

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: Mastermind

Week 1: The Battle of Thinking

EVERY STEP TOWARD GODLINESS AND EVERY STEP TOWARD SIN BEGINS WITH A THOUGHT. That's the power of a thought! **Godliness is always premeditated and sin is always premeditated.** As a person thinks, that's who you are. **THINKING DETERMINES OUTCOME.** What comes into your mind—Comes out in your life. Nothing will be different until we think differently.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BATTLE of THINKING

① OUR BATTLES AREN'T PRIMARILY PHYSICAL 10:3

It seems like everything we battle is physical, but...

5 Mental Battles That Seem Like Physical Battles:

- **Behavioral problems** play out in physical but...—anger—abusive—impulsive—addictive
- **Financial problems** —overspend, over worry, over stash or hoard, overestimate it's joy
- **Relational problems** —pull away or selfish or deceitful
- **Attitudinal problems** —negative, —pessimistic, —petty, —arrogant, —apathetic
- **Moral problems** —feel like physical battles but they come down to a decision to honor God or not

② OUR WEAPONS FOR BATTLE ARE SPIRITUAL 10:4a

Weapons of the flesh (Galatians 5)—anger, jealousy, divisions, impurity, drunkenness

If you bring physical weapons to a spiritual battle, you are going to lose every time! Our weapon is Word of God—Ephesians 6. Personal time is important. God's Word helps think rightly, clearly, biblically, and purely.

③ DESTROYING DEEP-ROOTED THINKING IS DIFFICULT 10:4b In order to think different you have to destroy thought processes that you've had for years.

It takes *divine (THEOS) power (DUNAMIS)*, our minds are battling *strongholds (a fortified fortress of thought processes in our mind)* and the goal is to *demolish or destroy* them. You thoughts have imprisoned you.

④ EVERY THOUGHT THAT IS COUNTER TO GOD NEEDS TO BE ARRESTED 10:5

Argument = self-justifying reasons I do what I do; justifying my behavior before God, arguing against God

Prention = lofty opinions, puffed up, arrogant thoughts about ourselves. We like our opinions = IMO

Anything *that sets itself against the knowledge of God* = anything godless, anything counter to God

To live differently, you must think differently.

To think differently, you must take arguments, opinions, Godless thoughts to Jesus.

To do this, you'll need to know Jesus

YOU CAN'T THINK DIFFERENTLY WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN YOU. Your life will always move in the direction of your strongest thoughts. Are excited about the direction your thoughts are taking you?