

iv. Single Minded About Other People's Past

- 1 John 1:9, Paraphrased – “(9) *If [they] confess [their] sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive [them their] sins and purify [them] from all unrighteousness.*”

4. Like-Minded – Experience God's Harmony

- 2 Corinthians 13:11, NASB – “(11) *Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*”

a) We Are Called To Be Like-Minded With God

b) All Strife Is Caused By Disagreeing With God

- Proverbs 20:3, NASB – “(3) *Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.*”

- Psalm 53:1, NASB – “(1) *The fool has said in his heart, [there is] ‘... no God.’ ...*”

- A fool is one who has said “No” to God, or disagrees with God

c) Strife With Other People

- The strife that we are demonstrating with each other, is only a byproduct of the strife we have in our own heart with God.

d) The Root Of Strife Is Conflict With God

- Most problems in life are because of inner conflict, not conflict between two people

e) Conflict In Our Thinking Overflows To Others

SUMMARY

- Proverbs 23:7, MKJV – “*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*”
- 3 John 1:2, NASB – “*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.*”

WINNING THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

Part 3 – The Power Of A Disciplined Mind

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GOD HAS GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF SELF-DISCIPLINE

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

- “Self-discipline” = “to encourage or recall one to his senses”

- One who has brought their thoughts into alignment or agreement with God's thoughts

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A DISCIPLINED MIND?

1. Spiritually-Minded – Experience God's Life!

- 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.*

a) We Choose Spirit Or Flesh By Our Thinking

- The flesh is a mind-set, a way of thinking, that leads to a certain way of behaviour -- a lower, humanistic realm of behaviour.

b) We Are Commanded To “Set Our Minds”

- Luke 21:14-15, NIV – “(14) *But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. (15) For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.”*

- “Make up your mind” = “place your mind, lay your mind, set your mind”

- ❑ John 6:63, NIV – “(63) [Jesus said], *The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*”

2. Patiently-Minded – Experience God’s Promises!

- ❑ Romans 8:6, ESV – (6) *To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

a) A Peaceful Mind Is A Patient Mind

- ❑ Patience means standing in a place of peace, where we can confidently take God at His Word, and not budge an inch until we get what we’re standing there to get

b) A Patient Mind Trusts In The Faithfulness Of God

- ❑ Isaiah 26:3, NIV – “*You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*”

- ❑ Romans 8:28, NIV – “(28) *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

- ❑ A mind that is peaceful, a mind that is patient, recognizes that God is ALWAYS working behind the scenes, to bring all the pieces together.

c) God Is Working On Something Better!

- ❑ Ephesians 3:20, NIV – “(20) *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*”

d) We Inherit The Promises Through Faith AND Patience

- ❑ Hebrews 6:12, NIV – “*We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*”

3. Single-Minded – Experience God’s Provision

- ❑ James 1:5-8, NIV – (5) *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (6) But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (7) That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

a) What Is Double-Mindedness?

- ❑ The word “doubt” comes from the word “double” -- it means “two”
- ❑ To doubt is to have 2 minds, or 2 opinions, or 2 ways of thinking on an issue

b) What Do We Need To Be Single-Minded About?

i. Be Single-Minded About Prayer

- ❑ Mark 11:24, NIV – “*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*”

- ❑ 1 Kings 18:21, NASB – “(21) *And Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’*”

ii. Be Single-Minded About Our Seed

- ❑ Psalm 126:6, NIV – “(6) *He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.*”

- ❑ Galatians 6:9, NIV – “(9) *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*”

iii. Single Minded About Our Past

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

- ❑ 1 John 1:9, NIV – “(9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”