

Friday Meditation

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18

Questions:

1. What are one or two new ideas that seem to jump off the page to you today as you read through the various pieces of armor?
2. Much of what you have learned this week is teaching you to protect what part of you?
3. You are also learning to use the sword of the Spirit as an offensive weapon by using and holding on to God's words. How does that feel to experience more freedom in your mind?

Prayer: Mighty God, You see my need and have taught me this week to become more active in the battle for my mind. Thank You! Continue to guide me Holy Spirit into all truth so that my life will glorify God in all aspects. In Jesus Name. Amen

May God be with you today my friend and rest on his unchanging love and grace for you. See you Sunday!

[Sermon Note Answers: waged, souls, apply, better, think, distractions, away, mind, direct, result, captive, obedient, stay, direct, submit, flee]

Sermon Notes

April 2, 2017 -- Ephesians 4:17-24

Behind the Curtain: Tactics of the Devil

In the spiritual realm there is a battle being _____ for the _____ of all people.

When we _____ ourselves to learning a craft, we become _____ at that craft.

Satan will have people _____ all they need is a passing belief in a supreme being... and then to have them harden their hearts toward God's primary means of growing in their faith.

Satan throws up all sorts of _____ to the Christian mind so that we will turn _____ from God.

How does one put on and keep on the new self?

1. Understand the true spiritual battle field is in the _____.
Any action we take, good or evil, godly or not will be a _____ of something that has come across the screen of our mind.
2. To take control of the mind, we must "take _____ every thought to make it _____ to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5)
Good or bad, the more you entertain a thought, the longer it will _____ with you and _____ you.
3. _____ yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil and he will _____ from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. (James 4:7,8a)

Monday Meditation

Read: Psalm 119:9-16

Questions:

1. To be pure before God you must do what?
2. What is the purpose of hiding God's word in one's heart?
3. In verses 15 & 16 what are the three action words and how might you do these each day.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I ask that you would help me to hold close to your words that my life would look more like Jesus'. In His name. Amen*

Tuesday Meditation

Read: John 8:42-47

Questions:

1. In Verse 44, Jesus calls the devil two things, what are they?
2. Even though the devil cannot hold to the truth, can his lies still sound convincing and real?
3. If you think hard enough, what might be one or two lies of the devil you are holding as truth?

Realize Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders of his day and telling them they follow the devil.

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, help me to be aware of believing any lie as truth. Protect my mind today and help me dwell on God's truth. In Jesus name. Amen*

Wednesday Meditation

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:1-5

Questions:

1. In verse 5, what are we to take captive?
2. How do we know if a thought we take is a godly thought or an ungodly thought?
3. I believe there are four places thoughts come from. 1. God. 2. Ourselves. 3. The world. 4. Devil. How can you distinguish one from another?

Prayer: *Lord, give me the ability to understand and distinguish where thoughts are coming from into my mind that I may dwell only on godly thoughts and give you all others. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

Thursday Meditation

Read: James 4:5-10

Questions:

1. Who are we to submit to and who to resist?
2. How must the Devil respond to you when you resist him?

Today is an important day to put into action James 4:5 by saying it aloud. When you say it aloud, see in your mind's eye the thought being laid at the foot of the cross and the devil fleeing.

Prayer: *Empower me Holy Spirit to put into practice this truth that I may live in freedom from ungodly thoughts and sense God's presence more in my life. In Jesus Name. Amen.*