

“The Battle For The Mind!”
1 Peter 1:13-16

Introduction:

1. There Is A Dangerous Battle Going On Today:
 - Not On A Foreign Battlefield, Like Afghanistan Or Iraq!
 - Not On A Domestic Battlefield, Through Politics!
 - But In A Personal Battlefield!
 - The Battlefield Is Your Mind!
 - The Battle Is For Your Mind!
2. The Devil & The World:
 - Wants To Take Over Your Mind!
 - See This Battle Going On Everywhere!
 - Through Music! Television! Radio! Books! Internet! Schools! Any Form Of Communication From The World Can Influence Your Mind!
 - Goal Of Many: Render You Completely Useless, If You Are A Genuine, Born-Again Christian!
 - Remember: In 1 Peter, Peter Is Writing To Christians:
 - Who Are Suffering Or Who Will Be Suffering!
 - Suffering Can Be Very Different From Person To Person!
 - From Christian To Christian!
 - 1:6 - “Manifold Temptations!”
 - But The Outcome Can Be The Same!
 - If You Have Not Been Firmly Established In The Message Of The Gospel!
 - The Devil Wants Your Suffering To Bring Into Your Mind:
 - Confusion!
 - Where You Begin To Wonder & Doubt God’s Own Character / Control / Care For You!
 - When There Is Confusion:
 - You Cannot Be Useful In Your Witness / Service For The Lord!
 - And The Battle For Your Mind Has Been Won!
 - Conceit!
 - When You Begin To Think That You Can Handle These Problems On Your Own! Don’t Need Anyone’s Help – Not Even God’s!
 - When There Is Self-Conceit:
 - You Cannot Be Useful In Your Worship Of God – Because He Has Lost His Importance In Your Life!
 - And The Battle For Your Mind Has Been Won!
 - Contradiction!
 - When You Begin To Think That You Don’t Want To Obey God! His Laws Were Only For The Old Testament! You Have “Liberty” To Live And Do As You Please!
 - When There Is Contradiction:
 - You Cannot Be Useful In Your Walk With God! “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)
 - And The Battle For Your Mind Has Been Won!
3. Peter Understood The Importance Of The Mind In The Christian Life!
 - So Did Paul:
 - Romans 12:2 - “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind!”
 - So Peter Explains To Us The Kind Of Mind We Need:
 - In Order To Win This Battle For Our Minds!
 - He Says: “Wherefore . . .” (Read 1:13-16)
 - He Basis Everything In These Verses On The Gospel!
 - That He Just Explained To Them In 1:1-12!
 - “Wherefore” – Don’t Let Your Mind Wander!
 - Keep Your Mind Focused On The Gospel!
 - Remember:

- The Reasons For The Gospel! (1:1-2)
 - For Grace & Peace!
- The Reward Of The Gospel! (1:3-5)
 - Real Hope / Inheritance / Home!
- The Richness Of The Gospel! (1:6-9)
 - “More Precious Than Of Gold!”
- The Reliability Of The Gospel! (1:10-12)
 - Rooted In The Past!
- And Let The Gospel Change The Way You Think!
 - When You Are Suffering:
 - It Is Natural To Be Confused!
 - It Is Easy To Become Conceited!
 - It Is Human To Start Contradicting The Truth!
 - But Don’t Let The Devil & The World Win This Battle For Your Mind!
- Instead, Keep Your Mind Focused On The Gospel!
 - You Can Win This Battle With:

1. *A Clear Mind!*

- 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!”
 - When You Are Suffering:
 - It Is Natural To Be Confused!
 - Questions: Why Is This Happening To Me? Where Is God? Why Is He Not Answering Me? Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?
 - Peter Teaches That There Needs To Be An Immediate Reaction To These Kinds Of Questions! There Needs To Be Clarity Instead Of Confusion! Their Needs To Be A Focus On The Truth Instead Of The Error! This “Clear Mind” Starts With:
- A Mind That Is Released! Is A Clear Mind!
 - “Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind!”
 - **IE:** When Peter Wrote This, Men & Women Wore Long Robes - These Could Very Easily Get In The Way When They Were Working Or Needing To Get Somewhere In A Hurry - They Would “Gird” Up The Hem Of Their Robe Into Their Belt - So That They Could Be “Free” To Work / Run As Needed!
 - Peter Says That You Need To “Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind!”
 - There Are Some Thoughts & Ways Of Thinking – Old Thoughts / Old Ways Of Thinking – That You Need To Get Out Of The Way!
 - Stop Thinking In Terms Of A Citizen Of This World:
 - Start Thinking In Terms Of A Citizen Of Heaven!
 - Start Thinking In Terms Of The Gospel!
 - Remember: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee!” (Isaiah 26:3)
- A Mind That Is Responsible! Is A Clear Mind!
 - “Be Sober!”
 - Not Talking About Not Drinking (Implied) - But A State Of Mind & Heart! Self-Control & Discipline!
 - Get Serious About Your Mind!
 - What You Put In / Let In!
 - Proverbs 23:7 - “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he!”
 - What Do You Put In?
 - Philippians 4:8 - “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!”
- A Mind That Is Ready! Is A Clear Mind!
 - “Hope To The End” – Or Hope Perfectly!

- Think About Your Salvation! It Is On Its Way!
- Think About Your Savior! He Is On His Way!
- Having This Kind Of Clear Mind Is Essential!
 - In Order To Win The Battle For The Mind!
 - Because If You Trust As A Christian – You Must Think Like One Too!
 - Then:

2. ***A Child-Like Mind!***

- 1:14 - “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance!”
 - When You Are Suffering:
 - It Is Easy To Become Proud & Conceited!
 - Start Relying Upon Everyone Else But God!
 - Upon Your Medicine / Doctors!
 - Upon Yourself To Get Out Of A Jam!
 - Upon Your Own Wit / Wisdom / Others!
 - Peter Explains That We Need To Remember:
 - Who We Are! Who We Belong To!
 - Will Keep Our Pain / Problems In Perspective!
- To Be Child-Like In Character!
 - “Children!”
 - Remember Who You Are! Who You Belong To!
 - And Live As Who You Are!
 - 1 John 3:1 - “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not!”
 - Remember Your Father! Your Name! Your Relationship!
 - We Are To Mature In Our Walk With God!
 - Never Stop Being His Children!
- To Be Child-Like In Compliance!
 - “As Obedient Children” – “As Children Of Obedience”
 - Obedience Is The Expectation Of Children!
 - Obedience Is The Experience Of Children!
 - When They Are Young & Trusting!
 - Want To Comply / Please Parents!
 - This Is How We Are To Be / Live!
 - Even When Suffering!
- To Be Child-Like In Change!
 - “Not Fashioning Yourselves!”
 - Word Used 1 Other Time In NT - Romans 12:2 - “And Be Not ***Conformed*** To This World!”
 - Let There Be Change! Let God Change You!
 - Requires Humility / Teachable Spirit!
 - Not Remaining Ignorant:
 - But Growing In: “Grace & In The Knowledge Of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!” (2 Peter 3:18)
 - And Living For Him!
- The Way To Win The Battle For Your Mind:
 - Is To Have A Child-Like Trust In Your Heavenly Father!
 - Be Loving / Be Obedient / Be Teachable!
 - God Is Using Your Suffering & Situations To Teach You!
 - With This In Mind, You Will Never Be Prone To Conceit & Pride!

3. ***A Conforming Mind!***

- 1:15-16 - “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; / Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy!”
 - Also When You Are Suffering, It Is Human Nature To Just Want To Give Up / Give In!

- Ask: Why? Why Trust? Why Live Differently?
- Peter Gives Us The Basis / Foundation For Our Christian Mindset!
 - God Has A Plan For All Of This:
- A Conformity To A Person!
 - “As He Which Hath Called You Is Holy!”
 - God Is The One Who Has Called You!
 - If You Have Come To Him Through His Son, Jesus! By Repentance Of Your Sin & Faith!
 - And God Wants You To Become More & More Like Him!
 - Like His Son!
 - Becoming More Christlike!
 - “But As” – “Just As” – God Is Holy, He Desires / Demands You To Be Holy – Just Like Him!
- A Conformity With A Purpose!
 - “So Be Ye Holy!”
 - One Of The Great Attributes / Characteristics Of God!
 - Holiness! “Thrice Holy!”
 - Isaiah 6:3 - “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory!”
 - Means That God Is Completely Different / Separate:
 - From All That Is Morally Impure & Evil!
 - 1 John 1:5 - “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all!”
 - Therefore, You Are To Be Holy As Well!
 - To Grow In Holiness! Walk In The Light!
 - Stay Close To The Truth & Righteousness!
- A Conformity In Practice!
 - Not Just In Mind – But: “In All Manner Of Conversation!”
 - In Every Aspect Of Life!
 - In Your Thoughts! Be Holy!
 - In Your Actions! Be Holy!
 - In Your Relationships! Be Holy!
 - This Is Evidence That The Battle For Your Mind Has Been Won! By The Power Of God!
- A Conformity To A Principle!
 - “Because It Is Written!”
 - This Has Been God’s Desire / Demand Of His People Since The Fall!
 - Even Quotes A Command Given To His People In Leviticus 11:44!
 - And Ultimately, This Will Be The Victory!
 - Jesus Christ Came To Bring You Victory!
 - To “Be Not Conformed To This World!”
 - But To Be Transformed By God’s Word!
- And Then, The Battle For Your Mind Will Have Been Won!
 - Do Not Contradict God’s Purpose For You!
 - Be Conformed To His Purpose!
 - “Be Ye Holy!”
 - “For I Am Holy!”

Conclusion:

1. This Is Where The Battle Begins:
 - Your Mind!
 - How Will It End?
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - “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!**”
2. This Is The Kind Of *Mind* That It Takes To Overcome Suffering!
 - A Clear Mind! A Child-Like Mind! A Conforming Mind!

- All Intently Focused On One Thing:
 - The Transforming Power Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!

*Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com*