THE MIND

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

THE MIND

Text: Ephesians 4:23

Teacher: Moses O. Adewuyi

Prayer

Father in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of life you have given to us, this is the time for your word, please open our hearts and minds in Jesus name. Amen!!!

Study

Sometimes ago, we were taught *renewing of the mind* here and we learnt what renewing the mind means and what it entails. Today, we are going deeper into what the mind is and the different kinds of things the mind produces.

Just to make us get our memory refreshed, I will briefly give the explanation of the mind.

The mind is the element in an individual that feels, perceives, thinks, wills, and especially reasons. So, apparently, the mind is the seat of one's consciousness. It is where the product of your thoughts starts from. There is no one without a mind as long as the person has a brain and is alive. Even someone that is mentally derailed has a functioning mind, but what makes such a person different is the way he puts what he has thought about into action. If a mentally derailed person doesn't have a mind, why have you never heard that a mad man entered into a place burning with fire?

At least, if there was no place to think about such, he would have just entered into the fire freely with no doubt, but he wouldn't. He might touch a fire at first but will never go near it again. Why? He thought about it and knew it to be fire and a no go area for him. One of the things that also make them to be regarded as mentally derailed beings is because of the way they reason. Their thinking is totally off the normal thinking of a normal person. This is to tell us that for as long as a person remains alive, the person has a mind; the ability to think with the brain. Every of a man's action comes from what he has processed in his mind. Though, there is what we call reflex action.

According to Merriam Webster dictionary, **reflex action** is an automatic and often inborn response to a stimulus that typically involves a nerve impulse passing inward from a receptor to the spinal cord and then passing outward from the spinal cord to an effector (such as a muscle or gland) **without reaching the level of consciousness and often without passing to the brain**.

This is only the moment the brain is not involved in the action we take. It's mostly very fast and rapid. The mind is used for thinking, therefore it is right to say that your mind is your brain, this is against the popular belief that your mind is in your heart or chest. No, it is in your head. You think with your mind and not with your heart. It is what you have thought in your mind that becomes transferred as a thought to your heart. When you begin to ponder and meditate upon it, your heart takes hold of it and keeps processing it, then action follows. This is why it is written that *as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he*. The actions have been conceived in the mind through sense organs and have gone to the heart for thorough processes before it became an action.

Ephesians 4:23: ***"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"***

Apostle Paul knows the power of the mind and how it is able to direct the actions of a person, so he gave a word here. This verse could also be translated to

Ephesians 4:23: TLB

"Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better."

Which means the mind of a child of God must constantly be changing for the better. It's a process that must continue and not end till we are glorified with Him. The reason for this is because the devil has a way of projecting and controlling the minds of those who allow him. Let's quickly look at the two kinds of mind that we have, then we understand better.

The two kinds of minds are;

A. The devilish mind

B. The God-kind mind (Mind of Christ)

Let's go into both deeply and see what they mean.

A**. The devilish kind of mind** is the mind which has a lot of products which the devil himself orchestrates and directs. The owner of this mind allows the devil gain entrance into what he or she thinks. He gives room to the devil to tamper with his thoughts which influences the actions of such a person.

Under this kind of mind, we have what it gives birth to, which are;

1. **Wicked Mind:**

This is a mind that processes wicked things all the time. When a person who has this kind of mind sees a vehicle moving on its own, he wishes that such vehicle hits those that are walking and passing on their own. It is so much ruled by the wickedness in high places.

Proverbs 21:27:

"The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?"

God so much detests a mind that thinks wicked things. No matter the sacrifices of a wicked mind, it is always an abomination unto God until such repents and begins to think godly. A wicked mind will always want to revenge no matter how much the person who offended has begged. Such mind will always devise wicked things.

When I was in secondary school, sometimes, my classmates would put the sharp point of their pen on the chair so that people would sit on it. What a wicked thing! It was as a result of the wicked mind in them which made them think wickedly, thereby doing wicked things.

2. **Polluted/corrupted mind:** This mind is the garbage and dustbin of the devil. He dumps his refuse in it and makes such a person birth dirty thoughts. The devil plants bad things, corrupted and polluted images in this person's mind. He/she finds it easy to think about pornography, such a person can unclad the opposite sex in his/her mind so easily without being pricked by conscience.

2 Corinthians 11:3:

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

People with this mind find it hard go with things that are spiritual. They see it as burdens and find it so hard to do things that have to do with God. Because of this kind of mind, such people might be battling with addictions, sexual immoralities and so on. It is as a result of the mind that is polluted and corrupted by the cunning one.

1 Timothy 6:5:

"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

The bible even tells us to withdraw ourselves from people with corrupt minds. If the bible could tell us to withdraw ourselves, it literally means God is strictly against it.

3. **Proud mind:**

Those who have this kind of mind find it so hard to believe they do. This is because pride wouldn't allow them. They think highly of themselves than others. They believe they can perform better than every other person and are proud of whatsoever they have. God has complete hatred for a mind as this. This is why Nebuchadnezzar the king was made to eat grass for good 7 years.

Daniel 5:20:

"But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:"

The way God measures pride is not mainly from the actions but from the mind. Remember that Satan was thrown down from heaven because he allowed wrong thoughts in his heart. This started from his mind and he allowed it to grow that he continued to process it in his heart. This is why we really need to be careful that we are not thinking with pride. It's essential we rebuke any prideful thing our heart could be processing before it becomes a stronghold in our hearts and we begin to play it out. God reads the mind and begins to judge with what you allow in your mind.

4. **Evil mind:**

This is a mind that always finds joy in doing harm. The owner of this mind does evil with no any other thoughts. We have heard and seen videos where human beings are butchered like animals. Sometimes, when I want to kill a chicken, I feel bad. How much more killing a whole human being like me?

So bad, evil and disgusting. This is as a result of the evil that dominates the whole mind and the lead master planner of this is the devil. No good thing comes from him. No normal human being would butcher his fellow human being without being pricked in the heart.

Acts 14:2:

"But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren."

We would see that the unbelieving Jews were able to make the minds of the gentiles evil against themselves. Who rules the mind of an unbeliever? The devil! This shows us that the devil is the one in charge of an evil mind.

5. **Reprobate mind:**

A reprobate mind is a mind which is unprincipled and depraved. Very stubborn and not willing to yield to the truth. Such a mind leads such a person to damnation.

Romans 1:28:

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"

Those with this mind do things that are out of the knowledge of Christ. They follow their own will and do things that are not convenient. This is why you would see a person pierce her nose and be shouting and groaning in pains as the process is going on. Even though she doesn't feel convenient, she still wants to do fashion and do that which is against the knowledge of Christ.

6. **Doubtful/double minded mind:**

This kind of mind paralyzes the faith of anybody it dominates because as long as a person remains double minded, such a person keeps lacking faith.

Luke 12:29:

"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind."

Jesus knows what it means to have a doubtful mind, so He warned us against it. A doubtful mind calls God a liar because it does not even believe the promises of God written in His word.

James 1:8:

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

A double minded person is never stable in his ways, this is why the devil will always be moving here and there, looking for whom to devour. He is never stable neither are his ways pure and clean. So is anyone who has such mind. Such person will always have crooked ways and path and will never be stable.

7. **Blinded minds:**

This applies majorly to every unbeliever, how that their minds have been blinded because they refuse to accept the light.

2 Corinthians 4:4:

"In whom the god of this world 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 into them."

When you come across some chronic unbelievers, you only pray strongly for them because their minds are so hardened and customized in a way that whenever anything light tries coming into them, they repel it instantly. This is majorly because their minds have been blinded. They need serious prayers of intercession for the word to break through them. You will come across some, they will preach to you back even as you try preaching to them and still quote the word of God for you. The minds of this type of people have been blinded.

8. **Despiteful/hating mind:**

This kind of mind is one of the most dangerous. Living with people with such minds is dangerous because they hate others even for no reason. They can decide to hate someone with passion just because of the way the person walks. You would think the person had done a very bad thing to them before because of their total hatred for the person.

Ezekiel 36:5:

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey."

The good you do does not stop these ones from hating. That is because of the way their minds are. They hate and despise anybody they choose to hate.

9. **Defiled/carnal mind:**

This mind allows the things that please the flesh to dominate. Those with this mind commit fornication and adultery frequently in the heart more than they do physically. They are controlled by lust and process any thing they see which can contribute to their lust.

Titus 1:15:

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

This is why we hear cases of aged men and women who rape children that are not even up to a year old. It is as a result of what they process in their minds.

Lastly,

10. **Materialistic/vain mind:**

This is a mind which craves for material things. Anybody who allows this mind rule him or her will always chase after material things.

Philippians 3:19:

"Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."

This is what is pushing some youths of nowadays to engage in fraudulent activities just to get material things which makes them lose their souls to the devil. They do not know that the blessing of God maketh rich without adding sorrows to it.

I hope we have known the various minds that the devil oversees. Those with these kind of minds will always tend to follow the ways of the devil because he oversees the minds and the owner of the minds.

Let's now look at the God-kind mind.

B. **God-kind mind:**

This is the mind that is of Christ, which gives no room to the devil. A mind that thinks like Christ. Some of the various types of this mind are:

1. **Humble mind:**

This is a mind which trembles at the presence of God. A mind which makes its owner brings down himself so low and sees himself as nothing.

Acts 20:19:

"Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:"

This is the kind of mind God wants, to serve Him. This kind of mind accepts corrections and never feels too big to be corrected.

Colossians 3:12:

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;"

Being humble in mind translates into being humble in actions. Before a person can be humble in actions, he must have been humble in mind.

2. **Sober mind:**

A mind which is so broken that it receives reproofs from the Lord and His true servants. Willing to change and having a godly disposition about life. Such a person thinks with knowledge of God and is never jumping here and there with pride.

Titus 2:6:

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."

It is very easy for the word of God to have way in them because they are open to receiving it. They are not hardened in mind but receptive.

3. **Sound mind:**

This is a mind which has the peace of Christ. It carries joy and never thinks of evil that might happen. Such a person feels joyous even in unpleasant situations. Such is never weary nor down but keeps getting strengthened day by day.

2 Timothy 1:7:

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Such mind is settled and of good thoughts. Such person's mind is in good health and not unstable but stable. It thinks about God and things pertaining to godliness.

4. **Loving mind:**

This mind loves God, man and even its enemies. Someone who possesses this mind is often seen as a foolish person because of how he/she demonstrates love in action. Such love starts from the mind.

Matthew 22:37:

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

Such a mind finds it hard to go against God's commandments because it always thinks about the love it has for God. Such person is never tired of loving God and things pertaining to God.

Having known the differences between these two kinds of minds, how do we have this God kind of mind?

How to have the God kind mind:

For anyone to have this mind of Christ, such must be genuinely born again.

The mind of Christ is the mind every believer has, as long as such is genuinely born again. However, if such does not continue to renew the mind daily, the devil might decide to come plant his seeds into such a mind and pollute it such that it starts having the characteristics of the mind that does not look like God. Renewing the mind daily will help one's mind stay on God and keep making one far from the reach of the devil. The more you renew your mind, the lesser the devil is able to tamper with it.

To renew the mind, it comes strictly through studying the word, praying and fasting.

Romans 12:1-2:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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."

It is a continuous process and shouldn't stop until one is called to glory. You will notice that when you are far from the word and prayer, you find it very easy to process some things in your brain even though they are out of what you never wished to think about. Then it begins to become something easy for such a person to act out.

We must not be far from the truth of God's word, prayer and fasting as children of God because the devil tries by all means to see that he pollutes our minds so as to influence our actions.

May God help us to renew our minds daily in Jesus name, Amen.

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