



Outer Growth - Mindset

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Isaiah 26:3

Memory - I Corinthians 15:2

Incident - 1 Kings 5:4

Negative - 1 Corinthians 15:33

Deceived - Titus 3:3

Spoke - Mark 4:15

Eyes/Ears - Mark 8:18

Thoughts - Ecclesiastes 3:6

The mind is a terrible thing to waste. Many thoughts pass through our heads, some lingering while most leave. However, the things that stay in the mind may affect our thinking and actions toward others around us. For believers, the process is similar. However, having Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, our inner spirit is a new creature, but in the mind, the devil is where he fights. And that is where the enemy operates against the soul, how we think.

Even from family, ancestors, and spirits, some died and are no longer living, but the spirit from them wants to fight against our souls and our minds. Many families live and do certain things to help their kids. And their younger ones to have a better future, but some end up following the same pattern as their parents,

although not having that intention. The enemy attacks us in the mind, where the stronghold is, and where we fight. Many people live and walk but are not free in their minds in how they think.

For believers, Isaiah twenty-six, verse three, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." The mindset on God is how the godly should be in the way they live towards Him. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," as in Philippians four, verses seven. However, some saints of God struggle with that due to their lack of devotion to God. Do we ask God regularly to be with and guide us, or carelessly forget about Him?

Memories can affect our mindset. What are you pondering today? Some people are held captive in their minds because of what they think about. Do you know why some crazy people can sleep outside in the cold and not have it affect them physically? They are not in their right mind, so they are not thinking about it, and most do not feel or get sick.

A normal person, under cold weather conditions, will feel the cold weather, and most would cough, sneeze, or have sniffles.

However, those who unfortunately are out of their minds could lie down in the cold and get up and have nothing wrong with them.

Therefore, what is in the mind could have them in bondage. What we dwell on so much as replaying it within our mind repeatedly, like a broken record, will keep down the rest of our body. Not moving forward and not getting out of that state of mind.

Remembering the things in the past, even if we experience them as part of our lives, could set us back instead of moving forward. In the first part of Ecclesiastes one, verse eleven, "There is no remembrance of former things." Living in memories of the past causes some people to hold on to old moments that were a part of their past, hoard them as souvenirs, and have difficulty letting them go because it was a part of their lives. For some people, these items may affect them physically and emotionally because their hearts and minds are attached to them.

How do believers handle memories, good or bad? Happy memories do not harm the mind. However, the bad ones may cause problems. In Romans twelve, verse two, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The mind must separate from the ways of the ungodly society and unto God only.

An occurrence could corrupt our mindset. A good example is an encounter with a neighbor. Misunderstandings can happen any day. Still, these experiences may alter how we think toward our neighbor and cause us to operate differently if we are not confronted to find out if there is a problem. Recently, silent conflict has been on the rise, with incidents where there was no verbal interaction but visual. Eye contact can transform things in many ways; however, verbal connection can only be done in two ways: give and receive.

For believers, disagreements can occur at any level with anybody, both godly and ungodly. However, there is a right way to deal with it and a wrong way. Ask God to help because He knows best. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths," from Proverbs three, verse six. However, from these incidents, some can fall into the trap of a mindset toward an incident involving certain people that generates an attitude toward them. Mindset activity can occur from bad situations. It is unfortunate for someone who had something go wrong among people they know in a particular place that reminds them of an uncomfortable experience. However, that can cause a person to have a mental attitude toward the person or the area where that situation occurred. For believers, this mental attitude must be rejected, especially from those who operate in that mode. " Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things."

The mindset can be deceiving. Sometimes, a person may receive a joke formed against them, a lie told about them, misunderstand a

conversation they overheard, or see something they interpreted wrongfully. These instances may seem simple or next to nothing. However, some of these little situations can create a big problem in the mind of the one on the receiving end without anyone else knowing. For believers, the enemy will use things as small devices to get godly people angry to fall into sin.

How we speak can form a different mindset. "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison," as in James three, verse eight. What we confess out of our mouths is confirmed by the mindset we allow within. For believers, the devil uses that before God because he is an accuser of all the saints of God. "You see what was said? You heard it for yourself!"

The devil attempts to connive people into thinking wrong and later confessing wrong to prevent the right things from occurring in their lives as God has planned for His people. Adam and Eve are the first to encounter this in the Garden of Eden. Adam was there hearing God's instructions concerning what tree to eat from and not. "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die," as in Genesis two, verses sixteen to seventeen. "For Adam was first formed, then Eve," as in First Timothy two, verse thirteen of the New Testament. However, the Bible does not say how Adam told Eve what to eat in the Garden of Eden. Still, Eve does know because of her response to the serpent in Genesis three, verses two through three. "And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But 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." The fact that Adam had God spoke to him concerning what to eat and not, and yet Eve had him partake of the forbidden fruit?

What we see and hear can influence our mindset. The enemy uses the two senses against the saints of God to change their course of life and rob what God has in store for them. "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," as in John ten, verse ten. Our mind is like a live screen, a television set: We view and hear things, and if we react to them in our hearts, it may become a part of us. However, if we dwell on it and think about it seriously, we have included this within our mindset.

Our thoughts are important to the heart and create our mindset. This process is almost similar to an assembly line. The thoughts are like a battlefield because they may include good and bad memories and have upcoming situations arising, such as family, relatives, enemies, neighbors, and strangers. What we let in through our senses is the gateway to becoming a part of our thoughts. For believers, it is important how we start our day. If our hearts and minds are not on God and His word to wash us clean in this area, these thoughts above will be the focus throughout the daytime and the day events.

The mindset. As believers, we must call upon the Lord and ask Him to separate us from these thoughts to feel happy and free. The Holy Spirit would have to reveal where the bondage is and where the fight is mentally. If the mind is free and your spirit connects with God, there is no limit to what God can do through and with you.