

## Battle for the Mind – Lesson 7

### The Fruit of Victory

#### Introduction:

Romans 8:37 – *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*

Romans 8:31 – *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

These often-quoted verses declare the truth about the battle for the mind. In Christ we have every resource that we need, not just to win each battle as it comes, but to stay in victory – repelling every evil, negative or fearful thought and filling our minds with God’s truth.

2 Corinthians 10:5 – *“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...”*

Stand firm: hold the ground of your mind for Christ; take every thought captive; renew your mind with God’s word; and let it produce faith for change in every area of your life. As you stand in this victory, other people will see it. For as you think more like Christ, you will start to become more like him:

2 Corinthians 3:18 - *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

#### 1. The Knowledge of God is Productive:

Our growing knowledge of God and his ways prevents us from being unproductive in our Christian life. Because we know God’s heart and mind and seek to live in the centre of his will, the qualities of a godly life will be seen more and more in our lives:

2 Peter 1:8 – *“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Some of these qualities are highlighted for us in earlier verses:

2 Peter 1:2-3 – *“May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...”*

Through our knowledge of God we are able to tap into the endless resources of his grace and peace. In fact, everything we need for life is abundantly available to us. We know and love the God who holds the key to the storehouse of heaven.

## 2. The Fruit of Righteousness

In lesson six we saw that God has a plumb-line of righteousness on which he bases his thinking about every issue. Similarly, as we 'have the mind of Christ', we bring our mind into line with God's righteous ways. Thinking with the righteousness of God produces a life characterized by God's righteousness. And the Bible is full of glorious promises to those who conduct their lives this way, two of which stand out amongst the rest as necessary for a healthy life and mind.

### a. Peace

Isaiah 32:17 – *“And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.”*

By living righteously and maintaining a clear conscience before God and man, you will be kept in perfect peace. The world today is desperate for peace. Nations at war long for it; ethnic groups battle for it; individuals seek for it with one another and within themselves. Yet people will never know it outside of Christ because it is a kingdom quality, the *fruit of righteousness*. And it is yours in abundance. Praise God!

Isaiah 26:3 – *“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”*

### b. Joy

True joy is only found in Jesus. In the same way that righteousness is a prerequisite for real peace, righteousness and peace are together prerequisites for true joy. People outside of Christ cannot know the deep joy we experience in Christ because they are not at peace with themselves or with God.

Speaking prophetically of Christ, the psalmist says:

Psalm 45:7 – *“...you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions...”*

We, too, can be anointed with joy as we think and live righteously.

Nehemiah 8:10 – *“Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

Proverbs 10:28 – *“The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.”*

These fruits of righteousness have their root in a mind filled with God's righteous ways. It is vital that we continue to meditate on the fullness of our God and his Word so that we live in the mainstream of his abundant promises for us. He has indeed given us 'everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him' (2 Peter 1:3).

### **3. Think Like a Son, Live Like a Son:**

The nature and character of a father is seen in his son. Sometimes the likeness is striking while at other times it is less obvious. But the son can never change his parents nor the parents their son because their genes are in him. This relationship is reflected in the way children think. By virtue of living with their father through their formative years and having his seed within them, they become more like him.

Through faith in Christ we have become sons of God:

*Galatians 3:26 – "...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith."*

The Spirit we received as a sign of our new life in Christ is the Spirit of God's Son:

*Galatians 4:6 – "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"*

It has been God's desire for all eternity to have many sons – men and women who would share the nature of Christ, expressing the Father's heart in all its fullness. This is God's purpose for you:

*Romans 8:29 – "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."*

God chose you before time began, knowing that you would respond to Christ's call of salvation. He has predestined (determined beforehand) that you will become like Christ. All that he has from his Father you have – so start to think like a son, a son of God.

*Ephesians 4:24 – "...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."*

### **4. If a Son, then an Heir**

*Galatians 4:4-5, 7 – "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons...So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."*

Because we are sons of God, we can approach Him directly, any time we wish. As an heir to all the fullness of God, what you need is available to you through Him, walk in boldly and ask your Father for it.

*John 15:7 – "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

Your Father is someone special. You can walk tall in this dark world as a son of the king. Think like a son; live like a son. Let it be said of you: 'He's just like his Father!'

## **5. See Him – Be Like Him**

1 John 3:2 – *“Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”*

We have confidence that ultimately, when Christ returns, we shall be like him in the fullest sense. Yet our transformation into his likeness has begun and will continue until we meet him. The more we see of Jesus, the more we will become like him. The more we fill our mind with the wonder of his love and grace towards us, holding the ground of our mind firmly for Christ, the more we will progressively change:

2 Corinthians 3:18 – *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

Note that we reflect God's glory. This means that we are looking at him. What we see fills our minds and affects our whole being.

## **6. Now the Battle's Won!**

A sure sign that the battle for the mind is won is progressive change into “Christ-likeness”. The fruit of victory is seen in your life. Satan's tricks and lies are quickly recognized, refused and replaced with God's Word. You are filling your mind with God's thoughts, adopting his perspective on all matters and issues of life. You are indeed able to declare like the apostle John:

1 John 4:17 – *“By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.”*