

Captives or Captors

How do you deal with your thoughts? What do you choose to meditate on? Are you controlling your thoughts, or are they controlling you? Too often we live in subjection to our minds. However, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says:

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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...”

As you follow Christ, you have the power to overcome the things you face. Specifically, in this passage it deals more with the mental aspect of your life than actions. “Imaginations” deals with logical thoughts and reasonings against God. “Every High thing” specifically deals with pride and conceited opinions against God. Then the term “every thought” literally speaks of the mind and any of its thoughts. The battle in the mind is real. However, in Christ we have the power to take any thought into captivity.

What does it mean to take a thought captive? Well think about it in the opposite way. What does it mean for a thought to take you into captivity? Think of the countless marriages that have been destroyed by one thought that grew into a way of thinking. Think of the countless crimes or murders that began with a root thought of bitterness that captivated that person. More applicably in our daily lives, think of the irrational thoughts that we as humans have. Thoughts of distrust in God or others. Thoughts of fear or worry about things that we have no control over; yet these thoughts take us into captivity. They distract us, they take our time, and they control our actions and reactions. This is what it means to be in captivity to our thoughts. So then taking our thoughts captive means that instead of us being chained up by our thoughts, our thoughts are chained up by us (through His power in us, obviously). Will those negative and sinful thoughts never enter my mind again? They probably will; but taking our thoughts captive means they are on a very short chain, and are escorted away quickly. It is realizing that God has given me the power that is needed to possess control over my mind through His Spirit.

So, are you a captive of your thoughts, or are you a captor of your thoughts? God gave you what you needed through His power to rise and take your thoughts captive. Yes, they might still enter your mind without your permission; but keeping the “short chain” of captivity on them and escorting them out quickly is possible!

- Stephen Vaughan