
- 4. If we study the word of God, and pray that God write it on the tables of our heart, even when we are not physically reading the Word, the Holy Spirit brings the Word to us so we can overcome.
- 5. An example:
 - a. Your browsing the channels while on a vacation with no intent to be drawn into lust. You then see something that temps you to view nudity etc. You will then have a choice to captivate that thought or not. The Holy Spirit will be there to convict you so you do not give in.
 - b. If necessary, to get past it, turn the TV off and pick up a Bible.

6. God wants our soul to be renewed and for our desires and habits to become Godly desires and habits. The enemy wants us to ignore this renewing because he is able to come against us and steal our peace, our joy, and to afflict our bodies.
7. Your spirit hears what is going on in your thoughts and it says "NO" and we choose to follow the Spirit not the flesh.
8. Finally the inferior thinking, often fed to us by the god of this world, becomes subject to superior thinking. With our spirit becoming aligned with the Holy Spirit, we overcome. Inferiority flees due to the renewing of superiority within us.
9. We are complete in Christ, that is something worth praising God for. This is a place where perfect peace dwells.
10. This comes a step at a time until we are perfected.
11. "Our bodies becomes at ease not diseased"

Our bodies becomes at ease instead of diseased

12. **Hebrews 5:14 (KJV)** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
 - a. (We have to use discernment given to us through the Word of God if we are to expect that we will be able to easily discern what is good and evil.)
 13. **Hebrews 4:13 (KJV)** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.
 - a. (We stand before God an open book.)
 14. Mediate on these last two scriptures.
- n. Conclusion:
- i. This teaching was designed to help you:
 1. Look at the spiritual inferiority of your life
 2. Without coming into condemnation
 3. Not being intimidated
 4. Without going under
 5. To let His light burn through and shine upon these thought, emotions & attitudes.
 6. To have us become subjective in our thinking to the living God.
 7. Examining every thought and holding it up to the light.
 - a. **2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
 - b. Casting out all that tries to raise above the knowledge and truth of God.
 8. Giving way to the superiority of God's thoughts and making our thoughts His.
 9. Remember God gave us dominion and in the Garden satan tried to steal it.
 10. The Father sent His son to take back dominion, He gave Jesus all authority on this earth, and before Jesus ascended back to heaven He gave authority back to His church.
 11. Through the name of Jesus, we have superiority over all the whiles of the devil.
 12. Choose not to allow a separation of love between you and God, you and yourself and you and others.

conclusion Time: 01:03:31