



TAKE UP THY SWORD



A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)

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Is Your Mind Blind?

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them (Isaiah 42:16).

We've probably all heard this slogan from the United Negro College Fund: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." And that reminds me of the myth that we only use 10% of our brain. But since we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps 139:14) in our Father's image, then we should make a conscious effort to demonstrate that "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16)! The second chapter of Philippians begins with a section entitled "Imitating Christ's Humility," and these instructions are given to us regarding our minds:

Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves... Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (2-3, 5).

Jesus taught His disciples in Luke 10:27, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind." In order to do this properly, we must first take inventory of our mental and emotional state. Proverbs 23:7 states, "for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he;" therefore, we should constantly refer to this checklist:

Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Phil 4:8).

Because I have a very active imagination, the Holy Spirit led me a few years ago to search the scriptures regarding the origin of thoughts; and I was shocked to find out that they come from our heart! This passage regarding the reason for the flood in Noah's time stood out the most:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gen 6:5).

We have to remember that God, but not the enemy, can hear what we're thinking and His Word "is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:12). Matthew 9:4 states, "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" We cannot hide anything from the Lord because He is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (almighty), and omnipresent (always there)! So when those not-so-holy images or ideas try to creep inside our craniums, we need to start:

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5).

How do we know if our mind is blind? Let's examine the various usage of that word (adjective/noun/verb/adverb):

A BLIND [mind] is unable or unwilling to understand.

A BLIND is something that obstructs vision.

To BLIND [your mind] means to deprive of discernment.

To do something BLIND means without guidance.

No matter where we are on the path of Kingdom life, it is possible for those mind-blinding spirits to attack us.

That's why Paul said to "gird up the loins of your mind [and] be sober" (1 Pet 1:13). We have to cover our mind with the Blood of the Lamb, and "sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word" (Eph 5:26)!

Those who are not yet saved are described this way:

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor 4:3-4).

I thank God everyday for His "Amazing Grace" because I once was blind, but now I see! Perhaps the writer of that song was inspired by the story of blind Bartimaeus found in the tenth chapter of Mark. He was begging by the side of the road and heard that Jesus was passing by, so "he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me" (10:47). The Lord stopped, called him over, asked what he needed and said, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole" (10:52). Bartimaeus immediately received his sight and followed Jesus.

Now we can open our spiritual eyes and "serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind" (1 Chron 28:9)!

THUS SAITH THE LORD: "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jer 17:10).

PRAYER: *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer (Ps 19:14).*

"Be encouraged in the law of the Lord" (2 Chron 31:4):

Psalm 18:28; Proverbs 12:20; Ezekiel 11:5; Matthew 15:18-20; Romans 8:5-7, 12:2-3; Ephesians 4:17-23; Philippians 4:7; 2 Timothy 1:7; Titus 1:15-16; James 4:8

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