

Mind Games

Part Two: *renewing your mind*

February 11, 2024

Last Sunday, I told you the Devil is a liar who wants to destroy your life by controlling your thinking. Then, I showed you from Genesis Chapter Three how the Devil played mind games with Eve. After studying Genesis Chapter Three, I began answering the important question...

What do you need to do to stand against the Devil?

1st - You need to be strong in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10-17

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:10-11, NLT)

When Paul encourages Christians to be strong in the Lord and put on all of God’s armor, he wants us to live by Jesus’ wisdom and power (Philippians 4:13).

- You must continually add Jesus’ wisdom and power to your life to stand against the Devil (Romans 13:12-14; Matthew 7:24-27).

2nd – You need to use Scripture to renew your thinking. Romans 12:1-2

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2, NLT)

After pleading for us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, Paul tells us not to copy the behavior of the non-Christians living in the world. Instead, allow God to make us into a new person by changing our thinking. Then, we can do His good, pleasing, and perfect will!

Why does God need to change the way you think?

- You were born with a depraved (morally corrupt) mind.

Adam brought sin and death into the world when he chose to sin against God (Rom. 5:12). His sin corrupted everything in the universe, including his offspring. You were born with a corrupted mind, body, and emotions and with a sinful nature that pulls you to sin (James 1:13-15; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 2:1-10).

How does God renew your thinking?

- God uses Scripture to replace your wrong thinking with right thinking.

“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:15–17, NLT)

The Bible teaches us what is true (doctrine) and what is wrong in our lives (reproof). The Bible also teaches us how to get right when we are wrong (correction) and how to live right (instruction). God does not want His children to think like this fallen world. He wants us to allow Him to make us like Christ by transforming our thinking. The Lord wants to change our thinking so we can do what He created us to do (Eph. 2:10).

What must you do to use the Bible to change your thinking?

1. You must hear the Word of God.

Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Luke 8:8). God wants us to regularly listen to His Word to increase our faith in Him (Romans 10:17).

2. You must read the Bible.

Jesus often asked, "*Haven't you read?*" (Mark 12:10, 26). Christ wants us to read His Word so we know how to live. *You can read through the Bible in one year if you read four chapters daily!

3. You must memorize God's Word.

Memorizing scripture helps you resist temptation (Psalm 119:11), make wise decisions (Psalm 119:105), find peace (Phil. 4:6-8), and witness to unbelievers (1 Peter 3:15).

4. You must study the Scriptures.

When the Devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, He told Satan, "*Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4). God wants us to do more than know what the Bible says, He wants us to know His Word so we can live by it. *Some free websites that can help you study the Bible (CARM, gotquestions.org, ICR).

5. You must meditate on God's Word.

Meditation is thinking about a Bible verse so much it becomes a part of you. When you meditate on Scripture, God replaces your wrong thinking with right thinking to help you succeed in life (Joshua 1:8).

6. You must apply Scripture.

God wants you to hear, read, memorize, study, and meditate on His Word. But you must also apply His Word to your life to become like Jesus (James 1:22-25).

You must live by Jesus' wisdom and power to stand against the Devil's mind games. But to do that, you must use scripture to renew your thinking. You must hear, read, memorize, study, meditate, and apply God's Word. You clothe yourself with Jesus (the Living Word) by putting God's written Word into your mind!