

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps
Lesson 25
The Battle over Your Mind

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Back in the days of my youth, there was a comedian who coined the term, "The devil made me do it". Unfortunately, many Christians believe this foolish statement to the extent that even some so-called preachers have written books that claim the devil makes people do this or that. They make statement such as "my child has the demon of cigarette smoking or the demon of drug additions." I have even heard them say the most ridiculous statements like, "They had the demon in their car engine" or "the demon of a flat tire." What a joke, but sadly, it sure does make the true Christians look like a bunch of raving lunatics to the outside world.

When I hear someone say the "devil made me do it" or "the devil forced me to do it", or "the devil persuaded me to do it", I tell them that's all just HOGWASH. That is just an excuse, and you know it. You did it because you wanted to do it. Car engines break, tires go flat. It is all just part of life.

Let's take a quick look at the definition of sin from the Bible:

James 1:13-15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. You sin because you decide to do it, and you do.....

In the book of Job, the Bible tells us that as soon as you are born, trouble starts and does not stop *until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.* (Ephesians 1:14b) For those of us who have trusted Jesus Christ, from the day our body dies, there will be no more trouble. If you have never repented of your sin and trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, the real trouble will start the day your body dies and will continue forever. (Revelation 21:8)

Job 5:6-7 Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; 7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.
Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

If you are a Christian, the devil has no rule over you at all. There are no devil possessed Christians.

Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

Who is stronger? The devil or the Holy Spirit?

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Before you were a Christian, you were a child of the devil; the devil was your father. In your members was the sin that was inherited from your first father, Adam and mother, Eve.

Psalm 51:5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Romans 5:12 *Wherfore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Sin is a noteworthy subject in that it is defined in many ways throughout the Bible so that God can show us the destructive capabilities that it holds in both the lost and the saved individual. Webster 1828 dictionary describes sin as: Sin (Noun) - *The voluntary departure of a moral agent from a known rule of rectitude or duty, prescribed by God, any voluntary transgression of the divine law. Original sin as generally understood, is native depravity of heart to the divine will, corruption of nature.*

The Bible uses leaven to describe or symbolize sin - all it takes is a little leaven to leaven an entire loaf of bread. (Luke 13:21)

The Bible uses leaven to describe specific sins, such as bragging about oneself. (1 Corinthians 5:6) It shows us that we are selfish creatures.

The Bible uses leaven to describe specific sins, such as false teaching, (Matthew 16:11), which comes with terrible consequences (2 Peter 2:17).

Those of you that have baked bread in the past, tell me how much leaven does the recipe tell you to use? It takes 1/4 ounce of leaven to make 12 slices of bread. Leaven (sin) is likened to an invading agent; you add just a little, and it will seek out all the unleavened areas and leaven them. Think about that. Leaven (sin) will excite fermentation.

That is why some pastors will preach on sin until you are sick of it, and they are hoping you will be, not sick of their preaching but sick of sin. They know by experience what a little sin in one's life will eventually do to that individual.

Read Romans 1:18-32. Sin starts out very little, then it grows to the point where God pronounces that person reprobate. The man who is looking at women will eventually no longer be satisfied with just looking. He will want to look harder, so he will look at pornography. Then looking at women with no clothes on will not satisfy him; he will want to see forbidden acts from their bodies. Eventually that will no longer satisfy him, and he will want to look at men; and as sin invades his mind, his conscience will become seared, and the voice of God's conscience to the unsaved and God's holy Spirit in the saved will go silent. Eventually his heart will be hardened, his conscience will be seared and that curious man will be destroyed; and it all started with one little sin.

Did you know that serial rapists were not born that way? Their lust grew

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each time they became bored with their sin and debauchery until it overwhelmed their entire being. If you ever see your child or your mate looking at pornography, it is not just part of being a man, it is a wicked destroying sin. If you love them, rebuke them sharply.

There was a time when they allowed pornographic magazines in the jails. Thank God someone had enough sense to stop that foolishness.

We came out of the womb knowing how to do wrong. Nobody had to teach you how to be bad. That is why those of you that have children know that the # 1 word you say to your kids is NO. You may call them little angels, but in reality they are spawns from the devil when they do not get what they want.

But now that you are a Christian, you have to learn to be good, and that learning begins in **your mind**. Start from the top and then work down. You have to change the way your mind thinks before you can get your tongue, hands, and feet in order to do what God wants. When a person is born again, they become biblically schizophrenic. You are now two inside of one, and the battleground is **your mind**. You were born of the flesh; you were born again in the spirit. Look at some verses

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (Jesus speaking)

Ephesians 4:22-23 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Now the struggle is when you want to think right things, your flesh wants to thinks wrong things. So you, that's right you, have to change your mind. Even Paul struggled with his flesh and his mind.

Romans 7:15-18 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Where did Paul's problem originate?

Romans 7:23-24 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

The battle is in **your mind**. Your flesh is warring against your Spirit.

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Romans 8:7-8 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Prior to being born again, you were a child of the devil. At that time in your life, you mimicked his desires. Let us look what the devil's desires in life were to be.

Isaiah 14:12-14 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

13 *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

You naturally did what you learned of the devil. Because his sole motto is "live for yourself", that is exactly what you naturally do. Prior to the Lord Jesus Christ giving you new life in Him, you were all children of wrath.

Ephesians 2:3 *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Think about all the verses that we have shown you thus far. Listen, this is very important, much more important than anything your mind is trying to get you to think about. This is crucial to the very fiber of your soul.

Before we were born again, most of us thought it was no big deal to go out on Friday night and tie one on. What's wrong with a few beers? What's wrong with a little wine with my dinner? I am bummed; think I will take a few valiums that will make me feel better. Think I will try a few of these drugs. My friends say it's the cool thing to do. How about a tattoo? That would look wild on my arm; then I would wear clothing to show it off.

Sometimes we praised those who exonerated the acts of the devil, Halloween and partying. We were selfish, overgrown babies doing that which made us feel good. Adam and Eve brought sin into the whole world through this same selfishness. (Genesis 3:6) Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Tell me why a beautiful young girl will fill her face, tongue, nose and ears with pieces of metal; then tattoo her body with permanent inks? Because she wants attention; she wants to be different, yet she wants to be part of the crowd. Everybody is doing it, you know. Destroying and mutilating her flesh while thumbing her nose at authority and ultimately the God who created her and gave her a conscience to know good and evil. But she wanted something else.

Leviticus 19:28 *Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.*

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The Bible tells us a story about the maniac of Gadarenes. He was a crazy man living in a grave yard, who had to be restrained with chains with barbes on them. He cut himself with stones, crying night and day.

Mark 5:5 *And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.*

That is crazy. Why would anyone desire to choose that which is harmful to themselves? Because we were walking dead people, we were out of our minds. **We were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

Now, you have the opportunity to become quickened (become alive).

1 John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

You will get life only when you repent, believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ, or you can live and die a dead man. Life is too short. When the end comes, you want to go to heaven; and while you are here, you would rather live under the blessings of God. Pleasing the Lord comes with rewards now and hereafter. You will be much better off in the long run. The thought of being alienated from GOD does not sound like a good plan. Do you want to be a walking dead man, out of your mind? Most likely NOT. So, what do you do first? Pray ask for God's help. He is listening for your call. (Jeremiah 33:3)

You have to change your mind. How? By trusting in the word of GOD. Do not trust in your own way to be happy. It does not seem to have worked so far. What makes you think it will get better as you get older?

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

You have to be willing to change your mind. How? By trusting in the word of GOD.

2 Corinthians 8:12 *For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.*

1 Peter 1:13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

You have to take control of your thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6 *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; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

It is going to take some effort on your part. It is a war, and you are warring against your own flesh.

Romans 7:23-24 *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

24 *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

You cannot win the battle by yourself; you must trust GOD.

Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

If you really want to change, just make-up your mind. GOD will not let you down. You have to take some steps in changing your mannerisms.

Ephesians 4:22-23 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

Make yourself available to the service of GOD.

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. 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.*

GOD is trying to do a complete overhaul on you. Why not finally decide to allow HIM to do just that.

You need life. Life only comes from one person, Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 1:4 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* (speaking of Jesus Christ)

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

The first step you must take to change is to Repent (change your mind).

Then Believe in the word of GOD. Jesus Christ died for your sins, He was buried, and HE rose again the third day.

Ask HIM, Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sin.

Ask HIM, to be your Saviour and make you the person HE wants you to be.

Then Thank HIM. Receive Him!!! (Matthew 7:7)

Last, but not least, get a KJV Bible and start reading it. God speaks to you through His Bible, and you speak to God in prayer. Then go tell others about your new life.

1 Peter 3:8-9 *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

2 Corinthians 13:11 *Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

Who will win the battle over Your mind?

Notes

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Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. Be honest, what is your mind thinking about right now?
2. Why does our mind want to think about everything it should not be thinking about? *
3. Can a Christian be devil possessed? *
4. Why is it when you sin and get caught, you automatically blame someone else, or you lie? *
5. How does the Bible depict sin? *
6. When we allow our minds to imagine and think things that are selfish and carnal, who are we likening ourselves to? *
7. According to Job, what happens to people who are born? *
8. What are we supposed to do when a bad thought comes into our mind? *
9. Why are we not supposed to get a tattoo or pierce parts of our bodies? *

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10. What causes a person to become reprobate? *
11. Why is it a bad idea to allow your teenager or mate to look at pornography?
12. Where does it say that we struggle with our selfish flesh daily? *
13. Explain how sin and leaven are alike. *
14. How do we renew our minds? *
15. What is the first step in the battle of having a pure mind? *

True/false

- Controlling what you think takes effort. God will help you if you ask Him to.
- The devil wants you to allow your mind to be free and imagine and think whatever you want.
- The born again believer is schizophrenic.
- We change our minds by trusting the word of God.



2 Corinthians 10:5-6; 1 Peter 1:13; Ephesians 4:22-23

Write out these verses on a separate piece of paper: (must be in KJV)

any questions?