

1. We are going to continue today with our study, **Battlefield of the Mind, by Joyce Meyer.**
2. We are going to talk today about the subject.

TITLE: Positive vs. Negative

3. Have you ever had someone say to you, stop thinking that way? Or stop thinking about that.
4. How many know that when someone tells you not to think a certain way, it is generally all you can think about.
5. So, when we talk about being positive vs. being negative. When we talk about a positive mindset vs. a negative mindset, we're not just talking about snapping our fingers and getting a change of perspective.
6. What we are going to discover today is that our attitude, whether positive or negative, is a choice. It is something we can control.
7. It is something, with the help of the Holy Spirit we can get control of and surrender to the Lord.
8. Just as a reminder, it is the power of, and our use of, the Word of God that allows us to have victory in our thoughts and minds.
9. In Matthew chapter 8, a centurion, a soldier of rank who had charge over 100 men, came to ask Jesus to heal his servant who was sick and near the point of death.
10. During the exchange, Jesus asked the man, should I come and heal him, and the centurion replied, you don't have to come; just say the word and my servant will be healed.
11. Now without a doubt, one of the key aspects of this encounter is the faith of the centurion. And faith is important.
12. But also as important is the belief that what Jesus says will come to pass. Faith is based on what we believe, and what we believe begins with the thoughts that pass through our mind.
13. If I am going to believe something, then I will have thought it first.
14. Jesus said to the centurion, **Matthew 8:13 "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would."** And his servant was healed at that moment.
15. So what this centurion believed played a major part in what he received.
16. Because of that I think the following statement is true.

17. Positive minds produce positive lives and negative minds produce negative lives.

18. Positive thoughts are always full of faith and hope. Negative thoughts are always full of fear and doubt.

19. How many would agree with those statements? I do.

20. Now, without a doubt, many different things can lead to negative thoughts and mindsets.

21. Some people have been hurt so deeply that they are afraid to hope. If I don't hope, then I can't be disappointed if it doesn't happen.

22. It's a defense mechanism. And without a doubt, past rejections and failures and disappointments play right into the enemy's hands in that he will try and get us to adopt a negative mindset about everything.

23. The enemy wants us to think in forever terms. Always and never are two of the biggies.

24. Things are always going to be bad, things are never going to be good. He wants us to throw all positivity right out the window.

25. And with good reason. If he can manipulate us into accepting nothing but negative thoughts, then every aspect of our lives will be negative.

26. Proverbs 23:7 for as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

27. In the case of the centurion, Matthew 8. Jesus confirmed that the centurion would receive, because he had believed.

28. Or said another way, what he believed eventually became a reality.

29. Now to be clear. That doesn't mean you and I can get whatever we want just by thinking about it. God has a perfect plan for each of our lives, and we can't control him with our thoughts and words.

30. But we can, and truly must, think and speak in agreement with his will and plans for our lives. That's positive.

31. If we think and speak against God's plans and will for our lives, negative, they are probably not going to come to pass.

32. Are you aware that God has a plan for your life?

33. Are you aware that your life is not just some random wandering with no real purpose? My friend, God has a perfect will for your life.

34. If you don't know what God's will is for you at this point, you can begin by thinking this way. I know God loves me and that whatever he does will be good, and I'll be blessed.
35. Can we really think that way and live that way? According to the word of God I believe we can. Because that statement or that prayer is grounded in truth.
36. **Romans 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
37. It doesn't say that all things are good. It says that in all things, whether good or bad, God is able to work those things for our good. Again, if we are living in accordance to the calling and the purposes of God for our lives.
38. In Romans chapter 12, Paul mentions several areas of life where we are encouraged to adjust to whatever is going on, while at the same time displaying the marks of a true Christian.
39. In this passage, it begins in verse 9 by saying, Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
40. And then it ends in verse 21 by saying, Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
41. In both cases, good is a choice. Whether clinging to or overcoming with, good must be chosen by us.
42. Good is not something we just sit around and hope comes our way. Good is not something that some people are blessed with while others are not.
43. Seeing what is good; thinking what is good, is a choice that each of us make every day.
44. So if our lives are overcome by negativity, bad thinking, whether all the time or at various times, the beginning place is to take ownership.
45. Admit it. Not for the purpose of condemnation, but for the purpose of examination.
46. And examination is one of the key things the Holy Spirit does in our lives. **John 16:7-8** However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [*into close fellowship with you*]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [*to be in close fellowship with you*].⁸ And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment: (AMP)

47. The hardest part of being set free from negativism is in facing the truth. Admitting, I am a negative person and I want to change.
48. God I want to change, but I realize I can't change myself, but God, I believe you will change me as I trust in you.
49. In reality, no change is immediate. Change takes time. And in the course of time, it is possible to get discouraged with our progress or lack of progress.
50. So, again, we must lean on the word of God. Remember we said two weeks ago that we need to practice talking to ourselves from the word of God. Example.
51. Self, Philippians 1:6 says God has begun a good work in me and I believe he is faithful to bring it to completion.
52. Part of that work is in trusting in the Holy Spirit.
53. John 16 teaches us that the Holy Spirit will convict of sin and convince us of righteousness.
54. Though we may have difficulty discerning our own attitude, we can ask the Holy Spirit to convict us every time we get negative or have a wrong mindset.
55. That takes courage, but imagine what God could do if we were sensitive to the speaking of the Holy Spirit.
56. When that conviction comes, again, trust in God. Don't think you can change yourself. Lean on him.
57. So the first part of identifying and dealing with negative mindsets is to trust in the Holy Spirit to convict us and to admit when we are at fault and need the Lords help.
58. In other words, face reality. I love this explanation about facing reality that I once heard someone say because it doesn't fall into what I call the name it claim it. Blab it grab it type of spirituality.
59. If you are sick, don't say, well, I'm not sick. That isn't the truth. And it isn't negative to admit and face the truth.
60. The key is what we do with the truth. Sure, I am sick. But rather than saying, well I'll probably wind up getting worse and have to go to the hospital, say.
61. Yes, I am sick. But I believe in the healing power of Jesus Christ.

62. I believe Jesus Christ is my healer and I believe his healing power is at work in me right now.
63. It's unwise to refuse to face reality. However, if our reality is negative, we can still choose to have a positive attitude about it.
64. Always be ready mentally to face whatever comes your way, believing that God works good out of all things.
65. So, let's practice this morning.
66. What are some negative situations or circumstances and how can we approach them with a positive mindset?
67. Let's take a moment and think about the following examples.
68. How about the example of a lady whose fiancé breaks off their engagement.
69. Negativism would be to think; my life is over. No one will ever want me. I have failed so now I will be miserable forever.
70. Notice three words in that statement. My life is over. Permanent.
71. No one will ever. Permanent. Miserable forever. Permanent.
72. One of the characteristics of negativism is to use those permanent words. As if all hope is gone.
73. All hope is not gone. And if I have learned anything in life it's this. Seasons and circumstances are always changing. Very few things are permanent.
74. Listen to a positive confession about this not so positive circumstance.
75. I'm really sad this has happened. (reality) but I'm going to trust in God.
76. I hope we can still date and I'm going to believe the relationship can be restored, but more than anything I want God's perfect will to be done in my life.
77. If things don't work out the way I want them to, I will survive because Jesus lives in me and I know he is always working for my good.
78. That's not mind over matter, that is trusting in the truth of God's word and adjusting your attitude accordingly.
79. Let's look together at the example of Abraham in Romans chapter 4.
80. Romans 4:18-20 *[For Abraham, human reason for]* hope being gone, hoped in faith that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been promised, So *[numberless]* shall your descendants be. 19 He

did not weaken in faith when he considered the [utter] impotence of his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or [when he considered] the barrenness of Sarah's [deadened] womb. 20 No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, (AMP)

81. What did Abraham do? He sized up his situation. He didn't ignore the facts.
82. He considered them for a bit. He didn't ignore them or bury his head in the sand, he gave his negative situation some thought.
83. Then he believed, or hoped in the Lord. What did he hope in? He hoped in the promise that God had made to him that he would be a great nation.
84. He hoped in the fact that God was greater than his impotent, dead body and the utter barrenness of Sarah's womb.
85. Abraham put his trust in the word of God and the power of God.
86. With the help of God, all of us can do that. And when we do that, with God's help, the battle for our mind starts to turn and Satan no longer has victory in that realm.
87. I am going to read a verse of scripture out of the book of Isaiah.
88. As I read it I want you to identify two things.
89. First, identify what God wants to do. And secondly, identify who God does it for.
90. **Isaiah 30:18** And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]! (AMP)
91. **What does God want to do?** Be gracious to us. To show us mercy, and to show us loving kindness
92. **Who does God do it for?** Those who wait, expect, look and long for Him.
93. I know in the Amplified bible it lists several things we can look and long for, and I'm not saying they are bad.
94. But to me, it is not our looking and longing for the things that make the difference, it is our looking and longing for Him that makes all the difference.
95. And as we do that we open ourselves up to the blessings God wants to bring in our lives.

96. Over and over again we are reminded of God's love for us and his desire to bless us.
97. We have to choose to NOT believe the enemy's lie over the truth of God's word?
98. I want us to consider next.

Mind minding spirits.

1. I'm not sure I had ever thought of that phrase, but I read it in Joyce Meyer's description of what it was like when she was under attack.
2. It was something I could identify with.
3. Maybe you can too.
4. She describes it this way. I was having a hard time believing certain things that I had previously believed.
5. I didn't understand what was wrong with me and as a result I got confused.
6. The longer it went on the more confused I became.
7. I started questioning my call; I thought I was losing the vision God had given me. I was miserable (unbelief always produces misery. My mind was sluggish and I felt as if I couldn't believe God no matter how hard I tried.
8. How many of you have ever felt that way? I know I have.
9. All of us face that kind of attack from time to time. I love what she says in response to that.
10. Pay attention to the condition of your mind and keep it free, peaceful and full of faith.
11. But how do we do that? Again the word of God.
12. **Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
13. Whenever we sense we are under attack, run to God first thing. Make him the first resort and not the last resort.
14. One of my favorite messages I have preached around thanksgiving time is titled an attitude of gratitude. Philippians chapter 4 says...
15. Pray, petition, and present our requests to God, with thanksgiving.

16. What does our thanksgiving do? We know that what we are facing makes us feel anxious. But when we thank the Lord, not for our situation but in our situation, it takes the focus off of us and our problem and it places the focus on the power and goodness of God.
17. That is a transition from the negative to the positive.
18. But what do we do if we are feeling bombarded by the enemy and we don't know how to pray?
19. Well. God's word has that covered too.
20. **Romans 8:26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.
21. Pray in the Spirit. Rely on the Spirit. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
22. I encourage you to seek to be filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is key in having victory in the spiritual realms and in our minds.
23. The Spirit prays for us when we don't know what to pray.
24. You may be here this morning and you are having difficulty with mind binding spirits.
25. Pray. Pray in Jesus name. pray by the power of his blood and come against all evil spirits that hinder your thoughts.
26. Choose to be thankful. Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.
27. **This is not you against the devil. This is you and God against the devil.**
28. If you feel like your mind is sluggish, lazy and unable to believe, speak against those mind binding spirits in the power made available to you by God.

Conclusion:

1. Can we stand this morning and spend a few moments practicing what the word of God tells us to do?
2. Don't be passive today. Be active. In other words, don't be thinking about what you have to do next, or lunch, or whatever else is going on in your life.
3. Don't pass over what we are about to do next, because I want you to know, what we are going to do is practice the word of God.

4. Let's begin by thanking God. Come to him with thanksgiving.
5. Thank him for his word.
6. Thank him for the power he provides for us.
7. Thank him that he is always with us and always working for our good.
8. Thank him for the power and the help of the Holy Spirit.
9. Thank him for all the times he has provided for you.
10. Now. Let's express faith by using the phrase, I believe.
11. Lord, I believe you are going to be with me and that whatever I face in the future you will work it for my good.
12. Lord, I believe that you are going to send the power and help of the Holy Spirit because you love me.
13. Lord, I believe you are going to provide for what I am experiencing right now, and in the future.
14. And now let's worship the Lord.
15. Salvation call.