

Is It Well With Thee?

Bringing our Brokenness and our Bad Habits to Christ

IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL? (THE MIND - PART 17)

This is part 32 of the Is It Well With Thee Sermon Series

SUMMARY

We live in a world of facades, false fronts, and covered realities. We want to be happy all the time and we want others to think that we are, but underneath the harsh reality is that the bad days, the difficult things, and the high level of stress are all weighing us down. Oftentimes, they leave us feeling discouraged, depressed, and like there is simply no hope, but **THAT ISN'T TRUE AT ALL**. While our enemy wants to use the realities of life against us, God wants us to bring our brokenness and our bad habits to Him so that in the midst of life's very real struggles we can still answer, "It is well."

REVIEW

For some time now, we've been focusing on the health and well-being of our soul by considering the condition of our mind. So far, we have considered...

- 1) The **DESIGNING** of the mind (**ENGAGE** this world and **ENJOY** a right relationship with God)
- 2) The **DARKENING** of the mind (Sin has **DECEIVED**, **DARKENED**, and **DISEASED** the mind through **NATURAL**, **WORLDLY**, and **DEMONIC** elements)
- 3) The **DISMANTLING** of the mind

The mind is important when it comes to **WHO WE ARE**, to **WHAT WE ARE DOING**, and to **WHERE WE ARE GOING**. I said that our thought life shapes the rest of our life.

Because of sin, we naturally gravitate towards things that are contrary to God. It's a path that reveals the wickedness of and the rebellion that is in our own heart. The elements that we talked about in the darkening of the mind work together to produce three types of thoughts in our mind:

STRONGHOLDS – these are assumptions, presuppositions, and patterns that have been developed over a period of time;

IMAGINATIONS – these are justifications, rationalizations, and excuses that we use to support our decision, direction, and our behavior; and

HIGH THINGS – these are down, depressing, and negative thoughts that we have allowed to fill our mind and to dig a pit that we've fallen into and that we just can't seem to get out of.

We found that our thoughts are the start of a particular process: **THOUGHTS** produce **AFFECTIONS**, **AFFECTIONS** produce **ATTITUDES**, and **ATTITUDES** produce **ACTIONS**. Our thoughts can either **TRAP US** in bad places or they can **TAKE US** to great places.

The very first thing that a child of God needs to do is to go through a **CLEANING PROCESS** in our mind. We have a responsibility to pull down strongholds and to bring every imagination, thought, perspective, and preference into the obedience of Jesus Christ. That means that we need to tear out everything that does not belong. We need to **PULL DOWN** strongholds, we need to **PUT ASIDE** imaginations, and we need to **PLUCK UP** by the roots every **HIGH THING** and leave it to die.

4) The **DEFENDING** of the mind

When we begin the process of cleaning up our thought life, we must understand that our enemy wants to put the dirt that we get out of our mind right back in our mind. We must not forget that our **HEART** and our **MIND** are both **VALUABLE** and **VULNERABLE**, and they need to be defended.

The mind is the battlefield where Satan wages war against the spiritual man. He wants us to **ENTERTAIN**, to **EMBRACE**, and to **ENGAGE** in things that we shouldn't. He'll attack us through our **SENSES**, **DESIRES**, and **CIRCUMSTANCES** all in an effort to impact or to altar how we think. That's why the renewing of our mind is so important. It's an internal transformation that doesn't just include getting out of your mind the things that don't belong, but it also includes keeping out of our mind the things that don't belong.

If we're going to defend our mind, then we must set up a system of walls in our mind – a wall of **PRAISE**, a wall of **PATIENCE**, and a wall of **PRAYER**.

And that's really where we pick back up.

MESSAGE

1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 says, *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. 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. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the word of God, I want to draw your attention back to verse 23 where the Bible says, *"And the very God of peace sanctify...your whole spirit..."*

For a few moments, I'd like to begin to consider this thought: **IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL? (THE MIND – PART 17)**

Disclaimer - I am not a doctor, and I am not approaching these topics from the standpoint of one. I am simply attempting to help us gain an understanding of what the Bible has to say about our mental, emotional, and physical health.

- 1) The **DESIGNING** of the mind
- 2) The **DARKENING** of the mind
- 3) The **DISMANTLING** of the mind
- 4) The **DEFENDING** of the mind
- 5) The **DEVELOPING** of the mind

I want to reemphasize a statement that I made in the last thought because it is just as significant to this one. Here's what I said, "The Devil does not want us to possess the mind of Christ, because he knows that he can't win against the mind of Christ." Oh, he tried. For forty-days and forty-nights He tried, but what he found out is that there isn't anything that he can say, there isn't anything that he can offer, and there isn't anything that he can do to claim a victory, to clear or hurdle, or to gain any ground against the mind of Christ.

Let me say it this way: the **MIND OF CHRIST** produces a **MIGHTY** life that cannot be **MOVED**, that cannot be **MANIPULATED**, and that cannot be **MESSED UP**. It is a mind that is focused on pleasing the Father in every area, in every attitude, and in every action of

life. So much so that it will not allow, it cannot allow anything in that will cause it to **DEVIATE** from or be **DISTRACTED** from that purpose.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus demonstrated the victory that His mind not only can but will always accomplish. By the way, the mind of Christ has a perfect record of victory against every trial that this life can bring against us, and the mind of Christ has a perfect record of victory against every temptation that the Devil can try to use against us.

Hebrews 4:15 says, *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, **YET WITHOUT SIN.**"*

When you consider that phrase, *"...yet without sin..."*, it literally means that Jesus did not sin, but it goes beyond that. It has the idea that Jesus wasn't even close to sinning. His mind was so set on pleasing His Father and His mind was so settled on the truth of God's Word that there was no room for anything else in His mind or in His life.

As His child, we are to live our life in the exact same way. Our greatest desire and our greatest delight should be to please our heavenly Father and we should detest anything that attempts to pull us in any other direction.

Psalms 101:3 says, *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; **IT** shall not cleave to me."*

David's hatred was not towards **PEOPLE**; David's hatred was toward anything that had the **POTENTIAL** to turn him aside. That's the kind of mindset that we need to have, but it isn't something that happens automatically.

When it comes to the Christian and the mind of Christ, there are two key things that we need to understand:

(1) The mind of Christ has been made available to every believer.

1 Corinthians 2:16 says, *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."*

The child of God is to judge everything spiritually. What does that mean? That means that we are to examine everything based on this criterion - is this/that pleasing to God. Now, while our natural mind is incapable of perfectly accomplishing that, the mind of Christ is incapable of anything but that. The great

news is that the mind of Christ is made available to every believer. All of God's children has the opportunity to think like Christ. However, while the mind of Christ is available to all believers, that does not mean that all believers actually live their life according to the mind of Christ.

Hebrews 2:18 says, *"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."*

The word *succour* means "to help or to aid." The greatest thing that Christ could do in our life after saving our soul is to give us His mind, and that is exactly what He wants and is willing to do.

(2) The mind of Christ must be developed in and by every believer.

While having the mind of Christ is a supernatural work of God in the lives of His children, we need to understand that for the child of God having the mind of Christ is something that the Holy Spirit begins working to make a reality the very moment an individual puts their faith and trust in God.

Philippians 1:6 says, *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

Philippians 2:13 says, *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

Before salvation, you and I were a **WRECK**, but at the very moment of salvation, we became a **WORK IN PROGRESS**. Paul calls God's work in us good because the goal is for God's good pleasure. It is a work inside of us that produces something that satisfies and delights the heart of God with us. What is that work? That work is the development of the mind of Christ in us.

Paul called it a **WILL** ("...to will...") and a **WORK** ("...to do...").

The phrase *to will* means "a personal decision and determination to willingly and gladly incline oneself toward something." In this case, it is to please the Lord. You move towards what you set your mind on. Too frequently, we choose to move toward a **WHAT** when we should choose to move toward a **WHO** – Jesus Christ.

The phrase *to do* means "something that is done actively, efficiently, and mightily."

Let me say it this way: God wants to do a mighty work in the new you that gives you a far greater advantage over the old you. That work is the development of the mind of Christ, but we have to want and we have to allow that work to take place in us.

The Apostle Paul said it this way, in Philippians 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

That phrase, *“Let this mind be in you...”*, is a power-packed statement. It includes the following:

To **ENGAGE PERSONALLY**

To **EMBRACE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY**, and

To **EXERCISE CONSISTENTLY**.