Casting Down Arguments (series)

**6—CONTROL THE MIND**

(arguments, lies, high things, thoughts, fiery darts)

**Mark 11:22–24 (NKJV)** So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. **23** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. **24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

**V22 — “Have faith in God”… where?**

**V23 — “does not doubt IN HIS HEART”**

**WE NEED TO HAVE FAITH IN OUR HEARTS**

**WHAT ARE OUR HEARTS? …**

**… WHAT’S INSIDE OF US**

**‭‭1 Peter‬ ‭3‬:‭3–4‬ ‭(ESV)‬‬ [to women]** Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—”

**4** Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Proverbs 20:27 (NKJV)** The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.

**Psalm 119:130 (NKJV)** The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

**EX – As we bring more of the Word into our spirit—lamp—the spirit gets brighter and brighter, and can identify wrong thoughts and perspectives.**

**Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)** Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

**HOWEVER… THE MOUTH CAN BE ALTERED TO SPEAK A LIE**

**Proverbs 10:18 (NKJV)** Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

**Proverbs 23:6–7 (NKJV)** Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies; **7** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, **but his heart is not with you**.

**IF YOU THINK STINGY… YOU ARE STINGY**

1. **Have faith (first)**
2. **(so you will) Speak your faith directly to the mountain**
3. **(and) Pray to God in faith**

**2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** **casting down arguments** and every **high thing** that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity** to the obedience of Christ.

**THOUGHTS ARE LIKE WILD ANIMALS… AND THEY MUST BE BROUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY, OR THEY’LL DESTROY.**

**‭‭Psalms‬ ‭51‬:‭6‬ ‭(NKJV) [In David’s prayer of repentance for adultery and murder]‬‬** “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts.”

**WE’VE TALKED ABOUT WEAPONS SUCH AS:**

* **The Belt of Truth**
* **The Shield of Faith**
* **The Sword of the Spirit**

**SO NOW LET’S TALK ABOUT HOW TO…**

**CONTROL WHAT ENTERS YOUR HEART:**

**Mark 4:24 (NASB 2020)** “Take care what you listen to.

**Proverbs 4:20–27 (NKJV)** My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. **21** Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; **22** For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. **23** Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. **24** Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. **25** Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. **26** Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. **27** Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

* **V23 – HEART**

**Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)** Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

* **Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)** Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
* **Proverbs 4:23 (NCV)** Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.
* **V20 – “ATTENTION”**

**Proverbs 4:20 (NKJV)** My son, give attention to my words.

* + **ATTENTION TAKES TIME**
  + **GOOD NEWS… YOU HAVE TIME!!!**

**Deuteronomy 17:14–20 (NKJV)** “When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ **15** you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. **16** But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ **17** Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. **18** “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. **19** And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, **20** that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

* + **ARE YOU WILLING TO TRANSFER SOME OF YOUR ATTENTION?**
    - **IF SO, YOU’LL HAVE BETTER RESULTS**
    - **IF NOT, YOU’LL EXPERIENCE UNNECESSARY DEFEATS**
* **V20 – “EARS”**

**Proverbs 4:20 (NKJV)** My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Psalm 1:1 (NKJV)** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.

* **V21 & 25 – “EYES”**

**Proverbs 4:21 & 25 (NKJV)** Do not let them depart from your eyed**… VERSE 25** Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.

**Proverbs 27:20 (NKJV)** Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

* **V22 – GOD’S “WORDS ARE LIFE… AND HEALTH”**

**Proverbs 4:22 (NKJV)** For they **[my words]** are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

* **V24 – “MOUTH” (YOURS AND OTHERS’)**

**Proverbs 4:24 (NKJV)** Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.

**Proverbs 15:23 (NKJV)** A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

**EX – Start counting in your head from 1-100… now say out loud your full name and email address… what happened to your counting?**

**Matthew 6:31 (NKJV)** “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

**Psalm 141:3 (NKJV)** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

**Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**EX – As we speak and meditate on the Word, our words redirect our thoughts.**

**EX – In our new discipleship system, we focus on meditation as opposed to memorization.**

**Psalm 34:1 (NKJV)** I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**Psalm 89:1 (NKJV)** I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

**Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)** Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

**Ephesians 5:18–20 (NKJV)** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Philippians 4:6 (NLT)** Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

* **V26–27 – “FEET”**

**Proverbs 4:26–27 (NKJV)** Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. **27** Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

**Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV)** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3** He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.