

#### 4. Wrong Thoughts Limit The Measure Of God's Life We Can Experience

Ephesians 4:17-19, NIV – *(17) This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, (18) being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; (19) and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

- Our thought life can keep us from experiencing or tasting or enjoying the life of God!

#### 5. Wrong Thoughts Hinder Our Walk In The Spirit

Romans 8:5-8, ESV – *(5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (7) *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.* (8) *Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

- We choose whether we are walking in death, or in life -- It's a MIND SET
- How do we determine our mindset? By deciding where our mind is set!

John 6:63, NIV – *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”*

- It's what we THINK that puts us in the spirit, or in the flesh.

#### HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE RIGHT AND WRONG THOUGHT PATTERNS?

John 8:44, NIV – *“When he [Satan] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

- When the devil attacks us with a negative thought, we can say, “Hallelujah, the opposite must be true”, and so we can rejoice in that.

## WINNING THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

### Part 2 – Disciplining Your Mind

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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF A DISCIPLINED MIND

- 2 Timothy 1:7, NIV – *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”*

##### 1. A Disciplined Mind Overcomes All Fear

- “Self-discipline” = “to encourage or recall one to his senses”
- A person who has a self-disciplined mind, is simply one who has come to his senses, meaning that they have brought their thoughts into alignment with God's thoughts

##### 2. Our Thought Life Is Satan's Entry Point Into Our Life

- What we think about, will ultimately determine our future.

##### 3. The Path Of Progression To Control Our Lives

- Thoughts – Emotions – Decisions – Actions – Habits – Character – Destiny
- We need to work on only one thing – our thought life!

##### 4. Our Thought Life Is The Root Of Our Life

- Our destiny, our character, our habits, our actions, our decisions, our emotions, are the fruit of our life, but our thought life is the root of our life

##### 5. We Must Take Back Our Thought Life

- 2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV – *“... we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*
- Proverbs 23:7, MKJV – *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”*
- What a person thinks within, is who he or she really is, and that's what will eventually come out of our lives
- Mark Twain – “What a small, little part of a person's life are his actions and his words. His real life is lived in his head, and it is

known to no one but himself. All day long the mill of his brain is grinding, and his thoughts, not those other things, are his history.”

## WE NEED TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT OUR THOUGHTS

### 1. We Can Control What Goes Through Our Mind

### 2. We Must Get Aggressive Concerning Our Thoughts

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NASB – (3) *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. (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.*

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH OUR WRONG THOUGHTS?

1. **Pursue** - Psalm 18:37, NIV - *I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.*
2. **Overtake** - Psalm 18:37, NIV - *I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.*
3. **Persevere** - Psalm 18:37, NIV - *I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.*
4. **Crush** - Psalm 18:38, NIV – “(38) I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. (39) *You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at my feet.*”
5. **Destroy** - Psalm 18:40, NIV - (40) *You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.*
6. **Refuse To Show Mercy** - Psalm 18:41, NIV – “(41) They cried for help, but there was no one to save them -- to the LORD, but he did not answer.
7. **Beat Into Dust** - Psalm 18:42, NIV – “(42) I beat them as fine as dust borne on the wind; I poured them out like mud in the streets.”
8. **Cast Out As Dirt** - Psalm 18:42, NIV – “(42) I beat them as fine as dust borne on the wind; I poured them out like mud in the streets.”

## WE MUST NOT GIVE WRONG THOUGHTS A PLACE IN OUR LIVES

### 1. Wrong Thoughts Always Lead To Wrong Actions

Matthew 5:27-28, NIV – “(27) *You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ (28) But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”

- Given the opportunity, we will act out what we are thinking.
- Sin doesn’t start with the act, all sin starts with a thought.

### 2. Wrong Thoughts Defile Us

Mark 7:20-23, NIV – (20) *He [Jesus] went on: ‘What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean [defiled]. (21) For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, (22) greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. (23) *All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.’**

- The root to every wrong action, is an evil thought.
- No one commits an outward sin before first committing it in their mind.

### 3. Wrong Thoughts Affect The Flow Out Of Our Lives

Mark 7:21, NIV – (21) *For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts,*

Proverbs 4:20-23, NIV – (20) *My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. (21) Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; (22) for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. (23) Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.*

- Every action, every behaviour, every word, every negative thing that emerges from our life starts with the thoughts in our heart

# FOUR FOUNDATIONAL LIES

- There are 4 foundational or major thoughts the devil uses to lie to us, and gain access into our lives.

## 1. “You Are Unacceptable / Unworthy”

Colossians 1:21-22, NIV – “(21) *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (22) But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*”

1 Corinthians 6:11, NIV – “... you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Isaiah 61:3, NIV – “*And provide for those who grieve in Zion -- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*”

## 2. “You Are A Failure”

Romans 5:1-2, NIV – “(1) *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,* (2) *through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.* ....”

Philippians 4:13, NIV – “*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*”

Philippians 1:6, NIV – “... *he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*”

## 3. “You Don’t Deserve To Be Blessed”

1 John 4:9-10, NIV – “(9) *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* (10) *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*”

## 4. “You Are Hopeless And Cannot Change”

2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV – “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*”

Acts 10:34, NIV – “... God does not show favoritism.”

John 14:12, NIV – “*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*”

1 John 4:4, NIV – “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

Mark 10:27, NIV – “... all things are possible with God.”

## APPLICATION

- You WILL make it!
- Just win the battle for your mind!