



Winning the Mind Wars Part 9—Pride and Unbelief

Review

- Series on winning the mind wars we all battle. If we lose the mind wars we lose life Jesus came to give us. Our thought life is that important!
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- **Stronghold:** A satanic lie, a generational mindset or a human wounding that you have listened to long enough, believed strongly enough, and owned deeply enough that it becomes part of your identity. It has fortified itself in you and dictates your thoughts, beliefs, actions and reactions. It is an unholy filter through which all thoughts pass.

Pride

The Root of Pride

- It happened in eternity before us
 - Isaiah 14:12-17
 - “I will ascend to heaven”
 - “I will set my throne on high above the stars of God”
 - “I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the North”
 - “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds”
 - “I will make myself like the Most High”
 - Observations from text:
 - Notice what is central here: “I”
 - Notice whose in charge here, the agenda: “I will”
 - Notice his positioning before God: “ascend,” “above,” “set my throne on high,” “make myself like the Most High.”
 - Notice where this got him: “fallen,” “cut down,” “brought down,” “far reaches.”
 - Luke 10:18

Pride Defined

- “I will”
 - Pride refuses to reference God as the great “I AM”, instead determining their own way through “I will.”
 - “I will” do things my way; take care of myself; draw on my resources; put myself above those around me; I don’t need God or anyone else – “I will do it MY way.”
 - Pride is insidious and scary blinding – left to ourselves, its our natural bent; limited to our ways and resources versus drawing on God’s ways and His unlimited resources.
 - Like Satan, we have the audacity to think we know better how to rule our lives and the world better than God!

- Pride within our relationships is, “An unwillingness to be known for who you really are.”
 - Hiding our hearts so no one really knows what’s in there; living life on the defensive – can’t ever be wrong, must never fail.
 - Masking our motives by portraying ourselves how we want to be perceived in what we say and do.
 - It produces a life that lacks integrity – “an integrated life.”
- 2 Chronicles 26
 - King Uzziah:
 - Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
 - Set himself to seek God
 - Zechariah instructed him in the fear of God
 - As long as he sought God he prospered
 - 2 Chronicles 26:16–23
 - Uzziah’s pride resulted in:
 - Unfaithfulness to the Lord.
 - Self-importance, blinding him, thinking he could do things he couldn’t do.
 - Becoming angry when confronted by those who cared about him.
 - Being struck by the Lord—leprous (on forehead: strong-headed).
 - Lived, died and was buried as a leper—excluded from God’s Presence.
- The Extended Family of Pride:
 - Arrogance—a rising up, a swelling of the tide (agitated waters); a stiff neck; (an attitude of self-importance)
 - Proverbs 8:13
 - Isaiah 11:13
 - Haughtiness—height, elevated, heave up, lift up, higher (snobbish; looking down on)
 - Proverbs 6:16-19
 - Proverbs 16:18
 - Self-exaltation
 - Daniel 4:29-33
 - Independence—living apart from God and others
 - Romans 12:4,5
 - 1 Corinthians 12:21
 - Stubbornness
 - Psalm 81:11-13
 - Jeremiah 7:24
 - Self-righteousness
 - Luke 18:9-14
 - Symptoms of Self-righteousness: unteachable; takes pride in their obedience (on display); lack of compassion and, doing God a “favor”

Humility

- James 4:6
- Psalm 29:23
- Psalm 25:9
- 2 Chronicles 34:27
- Philippians 2:5-8
- Jesus in Matthew 11:28-29
- Humility Defined:
 - In the Scriptures it speaks of “going low” – acknowledging your position before God
 - “Seeing yourself in light of who God is” (awe of Him; wonder of you)
 - Humility in the context of relationships: “a willingness to be known for who you really are” – strengths and weaknesses.
- God is humble. Therefore, to express Him to the world through our lives, we must be too! He gives us the first shot at it “humble yourselves,” otherwise, He’ll humble us.

PreScripture Prayer—Pride

Father, I choose to humble myself before you. 2 Chronicles 34:27

I’m grateful that you give grace to the humble as I’m in great need of it. James 4:6

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for modeling humility – even to the point of dying for me on the cross. Philippians 2:5-8

In light of what you’ve done for me, I repent for my pride, arrogance and haughtiness of heart. Forgive me for the way I’ve allowed them to shape my thinking, my attitudes, my actions, my words, and my relationships. Jeremiah 48:29

I repent for exalting myself, placing my will above yours. Daniel 4:28-37

I repent for my independent attitude – isolating myself from others that you’ve placed in my life for my blessing and benefit. Romans 12:3-8

I repent for my stubbornness of soul, always having to be right and refusing to receive the counsel of those you’ve placed in my life. Psalm 81:11-13

I repent for walking in self-righteousness – I see how ugly, empty and self-centered it is before you. Luke 18:9-14

Thank you that you lead the humble and teach them your way. I choose both humility and your way today. Psalm 25:9

I commit to seek both you and humility with my whole heart. Zephaniah 2:3

As a chosen one of God, who is holy and beloved, I now put on humility that you might be demonstrated both in and through my life. Colossians 3:12

I clothe myself this day with humility in my relationships, willing to be known for who I really am, while acknowledging my desperate need for others in my life. 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

I’m asking you to help me see the significance of those you’ve placed in my life, relating to them out of true humility of heart, expressing gentleness and patience, while bearing with them out of love. Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 4:2

I also receive the reward of humility and the Fear of the Lord: riches, honor and life. Proverbs 22:4

This day, in the mighty name of Jesus, I renounce and break the stronghold of pride – and all its expressions – in my life and over my family for generations to come. I embrace humility and invite you to work it in to every area of my life that Jesus might be revealed and glorified in a greater way – both in me and through me.

Amen!

Unbelief

The Root of Unbelief

- From the very beginning
 - Genesis 3:1-7
 - Planting seeds of unbelief – “did God ACTUALLY say?” “You will not surely die.”
 - The portion reveals sin’s pattern: Unbelief – Pride – Disobedience
 - Questioning God
 - Not believing in His character or what He’s said (pride and disobedience)

Unbelief Defined

- Not believing or trusting God’s character, ways and Word.
- Unbelief literally means “littleness of faith.”
- It refuses to rely on or fully trust God—His character, ways and Word.
 - Unbelief does not align to whom God is and what He desires to do. Instead, it decides what God can or cannot do; will or will not do and how He does or does not operate.
 - Believing God requires both faith and trust.
 - We can’t trust what we don’t know! Do we know His character? His Word? His Promises? His power? His always-perfect timing?
 - Faith knows that God is willing and able to do what He says.
 - Trust places us squarely in line with that knowledge, and commits to walk in it; often before we see it with our eyes.
 - Faith knows that God’s hands can guide and sustain us.
 - Trust jumps into those hands.
 - Faith and trust are distinct but interlocking components of believing God.
 - First response: unbelief looks to self rather than God; own resources versus His to meet our needs, live our lives, etc.
 - When matched with fear: unbelief may show itself in self-protective coping mechanisms, like manipulation and control.
 - When stemming from pride and rebellion: unbelief can be masked as realism, intellectualism, or practicality.
 - It can also subtly be wrapped in a critical or religious spirit like the Pharisees in Jesus’ day. The promised Son of God was right in front of them and they couldn’t even see it!
- Hebrews 3:12-19
 - Take care—we’re all vulnerable here to an evil, unbelieving heart.
 - Falling away (Gk: depart or withdraw) from the living God by not simply trusting and obeying.

- Exhort one another daily—who God is, what He’s said
- Can result in hardened hearts—not trusting God (maybe not on YOUR time table).
- Unbelief blocks the presence and power of God operating in and through your life!
- The Extended Family of Unbelief (unable to see what God’s doing in a present situation)
 - Skepticism—a person who questions the validity or authenticity of truth or reality
 - Mark 16:12-14
 - Pessimism—the tendency to see, anticipate or emphasize only bad or undesirable outcomes. It brings discouragement upon others.
 - Psalm 78:19-20
 - Criticism—an attitude that fault-finds and tears down others
 - Romans 14:10,12
 - Grumbling/Murmuring
 - Psalm 106:21,24-25
 - Anxiety (Worry)—full of mental distress resulting in an inability to rest within
 - Matthew 6:25,32
 - Philippians 4:6-7
 - Offenses (Greek: *Skandalon*, meaning “bait”)
 - Mark 13:53-57

Faith and Trust

- 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Galatians 2:20
- Hebrews 11:6
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Matthew 17:20
- John 14:12

PreScripture Prayer—Unbelief

Father, I recognize that my walk with you is not based on sight, but by faith. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Thank you that you live in me and that my faith is grounded in your love that has been expressed by laying your life down for me. Galatians 2:20

I understand that without faith it is impossible to please you, and that you reward those who draw near to you, believe in you and diligently seek you. Hebrews 11:6

As a follower of Jesus, I repent for where I have lived and walked in unbelief, not embracing your character, words, ways and promises. Hebrews 3:12-19

I repent of my skepticism, which has blinded me from seeing your hand at work in and around my life. Mark 16:12-14

I repent of my pessimism and negativity, not recognizing your awesome ability to intervene and redeem any circumstance for my good and your glory. Psalm 78:19-20

I repent for my critical attitude and I ask you to forgive me for fault finding and using my words to tear others down.
Romans 14:10,12

I repent for grumbling, murmuring and complaining, which has revealed my littleness of faith in your divine ability to come through for me. Psalm 106:21, 24-25

I repent for giving my life over to anxiety and worry, not referencing your intimate care and concern for me as my Father in Heaven. Philippians 4:6-7

I repent for picking up offenses, and not recognizing that in the midst of what's going on, that you may very well be establishing your purposes. Mark 13:53-57

I recommit this day to walk in faith in Jesus – being assured within of things hoped for, while walking with conviction of things I don't see but know to be true from your Word. Hebrews 11:1-3

I determine by your grace to trust the Lord with ALL my heart, not leaning on my own understanding, but rather bringing you in to everything I do, knowing that you'll make my paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Teach me how to wield the shield of faith so I can withstand and extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one.
Ephesians 6:13, 16

I embrace afresh your desire to walk with me each day, to answer my mountain-moving prayers, and to do great works through my life for your purposes and glory. Matthew 17:20, John 14:12

With all this in mind, in the all-powerful Name of Jesus, I renounce and break the stronghold of unbelief – and all of its various expressions – in my life and over my family for generations to come. I fully embrace faith and trust, and invite you to firmly establish them in my life that Jesus might be revealed and glorified in a greater way – both in me and through me.

Amen!