

Take Every Thought Captive

II Cor 10:3-6 (5)

1. Intro

Clarify

1. Satan is not omnipresent.
 1. When I say Satan did ... , I mean that he is the general in charge.
 2. Because he is a created being he cannot be everywhere at once; he needs workers to carry out his plan.
 1. It may be an angel of darkness that is tempting and trying to deceive you, not Satan himself
2. Scripture calls us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.
 1. We change by changing our thinking.
 2. To do this we need to take "every thought" captive
3. We need to think about what we are thinking;
 1. We need to have a ready mind, as the Bereans did;
 2. Finally we need to humble ourselves before God so that we can be transformed.
4. It is this transformation that we should seek, so that we can follow after Jesus effectively.

2. -Mind of the flesh (Rom 8:5):

1. There is a battle going on for our minds. (Rom 8:5-9)
 1. Mind of the flesh or mind of the Spirit
 2. Our default is a mind of the flesh or the natural things of man
 1. If the deceiver can keep us here all is well.
 3. It is when our desire to change that the battle heats up.
 1. If we would like to live as directed by the Spirit then Satan may take a more active role in trying to keep that from happening.
 4. Sometimes the things we battle are just the fleshly nature and desires cropping up. (Gal 5:19-21)
 1. Am I reaping today what I sowed yesterday?
 1. Satan may use those things as a way to get his foot into the door.
 1. Once in the door he may play with other things.
 2. The essence of who we are exists in our thought life. (Proverbs 4:23)

3. Think about what you are thinking (Eph 2:3)

1. Is your mind controlled or does it just wander randomly through the day?
 1. Do thoughts just pop into your mind?
 2. Where do those thoughts come from?
2. If you are focused on a task your mind is paying attention.
 1. Your mind is productive

3. What happens when we are minds can be put into neutral (driving, comfort of home; men's nothing box)

1. What thoughts come to mind most readily

1. Would you consider them productive or non-productive?

4. We are instructed to renew our thought process (Eph 4:23)

4. Have a ready mind (Acts 17:11)

1. Have a mind open to the will of God

2. Have a mind that will seek after the things that God wants.

1. Bereans

2. Some believed at Thessalonica, but many had closed minds.

5. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom 12:2)

1. We need the mind of the Spirit

1. Being humble before God

1. Agree and turn to God

1. Being humble before the Lord is important

1. It is Jesus' righteousness that cover us

2. If the Accuser accuses you of something maybe it is true or partially true.

1. He will try to get you to focus on your own righteousness.

1. The focus needs to be shifted to Jesus' righteousness.

2. Impatient – yes I am, but Jesus righteousness covers that for me as I try to become more patient.

3. Self-centred – yes I am, but Jesus' righteousness ...

4. Unloving – yes I am, but ...

2. We stand before the throne of grace, not condemnation.

3. Humility is the surrender of our being before God

6. Conclusion

1. All of us need to have our minds renewed

1. It should be a constant in our lives. (daily)

2. If we don't actively engage ourselves in this process, the old person soon crops back up.

3. It takes work, but we can be transformed by renewing our thinking process.