

# THOUGHT CONTROL

## Set Your Affection on Things Above

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There is a warfare going on for your mind. Satan wants it. God has given the victory, but we have a definite part in denying the Devil control of our thoughts by the choices we make. This lesson will help you to rest in the victory that Jesus Christ has provided you so that you can enjoy the benefits of setting your affections upon the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE:** Colossians 3:1-7

**TEXT:** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (vs. 2).

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth. ...inordinate affection... (vs. 5)

Notice: God gives the believer the responsibility to do these things. Every believer is to set their affection on things above. God is not going to drag you there! (Gen. 19:16)

**Affection:** The inclination of the mind toward a particular object.

- Not natural inclination. The natural man doesn't seek the things of God.
  - The spiritual man does (Colossians 3:1).
  - But it is a definite decision by each individual to "set your mind" on those things.
- Not passion. Passion is roused by sight. Passion leads to sin.
  - Passion is only active in the presence of the desired object.
  - If passion leads to marriage, that marriage will lead towards divorce.
    - A marriage based on affection will stand the test of time.
  - Affection endures whether absent or present with the object of your affection.

**Inordinate:** Not ordained by God. Not legal. We are to mortify inordinate affections.

**Mortify:** To kill it.

- The world, the flesh, and the devil will help you to set your affections on things below.
  - That is why God wants you to observe those worldly, devilish, carnal tendencies, identify them, and kill them immediately.
  - Shoot the enemy before they shoot you! This is spiritual warfare! (1 Timothy 1:18, Ephesians 6:12, 2 Cor. 10:3-4, 2 Timothy 2:3-4).
  - Take no prisoners! Don't just put that temptation in the closet where you might take it out again. Don't gradually ease away from sinful relationships. Break it off! Mortify it!

## TWO THINGS THAT WILL PROMOTE INORDINATE (unlawful) AFFECTION

1. **THE WRONG KIND OF COMPANY** (Acts 14:1-2).
  - a. People whose minds are set on the things of the world will not help you. They will hinder you.
  - b. Keeping company with ungodly carnal people will not help you to be godly and spiritual.
  - c. Remember, the Devil was friendly with Eve, but his purpose was to damn her soul.
  - d. Stay in fellowship with God's people or you'll quickly lean toward the world. (Pliable, Pilgrim's Progress).
2. **SETTING YOUR EYES ON THE WRONG THINGS** (Lamentations 3:51)
  - a. My eye affects my heart. What I choose to look at will control how I think.
  - b. If your eyes are on the world, your mind is not on Jesus.
  - c. Be careful about what you're watching.
    - i. Ladies, if you're trying to catch a man's eye by exposing your flesh, you are guilty of affecting his heart and mind! (Matthew 5:28)
    - ii. Men, if you're watching Hollywood beauties all the time, it will negatively influence your affection and love toward your wife. Ladies, same logic.
    - iii. Criminals learn to commit crimes by watching it in the living room!
  - d. All the things that Christians set their eyes upon for entertainment is like dumping dirt into the pure water of life that God wants you to enjoy.

## WHAT TO SET OUR AFFECTION ON

### 1. THE HOUSE OF GOD (1 Chronicles 29:3)

- a. 1 Timothy 3:15 says the church of the living God is the “house of God.”
- b. We are to set our affection toward the fellowship of believers.
- c. Whenever the doors are open, I’ll be there.
- d. It’s dangerous to be out of fellowship. The Devil is waiting for such an opportunity.
  - i. One stray sheep is easy to kill.
  - ii. A coal taken out of the fire will quickly grow cold.
- e. This is warfare! There is strength and safety in numbers.
- f. There are too many worldly and ungodly things that catch our eye in our daily routine.
- g. We need to bend our mind toward the house of God to get victory over that unholy spirit that’s trying to capture your mind.

### 2. THE PEOPLE OF GOD (Romans 12:10)

- a. Pray for one another (James 5:16).
- b. Visit one another (James 1:27).
- c. Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2).
- d. Love the brethren (1 Peter 1:22).

### 3. THE PERSON OF GOD (Colossians 3:2).

- a. There are MANY reasons to love God! He loved me, saved me, redeemed me, rescued me from hell, provides for my temporal needs, gave me His Holy Spirit, sealed me, gave me eternal life...
- b. Get in the Bible and set your mind toward God. If you don’t, an unholy spirit is going to catch your mind and prevent you from getting anything out of your time in the Bible.
- c. Get on your knees in prayer and spend time with God. You’ve got to set your mind on God and determine to enter His throne room. The Devil will oppose you.
- d. Don’t be a Martha (Luke 10:40). Be a Mary (Luke 10:42). Don’t let your work for the Lord interfere with your time WITH the Lord.

## THE RESULTS OF SETTING MY AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE.

### 1. PERFECT PEACE (Isaiah 26:3)

- a. If your mind is stayed on Jesus Christ, there is no room for worry, fear, distress, upset, or heartache.
- b. If my mind is bent toward earthly things down here below, I can lose that perfect peace.
- c. You will have trouble and heartaches in this life (1 Peter 1:6), but you can have it WITH God’s perfect peace.

### 2. A FRESHLY RENEWED MIND (Romans 12:2)

- a. Keep your thoughts on the Lord daily and you will experience a daily renewal of your mind.
- b. He’ll make sure your mind gets the rest it needs, so you can be refreshed.

### 3. VICTORY OVER UNCLEAN THOUGHTS (2 Corinthians 10:5)

- a. Doubt, fear, worldliness, etc; I can take every wrong thought that enters in my mind and bring it to the Lord. That thought has to surrender. There’s no way those bad thoughts can endure in the presence of the Lord.

### 4. A SOUND MIND (2 Timothy 1:7)

- a. If you’ve got God’s Holy Spirit, you have a sound mind.
  - i. No need for worldly psychiatrists and counselors.
  - ii. No reason to fear what the Devil can do.
  - iii. We can live in the power of Christ’s victory.
    1. Therefore Satan can’t defeat me when my mind is set on God.