

BEATING THE ODDS

WEEK 2: IN OUR MINDSET

DAY 1: READ ROMANS 12:1-2 & 1 CORINTHIANS 6

Our minds are an integral part of our bodies. If we are to use our bodies as instruments for worshiping our Heavenly Father, both in physical and spiritual practices, we must not corrupt ourselves or allow our minds, hearts, tongues and bodies to be vessels for the broken, sinful things Christ already died and rose again to free us from. What things are polluting your ability to glorify God and obey the call of Christ? How can you better prepare your body's temple for the living Holy Spirit? Pray and ask the Lord for clarity, conviction, discernment and courage to make the necessary changes. He will answer.

DAY 2: READ ROMANS 12:3-8

Our thought life is an important part of how we treat others. Do we think of people how Christ thinks of them? In the Bible, how does Christ see these people? How does Christ see you? Do your thoughts, opinions and patience for people line up with the love, grace and humility of Jesus? Today, ask God to help you think and see people how He sees them. Each time you meet someone today, choose to try and think about these people how God does and strive to understand their unique place in God's Kingdom. If they are not believers, today's your chance to help pull back the scales and truly see God's love, care and grace for them in Christ Jesus. Will you be obedient?

DAY 3: READ DEUTERONOMY 11:1-17

Moses repeatedly tells the Israelites to "consider the discipline of the Lord," remembering the ways He saved His people, provides for them in every season, watches them and actively is working for their blessing. Just like the Israelites, when we stop dwelling on the character and promises of God and stop choosing to cling, trust and obey the word of the Lord, we wander off in fear, misplaced hunger and rebellion, pursuing an imperfect path, that while sometimes comfortable, ultimately leads to destruction. If we are to beat the odds in life, we must constantly, consistently keep our thoughts in check, choosing to consider the work, word and promises of the Lord before and above everything else.

DAY 4: READ DEUTERONOMY 11:18-23

Choosing to keep our minds focused on the righteous mission, word and character of God transforms the world around us. When we prioritize righteousness in our minds and bodies, we become examples of God's goodness, grace, mercy, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control. The world notices. Our family members notice. When our hearts, minds and bodies are branded with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, every eye sees and cannot deny the work of the Living God. With minds and bodies clinging to God, He leads us to victory, enduring every trial, complication or difficult encounter in this life. What can you do to better demonstrate this attitude to others? How can you teach, train and prepare your family for righteous thinking, faithful trust and obedience? It's worth it.

DAY 5: READ DEUTERONOMY 11:24-32 & NUMBERS 13 - 14:4

In the years of wandering after the Lord delivers the Israelites out of Egypt, He speaks to Moses, constantly telling them He is giving them a land to call home and flourish. Constantly. But what happens when Moses, obeying the Lord's command, sends out spies to scout the occupied land the Lord promised them? The spies return with incredible proof of the Lord's promise of a land of abundance also occupied with powerful, entrenched enemies. Here, we see three responses. While one spy, believing the promise and power of the Lord, suggests the Israelites move in to conquer the heavy opposition, the other spies suggest they are incapable of beating the enemy. The Israelites, having neither seen the enemy nor remembering the promises of the Lord, respond in terror, wishing they'd died in the wilderness or remained slaves in Israel. Will you choose to focus on the promises of God or will you allow the external, peripheral things around you to discourage you from inheriting God's abundant blessings and prolong your wandering?

DAY 6: READ PHILIPPIANS 4

When we struggle with submitting our thoughts to God, it can be frustrating if we forget the power of the living God. A lot of times, we quote Philippians 4:6 and forget verse 7, which says that "the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." God will give you peace. While we have the responsibility to repent, reject sin and immerse ourselves in God's word, we can oftentimes get frustrated when we're hyper-aware of the ways our thoughts aren't yielding to God. So, continue to repent, reject sin and immerse yourselves in God's word; let's be obedient! At the same time, let's submit our thoughts to God and, rather than trying to fix it ourselves, let the Holy Spirit minister to us, applying His soothing ointment of peace to our tired, frustrated minds. Whatever state of mind you're in today, choose to look for the Lord for rest, peace, assurance, direction, conviction, discernment, joy and purpose. Only He can provide these things that don't wear out, aren't dictated by circumstance and don't hinge on your abilities, station or personality. Trust His provision. Lean into His peace.