

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Winning the battle over self Part II

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

Last week we dealt with the flesh and understood that the flesh and spirit are always warring against each other. Where does this leave the 2nd part of our trinity, the mind? The mind is always in the middle waiting to take a side. The mind will either side with the flesh or the spirit? Who the mind sides with is determined by our will. Our will is housed in our mind. God created us and gave us free will. The will is very powerful. It alone determines where our souls will spend eternity. It makes choices that affect the quality of life we will have and whether we will walk by faith or by sight. When I marry couples and we get to the marriage vows and the question is asked, do you take this man or woman to be your lawfully wedded wife etc? I then wait on the response. I do or I will follows. The will has just given permission to the mouth to speak and enter into an agreement that will bind the entire trinity. You will also find emotions, intellect and desires housed in the mind. There are many marriages that have failed because the will was influenced by desire or emotion and not by your spirit. Consequently when they saw another person they desired or had an emotional attachment to they could not resist and the will made another choice to enter into an ungodly relationship and destroyed the marriage. We see this played out in the news and internet virtually daily. An unrenewed mind will certainly prevent us from winning the battle over self. How can the believer protect themselves from a travesty like this?

1. **Don't trust the mind.** The bible teaches us to trust in the Lord and not to lean to our own understanding. There is a way that SEEMS right to man but the end result is destruction. I don't have enough room on this paper to record how many times I have missed this one. Thank God that He is a God of another chance. Emotions, intellect and desire will convince you to make decisions that feel right. Emotional decisions usually are always the wrong decision. Intellectual decisions in the Kingdom of the God will always be opposite of faith. Desires that do not line up with the word of God is lust and will always lead us down the wrong path.
2. **Submit your will to His will.** When Jesus agonized in the garden of Gethsemane. He desired for the Lord to allow the sins of the world to be taken away by another means. His mind said take this cup away from me. However in the same sentence He said nevertheless not my WILL by thy WILL be done. Jesus submitted His will to God's will. If we are to win the battle over self. We must always submit our will to the will of God. God's Spirit abides in the believer and we must hand over control to His Spirit. Jesus must be LORD not just Savior. This is how we

walk in the spirit and not fulfill the desires of the flesh. I also call this taking the high road. There are times that people say things to me and in my mind I have a great response that would really put them in their place or “get them told” as we would say back home. The problem with this is obvious, this is what I want to say, not necessarily what God wants me to say or even the proper way a Christian should respond. I cannot control what another person says or does. I can however control what I do and say. The choice is mine. Who will I obey? That all depends on whose will is going to be followed. When I have taken the time to win the battle over self in this area, I will always make the right choice.

3. **Submit my mind to be renewed daily with the word of God.** God’s will is progressive. He is taking all of us on a journey. When the children of Israel were freed from Egyptian bondage, they could no longer afford think and behave like slaves. They were free and no longer had to depend on Pharaoh to provide for them. God was their provider. However not all of them were willing to renew their minds. They longed to go back to Egypt and refused to change and believe God. They died in the wilderness never reaching the promise that God had for them. This is still repeated today. We must allow God to do a new thing in our lives. We must not be bound by tradition or what worked 20 years ago. We must allow God to renew our minds daily with His word, less a promise that He has for us is missed because we refused to renew our minds.

Jesus loves you and He wants the best for you. He is looking for people to serve in His army and people that know how to win the battle over self. I hope to see all the men at our Man Up Conference Saturday December 19th @ 9am. As I am writing this now I can feel the presence of the Lord and an anointing that is uncommon. This is one they will never forget. The rest I look forward to seeing you in service this Sunday Morning. I love you and make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill