

LIVING THE ETERNAL LIFE NOW

SESSION FIVE:
MORE BARRIERS TO
ETERNAL LIVING NOW:
STRONGHOLDS OF THOUGHT
AND FEELING

1

THE PRIMARY FORM OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war in terms of the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (not from ‘nature’), but powerful to God for the destruction of strongholds—dissolving ways of thinking and every “higher” thought raised up against the knowledge of God, and taking every thought captive to obedience to Christ.” 2 Cor.10:3-5

2

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

- Because we live at the mercy of our ideas.
- The will can only act in terms of the ideas and feelings we have.
- Sometimes just the feelings. A feeling is an impulse toward/against something.
- But feelings are rooted in and governed by thoughts or ideas.

3

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT (continued)

- We have little or no direct control of our feelings.
- We have some choice about our ideas or thoughts, and perhaps can gain more.
- We can (especially when assisted by grace) change our feelings by changing our thoughts.
- Thus: “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Rom. 12:2

4

LOVE FOR WHAT IS GOOD

- Deliverance from domination by feelings comes though knowledge of what is good and surrender to the love of God.
- Love seeks what is good. You love someone if you seek what is good for them.
- But you must see/know what is good, and that is primarily God. “God is good!” Nahum 1:7

5

THE KEY TO LIFE THE ENTIRE “LAW”

- Love God with every dimension of your personality and your neighbor as yourself. Mark 12:29-31
- This alone can pull our life straight, lifting it out of the pride, violence, and “inordinate affections” that characterize the “world.”
- To love God is to be devoted to His life and purposes. Which includes His love of our neighbor.

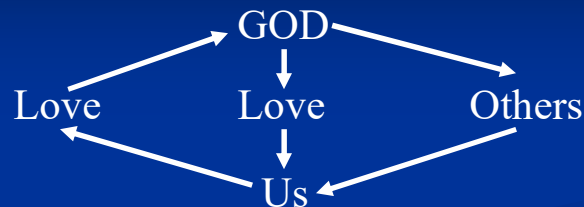
6

OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD

- The picture of our deliverance. Titus 3:1-7
- “The kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared...”
- This restructures our thoughts about God: “God is love.” (1 John 4:8) Love is the ultimate nature of the whole universe!
- By filling our minds with this God, peace and rest possesses our whole being.

7

THE MATURE LIFE OF LIGHT, OF LOVE, TRUTH AND POWER



- This is the structure of perfected love that CASTS OUT FEAR.
- *1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear; because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*
- Then we can stand to live in TRUTH
- And then we can be trusted with POWER

8

PERFECT PEACE

- “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee.” Isa. 26:3
- “I have set the Lord always before me. He is at my right hand. I shall not be moved.” Ps. 16:8
- “If God is for us, who can be against us.” Rom. 8:31

9

VICTORY OVER FEELINGS

- See them for what they are.
- Want to not have them, or not have them dominate us.
- Change their underlying thoughts and habits by reasonable means and grace.
- For example: love of money, trust in possessions, pornography, resentment and unforgiveness, racial contempt/hatred.

10

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Now we are possessed by the Fruit of the Spirit: the overall structure of life—
“Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, loyalty, gentleness, self-control.” Gal. 5:22-23.

We “let our minds dwell upon whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute....and the God of peace will be with us.” Phil. 4:8-9