

HIS CHURCH LONDON

# FREEDOM

THE MIND

LECTURE 4

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## INTRODUCTION

There are three ways in which the devil has access into our minds:

1. An unrenewed mind (studied in the previous lecture)
2. A deceived mind
3. A passive mind

### **2 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV)**

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

Just as Eve was deceived, so can we! It can happen in a moment of the enemy marginally twisting God’s truth. Deception can often be 98% truth and just 2% error!

### **ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, MAN IS DECEIVED IF:**

He is a hearer of the word and not a doer of the word

#### **James 1:22 (NIV)**

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

He says he has no sin

#### **1 John 1:8 (NIV)**

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

He thinks himself to be something he is not

#### **Galatians 6:3 (NIV)**

“If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.”



He thinks himself to be wise with the wisdom of this world

## **1 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)**

“Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise.”

He seems to be religious, when his tongue is unbridled which reveals his true condition

## **James 1:26 (NIV)**

“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.”

He thinks the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God

## **1 Corinthians 6:9 (NIV)**

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men”

He thinks that contact with sin will not have its effect on him

## **1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)**

“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

Note:

- Deception happens when the mind allows a wrong thought to be admitted
- Deception can come in through pride, bitterness and passivity
- A fanatical spirit is a sure sign of deception – a mind that is hardened, closed, inflexible, fanatical
- “Revelation” or “direction” coming through a passive mind is subject to deception
- Taking truth to an extreme brings deception
- Truth not in proper balance with other truth becomes error



Signs of deception:

- Attitude of infallibility
- Inability to reason or listen
- Hostile to truth
- Restlessness
- Abnormal talkativeness or silence

Grounds for deception:

- Thoughts admitted into the mind (you don't have to think the lie!)
- Passivity of the mind
- Lack of reasoning
- Lack of the use of the will (make a choice not to think it!)
- Lack of knowledge of the Word (to discern if something opposes the Word)

## PASSIVITY OF THE MIND

### **Acts 17:11 (NIV)**

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Passivity: inactiveness, indifference, apathy, unresponsiveness

- Passivity describes the opposite condition of activity
- This means that there is a loss of self-control in the mind.
- In other words if you choose not to think something and try not to think it, and yet that thought invades your mind, are you in control of your mind?
- This also means there is a loss of free-will in the mind
- Are there patterns of thought and behaviour you would choose to be free from?



Symptoms of passivity of the mind:

- Sudden flashes of thought
- Sudden stoppage of thought
- Thoughts captivated by patterns of fear, worry, rejection
- Irrational notions – “you are more spiritual than anyone else”
- Uncontrolled imagination – live in a constant dream world
- Insomnia and disturbed dreams
- Forgetfulness and loss of memory
- Inability to communicate
- Lack of concentration
- Inability to reason
- Bad judgment
- Double mindedness, indecision, hesitation
- Inactivity, procrastination
- Over activity, hyper
- Extreme rashness and impulsiveness

How do we develop a passive mind:

- Drink
- Drugs
- Entertainment
- Exhaustion
- Domination
- Sickness

If you have suffered from a passive mind, with thoughts confusing, pushing, coercing, forcing and paralysing you, there will be resistance and spiritual warfare before you overcome!



## FREE MIND

We live by truth, not emotions!

God created you to have a controlled mind! He wants to bring you to a point where,

- Your thoughts are under control
- You are not driven, but led by the Spirit
- There is peace in your mind
- Your mind is free to focus on God
- You are free to receive the truth of God!

## GOD'S SOLUTION TO A DISTURBED MIND

- Put on your armour (Eph 6)
- Bring your mind to dwell on the Word
- Bring every thought under control (Eph 4:17)
- Activate your mind
- Determine the state of normal and fight for freedom!

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A FREE MIND

- Thoughts brought under subjection of Jesus Christ
- A mind in tune with your spirit.
- A mind that is free to:
  - a. Concentrate
  - b. Perceive
  - c. Remember
  - d. Reason
  - e. Comprehend