

BILLY BURKE

FREEDOM FROM FATAL THINKING

FREEDOM *from*
FATAL
THINKING

GOD'S REMEDY FOR HEALING OF THE MIND

REVISED EDITION

BILLY BURKE

Freedom From Fatal Thinking: God's Remedy for Healing of the Mind

By Billy Burke

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This book is devoted to my precious grandmother, Mam and to my wonderful mother. They personified the Christian faith throughout their lives, and without their unconditional love, I never would have made it.

Thanks, Mam and Mom.

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Forward

Billy Burke is more than a worker of miracles; he is a man of faith. I've ministered with him in Europe, Canada, and the United States, and I have found his teaching on directing our thoughts positively toward God to be liberating and character building. I have been involved with him since the formation of the church in Florida.

He has gathered around himself some precious saints who are growing both in grace and in expression of faith in the promise of God. I challenge you to read this, his first book, with a heart open to God. Let it speak to you until your negative instincts have been controlled by the positive faith Jesus speaks to your heart.

Judson Cornwall

The Three Greatest Influences

People today are on a mission for optimum health, they want to live longer and stronger. Health consciousness is sweeping across the globe. People are seeking how to have a healthy spirit, a healthy mind, healthy emotions and, of course, a healthy body. Opposition to this desire is in the rise of disease, viruses and strains of bacteria that has never been recorded.

Social pressures involving ethnicity, religion and new cultural changes are all factors of a perfect storm. The progress of technology is causing the knowledge of outbreaks, societal setbacks and tragedy to be known by millions almost immediately. "Bad news does travel fast."

The social evils of our day such as divorce, drugs, alcohol and pornography all lead to destructive thought patterns. These patterns, if left unchecked, will determine a way of thinking that will destroy lives of all ages. Voices are screaming everywhere, "What is success?" It's how you look, what you wear, what you drive, who you know and of course, how much is in your bank account. This thought process doesn't bring peace to your inner core, it destroys peace; fostering a mental and emotional overload.

This leads to over-the-counter self-medication and the downward spiral begins. People begin to develop a survival mentality, They strive to make it, regardless of whether it's right or wrong, moral or immoral. Core values, in the process, are compromised and fatal thinking sets in. Most people, however, fail to realize that these thoughts are running through their mind, leading them down a dead-end street.

The only answer to intervene and overcome this flood of fear and negativity, is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The good news that Jesus proclaimed, promises an abundant life that begins from the inside and effects the outside of one's life. Jesus said that a man must be born again from the inside out and have his mind renewed. His entire thinking process must be transformed by reading, meditating and speaking the Word of God (John 3:3, Romans 12:2). The three greatest influences on your mind are:

(1) What you see

(2) What you hear

(3) What you think

Once the eyes and ears deliver the goods, your personal thoughts form a thinking process. This thinking process forms and creates habits and, eventually, a belief system. What your eyes see, your ears hear and how you receive it, determines the level of freedom or the level of bondage that you find yourself in. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man think it in his heart, so is he." What you see and what you hear will determine how you think.

Once you dwell on something, you will usually begin to show it, speak it and to live it. Whatever we think in our hearts is what we project. Ultimately, it determines our own self-esteem and our personal value system, and that is usually what sets us forth. Behaviors are created and habits are formed. AS you think in your heart about money; as you think in your heart about love; as you think in your heart

about God; as you think in your heart about Satan; as you think in your heart about in-laws; as you think in your heart about the church, whatever you think in your heart, is what you'll project. You don't have to read somebody's mind; just listen to them talk. People speak out of the abundance in their heart.

How did this get into their heart? It got into their heart through their mind's door. That's why there is such a battle for the mind. When a person becomes a Christian, his spirit is born again. Man is a triune, or three-part, being. He's a spirit, he has a soul and he lives in a body. Jesus teaches in John 3:5-6 that we're born of the spirit and our spirit is recreated immediately. "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit comes and lives within our spirit when we accept Him. The human mind and soul, however, remain works in progress; coming with the process of being saved. James 1:21 says to, "Lay apart all filthiness in order to receive the engrafted Word, which is able to save your soul." So, in other words, our mind and the thought processes and thinking patterns within it are not automatically wiped away. They are simply in the process of becoming saved. You determine how quickly that process happens by your exposure to the written Word of God.

Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." In I Corinthians 9:27, Paul says, "I bring my body under subjection." This means that I bring my five senses, that natural part of me under objection. It's very important for you to understand that your body is the last thing to be saved. The only thing really saved here is your spirit, meaning that your mind is an open game. There's a three-way standoff taking place for your mind: The Holy Spirit, Satan and you—the good, the bad and the ugly.

Satan wants to corrupt your mind; causing you to deviate from God's plan for your life. You also want control of your mind, but not for any reason that glorifies your Heavenly Father. God wants your mind so that He can deprogram you. He wants to wash away and take away everything that shouldn't be there so He can reprogram you.

He will implement His Spirit, which will cause you to become strong and vibrant. You will reap the good, powerful and all of the positive fruits of His gospel. There are two schools of thought: one from above and one from below. When you feed on the wisdom that's from above, you reap its reward and the fruit of what that wisdom from above generates. However when you partake of the wisdom from below, you'll reap and show forth those characteristics and qualities in your life.

You know the saying, "You are what you eat." If you take in wisdom from above, you're going to walk in the spirit, flow in the power of God and reap the rewards of the Kingdom. If you walk in the wisdom that is from below, you're going to live an earthbound life that's only dictated by what you can touch and see. You'll pick from the tree of the fruit of the flesh that will cause you to struggle and vacillate through life's peaks and trials. This is why it's important that you crave the wisdom that's from above. As you begin to see and hear the wisdom from above, it goes back onto that conveyor belt and is channeled into your mind.

The brain is simply the physical organ that houses your mind. Your brain supervises just about everything you do, from the involuntary behavior of your heart to the conscious decisions in your life. Some things

you inherited at birth. The mind, however, is the part that the Bible talks about needing to be renewed. Your personal traits are controlled by your mind. Remember, what you see, what you hear and the way you think are the most significant influences in your life.

The mind is divided between the conscious and subconscious. Everything you have ever seen, heard, touched or smelled is recorded within the lobes of your brain, never to be forgotten. Some of this information goes down into cold storage, your subconscious, while some remains in your consciousness. That's why you may not immediately remember the specific details of what you've experienced. You can't recall it, but you may be walking through the mall or you may be on a trip and something will trigger a memory.

Everything you've ever seen or been a part of, everything you've experienced or learned is stored. Even those who struggle with their memory later on in their life, or who are diagnosed with a particular disease, have not permanently lost their memories. They are still logged in their mind's computer. It carries and stores memories which can be called up at the push of a button. As your mind goes, so goes your body. A healthy mind is the best nutrition and the best healing power you can have.

This isn't to be confused with mind over matter, but dwelling on the right kinds of thoughts; God-like thoughts that feed your mind and give it strength. As your mind generates these divinely inspired thoughts, it feeds them onto your conveyor belt. Soon, what you've been putting into your mind starts to come out. What you put into something, is what's going to come out. If you're putting garbage into your mind, garbage is going to come out.

If you, however, invest in putting precious treasure into your mind, precious treasure will begin to show itself in the fruit of your life. Paul says in Philippians 4:8, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Your mind needs to think on your recovery. You must have something to hold onto in order to believe that you can be healed, that you can be better, that you can walk again, talk again, smell again, love again.

The keyword there is, "again." We experience precious things in life: health, a loving relationship, a healthy feeling of self-worth and a high value of our individual person. The wear and tear of living, however, can take its toll. A demonic attack, the death of a loved one, personal wrong choices, sometimes things just don't go as planned. You wake up one day to find yourself flat on your back, bleeding with nowhere to go. This is the breaking point where your belief system will define you. If you haven't fed your mental conveyor belt with food that your eyes, ears and thoughts have compiled, then when your back is against the wall, fear will take over!

On the other hand, if you've taken the time to dwell on divinely inspired, faith-filled, biblically reinforced thoughts, then regardless of what you may encounter, you will overcome. You may get hurt and it could knock you down, but you will overcome whatever it is you're fighting.

David says in Psalm 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in my heart." David is saying, "I have ingested the Word. I've taken it in with my eyes and ears." You may have made some bad choices, suffered demonic attacks and have your back against the wall. You must know that His Word will work mightily and will rescue you from whatever has a hold on you.

Five Root Causes of Strongholds

The Apostle Paul defines strongholds as thought patterns that have formulated over a lengthy period of time (I Cor. 4). These thought patterns can be inherited, picked up from people or ingrained through personal experience. Thought patterns pertain to every aspect of life. We may only see them as, "strong opinions," but they're called strongholds because they have a powerful grasp on how you approach circumstances that challenge your need for healing.

This mindset determines the course of action a person will pursue to receive full recovery. What are you basing your thinking on? What knowledge, on what foundation does your opinion rest? Today, there are waves of information capable of flooding your mind. Yes, some of this knowledge can be helpful, but a lot of it can be damaging as well.

The quality and quantity of life lies in the foundation of truth: the written Word of God. The Word of God compiles God's thoughts in every area of life, every area of healing, renewal and restoration. Isaiah 55:8 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." We must incorporate God's thoughts into our thinking and break the failing thought patterns that keep one in a weakened condition.

His word is sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12). When God's Word becomes our final authority, we're given divinely inspired thought patterns. We receive the power to overcome circumstances; regardless of a bad report, our feelings, our fears or the voices that scream for our attention. Thought patterns that are transmitted from person to person or however these thoughts may come, a person, a book, a movie, if a person is willing to give their mind over and adopt wrong thinking, they can become a captive of their own thoughts.

Memories that cause pain and friction in our everyday lives with our families, children and relationships at work, are a result of thoughts that are continuously rehearsed. You can't just say, "I won't think on that anymore." They've formulated over a lifetime and must be dealt with efficiently and effectively or else they will set the policy of our lives. People live out these policies that they've inherited from their parents, religion, the educational system and what they've absorbed through pop culture.

Strongholds, however, are deadly and must be pulled down. They need to be met by the Blood of Jesus and His written Word. God can then deprogram and begin the process of reprogramming you. He wants you to think about recovery, healing, strength and success the way He wants you to. Overtime you read God's Word, think on it and speak it. There is a washing in the Word of God. This breaks bad patterns and flushes out bad seeds.

Let's look at a few of these thought patterns that, if not brought under the covering of God's Word, can be what kills, not heals, the mind. Anything you continually rehearse becomes just as strong as any muscle you exercise with repetition. We have, unfortunately, become very good at thinking the wrong things. How we naturally approach thinking about recovery from sickness, disease and personal issues is often the opposite of how the Bible teaches. Deep rooted ideas in peoples hearts are the cause of many emotional disturbances.

I. Formative Strongholds (Early Years of Childhood)

The most common way mental strongholds develop is during their childhood. The formative years, from the time children are born until they leave home, is a front row seat. They observe how mom and dad handle pain, sickness and the general disturbances life brings. It's vital that children see their parents handling problems during these formative years properly. How do they feel about regular doctor visits, prescriptive medicine and proper dieting? Medicine itself isn't bad and eating healthily is biblical.

God uses an arsenal of natural and manmade remedies to accomplish His purpose. Diet and medicine, however, cannot take precedence over the Holy Spirit. That is how fearful strongholds can take root inside of a person's mind. How do they feel about the power of prayer and the written Word of God? Who is their source of strength? Who do they turn to in a time of trouble? Parents have the power to establish good and bad thought patterns that can guide a young life for years to come. Each person will have their own experience of handling emotional, physical and mental pain.

Challenges are waiting for all of us. That's why the Bible says we have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12). Children watch to see how their parents pursue mental, physical and spiritual recovery. Do they become discouraged quickly? Is their spirit easily broken? What parents portray to their children is capable of becoming a thought pattern. "That's what dad did... That's what mom did." Upon seeing how their parents handle situations, it's only natural to carry out some of those same patterns. While the formative years are only a fraction of a person's life, these strongholds, unfortunately, can last a lifetime.

II. Religious Strongholds

How you're raised to see God will determine how you receive help from Him. Many are brought a religion that's very impersonal. They have nothing more to do with God than showing up at a service and listening to a man speak. The underlying premise is that, "You have to be good enough and prove yourself worthy." The message of God's power and His benevolent promises are often lost within prisons of stained glass. Religion's concept is demanding because it doesn't leave room for the 'God kind of love.' His love is unconditional. He doesn't love you 'if' and He doesn't love you 'because.'

He just loves you! Romans 8:29 says, "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God." God loves you! He wants you to know it, feel it and experience it! That's why Jude 1:21 says to, "Keep yourself in the love of God and to seek His mercy." He is our benevolent father. The Scriptures teach us that He makes all grace abound to us (II Cor. 9:8). Grace empowers us to turn to Him, even when we've caused a lot of our own pain and problems. God hears us because He's good, not because we're good.

III. The Education System

Today's education system has been polluted by secular humanism. Children are taught from elementary school to universities that man is the center and source of his world. Teachers use examples derived from history, science and technology to illustrate the importance of accumulating knowledge, not just for the sake of learning, but to become your own source of information. This means becoming independent of God and seeking wisdom from that Christ imparted to us. It's the same strategy the serpent used to deceive Eve in the garden. "Eat this, and become God!"

You'll know what He knows and think as He thinks." This thinking leads a person, needing healing, into deception. Phrases like, "I can heal myself, I'm hacking into positive energy, I will align myself with the magnetic field of the earth." When you're thinking is wrong your lifestyle will be wrong. Knowledge, if not balanced God's principles, inspires pride (I Cor. 8:1) and creates distance from Him. When God is the center of your mind, revelation concerning healing, wellness and restoration become a powerful force.

IV. Personal Experience

Personal experience is one of the most difficult strongholds to get away from. Many people formulate what they believe and stand for most of their lives because of what they've experienced. A person could buy a car, but if they don't have success it, they say, "I'll never own that type of car again." Soon they're transmitting their negative experience to the people around them. They had a bad experience with that car and a different person might have had a positive experience with that same car, but it doesn't matter.

Their negative experience overrides any positive experience that they may hear about. So many people have felt that God let them down because a certain prayer wasn't answered or a result they desired didn't manifest the way it was supposed to. The pastor, the priest and the people in the church left a bad taste in their mouth. This negative connotation with God can create a stronghold based in anger.

"The pastor was wrong, they were wrong. They said everything would be all right." A person's emotions, faith and even their money in the hope of a positive outcome. Sometimes, God has another plan; this can be a crushing blow for anyone. People experience pain, anger and betrayal. These emotions, unchecked, can create a mindset that refutes the notion of trusting in God's plan.

Getting over our personal experiences is something we all work on. Just because it happened once, doesn't mean it will happen again. Luke 5 gives us a perfect illustration. Peter had been fishing all night but didn't catch any fish. Then, Jesus said to him, "Come on, let's go fishing." Peter's personal experience almost stopped him from receiving his breakthrough, "But we have toiled all night and have caught nothing."

Peter is saying, "I had a negative experience and I know there's nothing out there." He couldn't get past his own experience, but once Peter let Jesus to take him beyond his own experience, he began to see that there were fish to be caught. It's very important to see that strongholds often become our own poor experiences. The danger is allowing them to dictate the policy governing our lives.

V. The Entertainment Industry

There is no concrete way to determine the psychological affect the motion picture industry has on the human psyche. These images have an enormous impact, both good and bad. Buttons are pressed deep within your soul. Desires are created and standards are reinforced. These elements, if not brought into balance, can destroy a person's life. Talk shows, sitcoms, movies and even news programs become seed factories. They plant seeds into a person's soul that can create a false concept of reality.

Producers' experiences and opinions are put on display. They're given a pulpit to project their concept of reality. This can—and often does—change a person's perspective. When you're repeatedly exposed to

immorality, violence and corruption, you're taken on a Hollywood ride. Your mind takes a toll and your core values risk being compromised. Crimes are solved in 60 minutes or less, villains are captured and everyone who needs help is saved before the credits roll—that's not the real world.

We must take responsibility for everything we expose our minds to. The moment you see, here, or feel something, it's stored in your mental database. The Word of God is the only standard with the power to uproot these bad seeds. His Word instills truth and balance within your mind. You're given a healthy, stabilized reality with a sober outlook on everyday life.

Imagine each of these strongholds embodied within one mind. It's not like each individual in life picks out which strongholds influence them. Today, many are influenced by several, if not all of these strongholds everyday of their lives. Their childhood, religious boundaries and the memories of personal experiences each hold a place in their mind. Picture all of these working inside of you, restricting your mind and dictating the policy by which you live your life.

Soon, you're in a position where you need healing. You're hurt, things haven't worked out. You reach inside of yourself to find something that will help you, only to find information that doesn't work. When wrong thinking is broken and right thinking is received, a wellspring of hope and expectation begins to arise.

His Word is sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12). When God's Word becomes our final authority, we're given divinely inspired thought patterns. We receive the power to overcome circumstances; regardless of a bad report, our feelings, our fears or the voices that scream for our attention. Thought patterns are transmitted from person to person. However these thoughts may come, a person, a book, a movie, if a person is willing to give their mind over and adopt wrong thinking, they can become a captive of their own thoughts. Let's look at a few of these thought patterns that, if not brought under the covering of God's Word, can be what kills, not heals, the mind.

Starving the Strongholds

The Apostle Paul speaks about yielding your members in Romans 6:16 "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?" Paul is saying that what you yield your members to, is what you'll be a slave to. He's saying that by yielding your members to righteousness, you'll be a slave to the fruit of righteousness. If you, however, yield your members to carnality, you'll be a slave to the fruit of the flesh. Who you yield your members to, is what determines who you will be a slave to.

What are your members? Your members are your eyes, ears, mouth and your thoughts. By yielding those members, you're giving your stamp of approval. You have a choice! If you're reading this right now and you find yourself up against the wall, surrounded by enemies with that sinking kind of feeling and you are about to quit, you need to know that there's a way out. The first priority is starving your stronghold. You must begin to take charge of your mind and monitor everything that comes through its gates.

II Corinthians 10:5 says to, "Bring every thought captive into the obedience of God." Any good business has a surveillance system broadcasting who's in their parking lot and who's driving around their building. This makes a statement: they value their property. You need to value your mind's property. God desires nothing more than to make you a better, a stronger person.

Sometimes you have to make decisions, do things that seem uncomfortable until you can get back on your feet. You have to take charge of your own life; because if you don't, who will? If you don't affirm yourself, who can affirm you? You first have to get on your own side so other people can side with you. If you're against yourself, then you're, as Jesus said in Mark 3:24, "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." One thing you must do is begin saying, "no" to certain people around you.

They may be dear to you, but their input may not be the kind of input that you need to hear. They're feeding your stronghold, not pulling it down. They're not accelerating progress, they are holding back progress. They're good people and you love them. They could be your family or dear friends, but for a season, you need to fill that time slot with Jesus. Excuse yourself and choose to plug into your church and the Word of God; hang out where the anointing is.

You must pull away from that mudslide of negativity, bad reports, and 'things are impossible' to starve out that thought pattern. You cannot be continually fed by friends and family. Explain to them, however, that they aren't bad, but you just need some time to collect your thoughts. This allows God to build muscle on your mind. That is vital to fighting off what people may be saying. Just because your spouse, parents or friends say it, doesn't make it true. Facts change. The truth, however, never changes.

It's important for you to see the urgency of equipping a mental surveillance system for these thoughts coming in down the assembly line. God can then begin the process of honoring and blessing the true and faithful witness. He blesses and honors the truth; He needs you to do the same. It's important that you see and understand this "starving" process. Ask yourself, is what you're thinking about or dwelling on helping you? What kind of fruit is it producing?

Where is the stream of influence coming from that is causing you to think like that? You may be under the influences of another person's thoughts and convictions that are not based on what God thinks or what He has planned for you. Everybody has their two cents and offer much more when it comes to their opinions! You don't need another opinion, you need the truth! Does it make me feel good, but is it making me change? Is it bringing health and recovery, or is it bringing condemnation? Is it helping me to be free from prison, or is it locking me up? Am I feeling better about myself or worse about myself?

There may come a time when you need to take a break from your church or from the preacher to whom you are listening if you're sensing that they're making the problem more complex. A sermon that's preached from a pulpit isn't guaranteed to be true. A man who teaches on television or writes a book doesn't necessarily have your best interests in mind. Some people, believe it or not, are in it for the money or position. Jesus said that some people just don't know the truth, or have the truth in them. They are deceived (John 10:12-13). The blind are leading the blind.

You need to find out if the person you're listening to or the church you're attending really cares about you. If they're reaching out to you, if they are wanting to touch you, wanting to be a hands-on Good Samaritan pouring in the oil and the wine, by all means continue. If you're, however, sensing that you're condemned, not being fed, prayed for and counseled, you may need to starve out something that may be feeding that stronghold in a way you aren't aware of. Wisdom from below will only feed your problem; it won't bring healing. It may touch your soul, but it cannot bring restoration. It may stir up some feelings, but you don't want it stirred up; you want to be healed.

You may have to place yourself in a television or secular music quarantine. David speaks about "Surrounding yourself with songs of deliverance" in Psalm 32. He didn't say to surround yourself with your childhood, easy listening or nostalgia. He said to surround yourself with songs that talk about the blood, the Cross and the stripes Jesus bore. These are the songs you want to be going over and over in your mind. Paul says it best in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

God wants you to rehearse this in your mind. It will accelerate you into the realm of recovery, healing and power. You may need to put down certain literature—as innocent as they may seem. They don't have to contain explicit material, but they lack the ingredients to producing healing and power. If you have time to pick up Sports Illustrated, Vogue, or People Magazine, you have time to pick up the Bible. It's important for you to see that there's a book that brings healing to your flesh. Many books will fill you with false hope and keep you where you are.

You gain knowledge, but never come to the truth. You must take drastic measures until your mind recovers. Your resistance must be built up in order for you to submit to God and resist the demons in your life. You should be able to walk anywhere, equipped with the full armor of God, and accomplish the divine purpose of Jesus. David said in Psalm 23 "He leadeth me beside the still waters and restoreth my soul." David was saying that God led him out of the mainstream.

He took David out of the city and into the country; away from people, away from his environment and into a place where he could be so absorbed and locked into a place where God could do a quiet and strong work of restoration in his mind and in his heart. Sometimes

God will remove you from your familiar environment so the influx of wrong can be stopped. He may not have to take you away long, but just for a while to give you a break from some of the predictable patterns which you have developed over the years: What you listen to, what you watch and who you're surrounded by. All of that can be raw sewage coming into your mind, causing you to not move toward a healthier mind, body or life.

What you feed is what becomes strong. That is what Paul meant in Romans 6:16 when he said, "To whomever you yield your members" What you yield to is what you feed and what you feed will get stronger. If you put two plants in your window, then water one and starve the other, one plant will grow and the other plant will wither. What you feed gets nourished. So, whatever you are feeding your mind will control you. The wrong people, places and things will wither the quality of your mind.

Your stronghold will continue to dictate the policies for your life. When you, however, begin to starve the flesh and feed your spirit with the right people, places and things, your spirit can wax stronger. The moment you make a conscious decision to nourish your spirit with the right books, the right music and the right people, you begin to challenge the very strongholds that have caused you so much pain. Your family, friends and even your church may challenge you, but they cannot be God. Your family cannot be God, your friends cannot be God and your church cannot be God.

Their words can never match the Word of God. Jesus went to the Cross for you and He shed His blood for you. Your approach to starving out your strongholds will determine how long they'll be locked within your mind. How long you procrastinate will determine how long you put off the recovery you can have. You can begin recovery today that will accelerate you into a better place and a new place before you can even think about it. You will begin to experience muscle on your mind.

Five Common Strongholds that Block the Healing Flow - Part I

I. God is Angry with Me

Many people have been taught about the justice side of God, but not about His side of mercy and grace. Yes, of course it grieves Him when we yield to sinful behavior because He knows the pain it will cause and the lives it will effect. Psalm 30:5 says that, "His anger is for a moment because he favors life."

Yes, God has set forth clear language that continued sinful behavior has consequences, but He has also made it very clear that Jesus is interceding day and night (Heb. 7:25) on our behalf. Just as the Holy Spirit continually works to keep us tender and accountable to confess our sins, so that forgiveness can be fully activated on our behalf. The reason someone is sick or suffering is never because God is angry with them.

The Bible says that He is touched by the feeling of our infirmity (Heb 4:15). There are times, because of our decisions, that we can open a door that causes uncomfortable conditions. God doesn't get angry, He goes into high gear. He uses the Holy Spirit, His angels and people in our lives to comfort, bring truth and help close any door that may have been opened. He forgives and He forgets.

Because Jesus came and took on flesh and lived in a human body, He fully understands the weaknesses that come with being human. Bring anything you're troubled with into the light of God's love and you will initiate a cleansing of your inner man and set forth on a wonderful journey into the wholeness of the whole man. Meditate on these verses: Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 3:19, Romans 8:35, 1 John 3:16, Romans 5:5.

II. I Can Do It in My Own Strength

We are drilled from our youth that you have to be strong or strong-willed to get anywhere in life. The common phrase, "Only the strong survive," is put into our thinking from a very early age! It becomes the driving force in our mind and dictates our emotions. The human will says, "Got to be tough," "I will get through this" or "I will beat this disease." Phrases like these become the mantra of motivation to overcome any illness or adversity one may be facing.

Just being positive and strong-willed doesn't give me an edge on fighting life's challenges. The edge to conquer comes when you realize that your willpower isn't enough, in many cases, to achieve victory. When you surrender your will to the Holy Spirit and God's written Word, a power shows up that's supernatural! You now become strong in the Lord—not strong in yourself. There are, of course, many times when your will is all that you need whether you're a person of faith or not.

There will be many times when you encounter something stronger than yourself and you need power from above. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." He clearly reveals where his secret strength comes from, through Christ who strengthens him! Today, strive to do what Jesus did in The Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46).

Surrender your willpower in what you can't do and watch your mind begin to merge with the Holy

Spirit's will and you'll receive a power that is not of this world. This is why Jesus told His disciples to "Go in My Name", "Fight in My Name" and to "Believe in My Name." Begin to declare that "In Jesus' Name I will arise, in Jesus' Name I am healed and made whole." Our life is in Him, our hope is in Him and our destiny is in Him. Acts 17:28, "In Him we live and move and have our being."

III. Whatever Is Supposed to Be Will Be

If I am supposed to be a millionaire, I will be. If I am supposed to live, I'll live. If this marriage is supposed to stay together, it'll stay together. You throw your life, your health and your future into the hands of fate. This is a fatalistic lie that will leave you in bondage. This removes a person's personal responsibility to actively appropriate their faith, press in and to fully place their trust in God. The name of the Lord is a high tower; the righteous run into it and they're not afraid (Prov. 18:10).

It takes away from the personal responsibility of running to God, being diligent and seeking the Scriptures to see what God has for you. This thought process says, "I am just going to do whatever I am doing, and whatever is supposed to be will be." When you engage in this thought process, you're opening the door for the devil to work havoc in your life. By leaving your life in the hands of circumstances, you won't live from glory to glory; you'll live from crisis to crisis. God wants to change the circumstances affecting your natural world. He doesn't want you to sit back and say, "God, do it." He wants you to come to Him.

God wants you to seek Him! He wants you to seek and search for Him with all of your heart. He's looking for you to put on the full armor of God; to go to the upper room and know the Holy Spirit. He's looking for you to show the effort that causes Him to release all that He has for you, and to begin to change your health, job, and family circumstances. Circumstances are not the truth; they're fact. Facts, however, can be changed. Goliath was a circumstance that was considered larger than life, but he was defeated. The fish that swallowed Jonah was a circumstance, but it spit him out.

Circumstances, as difficult as they seem, can be changed. They won't change automatically, but they can and will, as you become obedient and move into what God wants you to do. You throw the rock as David did and He will cause your giant to fall too. The very reason we pray and stand on the promises of God is because our God is the God of intervention. He can, He does and He will step into our battles and display His mighty power. Everything is subject to change! Even though we can't do it, He wants to see our desire, our effort and our commitment to hold onto and fight for the prize that Jesus suffered and died for. I don't have to accept what a negative report says about my health, my recovery or about anything!

The Scriptures are very clear that we have an active part to play. God requires us, so evidenced in His written Word, to give Him something to work with. Clay pots filled with water, two fish and five loaves of bread, a handful of grain—or just climbing out on a limb, all of these require desire, effort and a course of action. They indicate that their faith isn't just a passing feeling, but a burning force. Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." This means to stay active, setting you faith and resetting your faith until your victory comes.

IV. I'm Just Different

People have heard success stories. They listen to the testimonies of fellow believers attributed to]the Word of God, a healing service or counseling they received over the phone. People see testimonies

delivered on television, hear stories of victory over the radio and receive successful accounts in their mailbox.

Unfortunately, they sit back and say, “Well, I’m so happy those people got help; I am so happy she got healed; I am so happy their marriage was spared; I am so glad for them, but you just don’t understand—my situation is different.” The person in a crisis somehow chooses to believe that what God does for other people, He can’t, or won’t, do for them. People often have faith for others but not for themselves.

Yes, you’re different—everyone is unique. Fingerprints are proof of your biological individuality. Our relationship with God, in the same way, is unique. God fearfully and wonderfully crafted beings. He’s no respecter of persons, meaning He loves us and wants us to draw from the benefits of the Cross. You’re different in name, purpose, body shape, gender and where you are born. The Bible was written by Holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit moving over them.

What God has done for one, He will do for another. He wants to heal you, He wants to bless you and He wants you to prosper. You too can go to the fountain that never runs dry, touch the stripes on His back and be healed. The coin is in the fish's mouth for you to find and be blessed abundantly. You too, as you give tithe and give offerings, can have the windows of heaven open up unto you. We’re all subject to the laws of divine supplication and favor.

You’re not outside of His reach or beyond His ear, though it may seem like it. When you’re in the trenches, hope seems to be lost, but here’s the truth: God has the power, the willingness, and God has the way to bring you out of wherever you are and manifest His glory in His life. You, therefore, have to end your fatalistic thought pattern that says, “I’m just different.” James 5:17 says that Elijah was a man of “like passion.” This means despite being a strong and mighty prophet of God, he dealt with fear. So much so, that it caused him to renege on the mission he was on and to hide in a cave until God worked with him a little. We, today, have the same Savior, the same enemy and we have some of those same problems.

If you could see the human race as God does, then your circumstances don’t make you different. There’s many like you who are struggling with what you are struggling with. They’re aching with pain on the inside, mentally tormented and are struggling with finances. Just because God has not brought somebody across your path who is similar to you, doesn’t mean that you’re alone. God has saved you especially for Him. He wants to do something so great it will cause your life to have new meaning.

He wants to give you a purpose that will shock all who know you; because your story will be an incredible story of the restoration power of the Almighty God. Regardless of the circumstances you may find yourself in, Isaiah 10:27 says that the anointing breaks the yoke of bondage. It destroys the yoke of sickness, the yoke of poverty, the yoke of drugs, etc. This means that any and all types of bondage and restriction will break when the anointing arrives on the scene. You may be different in circumstance, but His anointing will dismantle the strongest bondage with just the faith of a mustard seed. Begin to meditate on the anointing of the Holy Spirit that is available to you.

Five Common Strongholds that Block the Healing Flow - Part II

V. I'm Still Paying for the Sins of My Past

There are many people in the church today who love Jesus— they've been forgiven of their sins, but live in guilt. Anything that may go wrong is somehow connected to a previous act of sin. That is an absolute lie from the pit of hell. It's an onslaught of the devil, attacking a saint's mind who's been weakened or hasn't accepted their forgiveness in what Christ did for them. Isaiah 1:17-18 says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" What is the prophet saying?

Your sins may have left you feeling dark, stained by the memory of what you said, thought or did. When you, however, bring these sins to God, He will wash your sins away with His blood that He shed. When the power of God comes in contact with the darkest spot in your life, He doesn't just cover your sin— He purges it. Believing in the blood of Christ is essential for you to break this fatalistic thought pattern. Stop paying for the sins that are already paid for. Move on today!

When your car is paid off and the bank mails you your title, are you still obligated to send them money? When you buy a shirt or a blouse at the department store, it's paid for— you even saved the receipt, have you ever sent money back the department store? When you have paid for something, you don't keep paying for it. Your sins receive the same treatment. When you're forgiven, you don't keep paying for your sin. You unnecessarily continue to pay for it by relating your circumstances to something in your past. Jesus' blood either works or it doesn't.

You may, however, still need healing, deliverance or counseling, but make no mistake, you are forgiven! You qualify to stand in the Holy of Holies and claim the promises God has made. You can walk in the deep, intimate fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. You must break out of this fatalistic thought pattern that has you paying for something you did yesterday. You say, "But what if I did something that was so bad"? Great men in the Bible committed awful, seemingly unforgivable sins. God's grace, however, still came to them and they were forgiven.

Abraham nearly gave his wife to a heathen King. God forgave Abraham. David committed adultery and killed an innocent man. God forgave David. Saul hunted, captured and killed countless Christians. God forgave him, changed his name to Paul and converted him into an apostle. Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus forgave him and welcomed him back into the place of fellowship. These men didn't go through their lives looking back and living in the past. They moved into the place of royalty, apostleship and writers of the gospels. You need to break any fatalistic thought pattern that binds you to the sins of your past.

We're accustomed to believing the sins of our past because, in man's world, your label sticks with you. Once you're a leper, you're always a leper. Once a loser, always a loser. Once a junkie, always a junkie. Once a prostitute, always a prostitute. Once an abuser, always an abuser. Labels, however, are subject to change. The moment you come to the Cross, where His blood endlessly flows freely and runs deeply, you can be free! You were a prostitute; now you're a holy woman!! You were an abuser; now you're a lover! Your label changed because

His blood changes you. It converts you from the inside and breaks you free from the law of sin

and death in your mind. You need to break the power of the fatalistic thought that you are still paying for something in your past, because nothing could be farther from the truth. Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed! (John 8:36).

VI. It's Too Late

Have you ever heard that it was too late? Society has indoctrinated us into thinking that everything has an expiration date. Once you pass the expiration date from your credit card to your insurance policy, you're penalized. Department stores' sales are only good for certain amount of time. Everything has an expiration date on it and that expiration date says that once you don't do what you're supposed to do by that time, it's too late. Doctors' reports give you an expiration date.

This thinking often becomes ingrained into your mind— placing a death sentence on your health, marriage or whatever you're fighting in your life. You begin to believe it's too late, it's over. Your feelings are gone and your faith seems to be fading more every day. The disease is too widespread, the diagnosis is no longer imaginable to be overcome or defeated. You begin to think, "Did I come into Christianity too late? Maybe I finally grasped the faith message too late. I'm just not versed on what I should do, It's just too late for me."

Many people who feel they are too old to be healed, still receive healing. Our ministry has filled drawers with the testimonies of people in their 70s, 80s and 90s who've received healing. They've been healed of terrible conditions ranging from osteoarthritis to cancer. God never thinks that it's too late. Jesus actually favored people who had long term illnesses. He moved towards them; not away from them.

John 5 tells the story of a man who was crippled for 38 years. He couldn't walk. He lived next to a pool, surrounded by people, who were also very sick, that sat around this pool hoping to get healing by wading into the moving waters. Jesus, however, came to him, touched him and set him free. Luke 8 reminds us of the woman who had the issue of blood. She suffered for many years and even went broke paying doctors to help her; yet she still pressed through and her faith made her whole.

Mark 9 talks about an epileptic boy who had been tormented by demonic bondage since he had been in his mother's womb. Jesus came and said, "Come out of him, thou unclean spirit." The boy was delivered, set free and was never the same. The Scriptures focus on people who have physical, mental, and spiritual illnesses for extended periods of time; yet Jesus comes and with one touch, one spoken word, changes everything. Jesus wanted to demonstrate that it's never too late. You have to get out of this thinking that you're beyond your expiration point. You might be in your darkest hour, but so were the disciples when they were at sea.

The storm came, they were taking on water and all hope seemed to be lost. Jesus still came to them. Why did He wait until they were nearly capsized? Why didn't He come before they took on water? We don't know; but He came. Why didn't Jesus come before Lazarus died? Lazarus' sister, Mary, didn't know; but He came. Did it seem like He was too late? It seemed that way, until Lazarus came walking out of his grave. God is always on time, whether you realize it or not. Whatever you are believing, standing and fighting for, it's important that you see it is never too late.

It's not too late see how life will look when you're healed. It's not too late to start over. It's not too late to be strong and it's not too late to dream. You can begin now by reaching out and

trusting His Word and standing on everything that He has for you. He still wants to bring them all to fruition in your life. Philippians 1:6 says, "He, who began a good work in you, shall be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." We must break down and destroy this fatalistic thought, "It's too late."

VII. The Grasshopper Complex

Some people don't feel worthy for God to visit them and move inside them. They've never received the right amount of recognition, credit or confidence from their parents or surrounding groups. They simply don't understand the power they have access to through the name of Jesus. These people are buying into the world's standards because their value stems from how others perceive them. Today, it's important for you to look or act a certain way. Your smile, how you walk, even how you communicate. Some circles place weight on your position or title.

This perception complex starts to convince people they haven't done enough, they haven't achieved anything or that their lives aren't productive. Why would God want to ever help them? God wants to help more important people than them. Here's the truth: none of these factors have any impact on how God values your life and what He wants to do for you. Some people think that God doesn't want to help anyone who has made mistakes, or has fallen and done things which are less than wonderful.

They've made poor business decisions or have had family mistakes and they have blotches on their record. Some may have a criminal record. They've done hard time or have been on probation for a mistake they made. Here's something to write down: God doesn't want to help you because you're good; He wants to help you because He's good. Some people think God blesses according to their behavior. Obedience does bring a certain reward, but God's system isn't, "If you behave, I'll heal you." God's system is, "I am going to heal you and that will help you to behave."

God's mercy goes forth beforehand and touches us in different and powerful ways. God's goodness makes us to want to be different. After tasting what He has in store for you, you'll want to change the morals of your mind. God does not want to move in your life with the promises of His Word because you behave.

He wants to overwhelm you with His goodness! He Wants to shower you with His blessings! After He does this and you realize He did it, not because of how good you are, but because of how great He is, your heart is broken and causes you to look up and say, "What a mighty God we serve." We must break down this fatalistic thought pattern of being ashamed, not feeling worthy and being like a grasshopper in the eyes of our enemy (Num. 13:33).

These fatalistic thought patterns are the most common that have come across our ministry. People are bound, ball and chain, to these fatalistic thought patterns. These thought patterns can be broken. Trees can be cut down, the stumps can be pulled out and the ground can be plowed into fertile soil. It may not happen overnight, but the journey of one thousand miles begins with the first step. God wants you to be set free from your chains, oppressions and the yoke of bondage, never again to be entangled.

He's challenging some of the negative, deadly and toxic thought patterns that have been playing in your mind like a broken record. God is saying, "I'm going to rip out the tapes, I'm going to destroy this

software. I'm going to deprogram you and I'm going to reprogram you. I want to set you in the high places of the Earth. I want to heal you so you can be healthy again. I want you to feel loved and to love once again, because I have set my everlasting love upon you!"

Steady Pressure Breaks the Yoke

Fatalistic thought patterns must be dealt with, confronted and challenged head-on. You cannot risk taking time-outs, vacillating or take a lukewarm approach to something that's hellbent on destroying you. These thought patterns want you to be ravished by pain, anguish and frustration for your entire Christian life.

Now is the time to step forward and march towards that stalking giant. In times of crisis, many run to the altar for prayer, swallow a pill or step into a counseling room and say, "Would you talk to me?" Victory, however, isn't achieved in getting help, because most people only get help long enough to delay that which is trying to destroy them. They may get some kind of nominal help. Then weeks later, perhaps a month later, they're back in the same crisis.

There has to be something more potent than what has hold of them. The answer has to be more than a quick prayer, a quick touch, a little bit of oil on the head or soft council. There must be a high commitment to the uncompromising Word of God. The Word of God has to become the key foundation that begins to wash your brain. All of our minds need to be cleansed.

The Bible says we are washed by the water of the Word (Eph. 6). There is a literal mind washing that takes place when God's Word begins to pierce and penetrate your mind. It goes down into the strongholds' cradle and it stops the merry-go-round. Something new begins to happen. God can begin the process of conforming you. He can begin to transform you and renew your mind. You can begin to think God's thoughts and get God results! How does God renew your mind?

He transforms you from the inside. He does it by His Word and through His Spirit. The Bible has to become the most important, prioritized piece of literature in your life. It's time that we begin to put a conscious effort into the book that enables you to have what you're reading. Today, people trust Google for a quick answer that usually deals with the outward result, not the outward cause!

You may not have what you're reading about in those books, but the Word of God is settled in the heavens. You can have everything that you read, but you must make a commitment to the Word that Jesus left behind; a book that will revolutionize you, change you and cause you to be happy in who you are, in what He has called you to do, and who He has called you to be.

It will cause you to be the head and not the tail, to trample on serpents and overcome all the power of the enemy. This book is anointed and divinely inspired. It will give you a a hunger for the Will of God. You can't, however, just snack on it. You can't mix it with television, the internet, magazines or any of the negative press found in news' broadcasts. Reading His Word and mixing it with your faith is a necessary measure. None of that is going to rescue you in the day of trouble.

This book, however, is not the book of angels; it's not the word of scientists or philosophers. This book is the Word of God. How can we approach the Word of God? I want to give you some easy steps on how you can begin to break down this book—from Genesis to Revelation—and get it inside you.

You're about to swallow the most potent inspiration that you've ever had in your life. It's time to feast on the Word of the Lord. It's time to saturate Jesus' name into your spirit, not just to get you out of your crisis,

but to transport you to another dimension of glory. You'll walk down a path where snakes bite, but it can't hurt you anymore. Just shake it off and throw it into the fire.

Principal I. Hear the Word

You have to allow yourself to be subjected to the Word of God and committed to hearing it on a regular basis. Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." You have to hear the Word. Whenever you hear the Word, you are allowing yourself to receive the truth into your ears, which, remember, goes into your mind. You're allowing yourself to be confronted with the truth.

You're allowing issues in your life and other fatalistic thought patterns to hear what God says about some of the things you are thinking. You can't let God be true if you can't hear what God is saying. Sometimes you can't hear God because you're hearing man. Often, the messenger who's trying to bring you the truth isn't personable or you just don't like them. That's why the book is in written form. It is not dependent or contingent upon a personality.

Whether it's a woman, a man, a married couple, a church or a denomination, it's printed and you can't hide or run from it, but you have to hear it. There is a voice. How do you hear the Word of God by reading it? The more time you spend with anything, the more you get to be one with it. The more you understand it and know it, the more it will begin to talk to you. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (Romans 10:17).

When you begin to hear the Word, your faith will begin to grow! Sometimes, you may have to force feed yourself. When you are in the hospital, too tired or too sick to eat, they put an IV in your arm so they can give your body the vitamins and minerals it needs. Sometimes you have to force-feed your soul and spirit, because you're not in the mood. You're upset. You're angry. You're too fixed or too weak.

What has to happen is, that you have to turn on the television, you have to put in the video, you have to get the CD, and you have to sit back and allow yourself to receive. How do you do that? Listen and you begin to hear. You let your ears begin to become trained ears. Often, we bend our ear to trouble and we bend our ears to crisis, to death, disease and destruction.

It is time we bend our ear to the Word of God. He wants to tell you about living long, about being happy, about being prosperous, about being strong, about your family being saved and going to heaven. At first it's just knowledge, but as you remain faithful, the Holy Spirit will make it so real that it will amaze you.

Principal II. Meditate on the Word

Devoting yourself to meditate on the Word of God will change the harmful mindsets that create fatalistic thinking. Meditation is when you begin to look at something and think on that same thing repeatedly. It means to mutter, to turn it over in your mind, over and over and over again. It's dwelling on something that you do over and over again.

Joshua 1:8 says, "Meditate day and night on the Word, and you shall prosper and be successful." There

are a lot of things you will read and see, but you won't remember. If you don't remember it, what good is it? There are a lot of things you will see at face value, but you will not be able to put into your life because of it not being real to you.

So, what do you do? There is only one thing to do. Like anything else, you must spend some time with it in order for it to become real to you, enough to begin to apply in your life. Many things in the scripture are so foreign to the way you have been thinking because the way you have been thinking is wrong.

It has taken you a long time to get to where you are. You have spent a lifetime thinking about yourself the way you do, thinking about God the way you do, and thinking about life the way you do. This is why they are called strongholds. They have a stronghold on your mind. They have your mind held hostage and they don't want your mind to come into anything new; especially anything that's true.

If it's in God's Word, then the stronghold will be broken. Fatal thinking has to pack its bags and get out of your head because God has His thoughts on the way from heaven, through His Word. You must take the time to read it, hear it and dwell on it. If you have a disease and that bad report is real to you, how does that mind go from natural to carnal to spiritual? Your mind is transformed as you meditate on the Word of God and His promises for you.

You must face that natural doctor and that bad report with the promises of God found in His Word. The moment you begin to dwell on the truth, you can't dwell on the negative. You can't listen to that spirit of fear that's talking to you or that voice of lust that is talking to you or the voice of the bad report that's talking to you. You know why? The Word of God has an anointing around it and is more powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, dividing even the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It divides the soul and the spirit, the joints and the marrow of the bone (Heb. 4:12). God's Word will cut out what you can't in your own willpower. When you meditate on the Word of God, you are letting His sword conduct surgery on your mind. It begins to cut out negativity and all of the garbage that has been holding you back. Meditating, dwelling, thinking on what God has said, is contrary to what your circumstances and your natural mind says. It's often contrary to what the doctor says.

What do you do? The only thing you can do is begin to dwell on it, repeat it, pray about it, and turn it over and over again in your mind. What happens is that it sinks from your head down into your heart. You no longer just believe what you're reading; you know what you are reading. God's Word will now begin to move in you. John 1 says that before Jesus was the Word, He spoke the Word. The way the Word becomes a part of you, is when you have meditated on it and when you speak it continually. We all serve our own thoughts, therefore we must be diligent to establish right thinking and when we are not, turn quickly from it.

Principal III. Speak the Word God

The Holy Scriptures is a script that has been written by God Himself. Jesus used it when He was here. If it worked for Jesus, it will work for you. The devil doesn't have to always act or react by what you say, but in Jeremiah 1:12 it says, "I watch over my Word to perform it." This means that the devil, sickness,

curses and all that stuff out there responds and backs off at the spoken Word of God. The spoken Word created the world and the universe. Jesus used the spoken Word to heal the sick and cast out devils. The sword of the Spirit is not just a Bible laying on a coffee table.

The sword of the Spirit is unsheathed the moment that Word comes up out of your spirit, through your mouth and goes forth to accomplish that which it is purposed to do. It doesn't return void. It falls in line with Proverbs 18:21, "The power of life and death is in the tongue." Your tongue either releases heaven or hell, life or death, blessing or cursing. Positive confession is when we're positive for the sake of being positive. It won't rain tomorrow. It is going to be a better day ahead. Things are going to get better." That's general and positive, but His Word is chapter and verse.

"As your days, so shall your strength be." (Deuteronomy 33:25)

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

"But as for me and my household; we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

Speaking the Word is releasing the power of the Word. It's what Jesus did whenever He was in the wilderness and the devil was after Him, tempting Him all those times. Jesus would respond by saying, "It is written... It is written... It is...written." (Matthew 4).

He spoke the Word and devil backed down each and every time. It says that the devil lost that battle and Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost. So many of us have grown up in the kingdom and we have learned how to say, "In the Name of Jesus." We know how to say "I plead the blood" and "I rebuke you, Satan." Those are all fine, but we have to be careful because we can hide behind that and never have to force ourselves or press ourselves to learn the Word of God.

We hide behind these little one-liners, but you never want to take lightly the Name of Jesus. You never want to take lightly pleading His blood. You never want to take lightly rebuking the devil. God is going to hold you accountable for your growth and what you know in Him. He wants you to learn the Word. He wants not just to say little phrases and rely on them your entire life. Can you read? Can you study? Are you putting time into reading the newspaper? Are you putting time into other literature? Are you putting time into reading this and that?

If you read and you are spending time reading other things, God wants you to convert and begin to get into His Word, to get it in you and into your heart; in yourself to begin to speak it. Then, out of your mouth won't come cursing or a negative flow, but out of your mouth will come the spoken Word of God.

Jesus says, "Whosoever shall say unto that mountain, be thou removed and be cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart, he shall have whatever he saith" (Mark 11:23-24). We see that hearing the Word and meditating on the Word is a powerful principle which begins to break down those strongholds—fatalistic thought patterns that have inhabited your mind for so long.

Principal IV. Mix the Word with Faith

Apply action to the Word. You're hearing it, you're thinking on it, you are speaking it; now act on it. Hebrews 4:2 says to, "mix the Word with faith." What does that mean? It means that a lot of times we have read the Bible for so long and we believe it, but we can never act on it. You may truly believe something, but if you don't act on it, you will never benefit from its reward.

You can believe that the water is cold, but until you get in it, you'll never know it. You can believe that if you turn keys on the car, the motor will start, but unless you act on it, you will never know if it will. Acting on something is so powerful because it takes you out of the realm of wishful thinking. It removes you from dreaming and fantasizing and it moves you into action.

That's when God can begin to bless your next step. Whenever Jesus told the lepers to go and show themselves to the priests, they acted on His Word. It doesn't say they felt like it. It doesn't say they wanted to. A lot of things in life you will not want to do and you won't feel like doing, but if you will just act on what the Word says, you will still receive the reward from it. The Bible tells you to tithe ten percent of your money to God, but a lot of times when you look at what you have, you don't feel like giving up a tenth.

You say, "I know it is true. I know it is true," but you don't feel like doing it. If you will just act on it— just do it— you will be like the man that built his house on the rock because he was a doer of the Word. If you just hear it and believe it but you never act on it, you are like the man who built his house on the sand—he only heard the word. If you don't act on it by tithing, forgiving, praying or speaking to your mountain, then you are like a man who builds his house on the sand.

Storms come to everyone, but what Jesus said is that when the storm comes to the man who is building on the rock, his house isn't shattered and ripped to pieces. It is left standing tall and strong. The man who builds on the sand; the man who goes to Church but doesn't act on it, the storm will wipe away his house. He will find himself always rebuilding, always trying to recapture what he once had but never able to go forward because he is too busy repairing what he had. He can't seem to manage because he is not acting on what he believes. He cannot live life on good intentions.

God doesn't bless your good intentions; God blesses your actions. James 2:17 says that, "Faith without works is dead." You must take action by proclaiming the Word. When someone asks you how you are doing, say, "I am healed by the Word of God. It possibly hasn't manifested in me yet, but by His Word I am healed. I am calling those things which be not as though they were" (Romans 4:17). "My family is saved, even though they don't look saved, smell saved and act saved, but in the faith realm, I believe it because the Word says it!"

When you begin to act on the Word, it builds your faith and causes you to see your circumstances through God's eyes. It causes you to see everything in another way because now you are acting on the Word of God. As you hear the Word, as you meditate on the Word, as you speak the Word, and as you act on the Word. Mixing the Word with your faith will break up thought patterns.

It's s like W040 on a rusty bolt. It loosens the grime, whatever is holding the screw in place, and it causes it to be smooth so that it flies right out of its socket. Whenever you begin to constantly come against all of

the fatal thoughts in your mind with the Word of God, you begin to break up the grime that has been holding you back for so long. You soon find yourself free from demonic oppression. This is how fatal thinking patterns are destroyed, obliterated and broken into tiny pieces.

The power of God is real. This is how you obtain long-term health. You have to change the long-term thinking patterns that are in your mind. It's not like steering a rowboat; it is like turning a big ship. It will turn gradually until it gets back on its course. That's what God wants to do with your mind through His Word. It's sharper than any philosophy book, psychology book and sharper than any other holy book in the world. There is the one thing left standing tall and strong. This is the one that is forever settled in the heavens: the written Word of God.

Establishing a New Mindset

There is a war of magnanimous proportions against the believer's mind. This is accomplished by the spirits of deception that will either try and steal the seed that God has planted in your heart, or contaminate it with doubt and fear to inflict unbelief. Voices came from within and without to try and get you to forfeit your healing.

These voices are very convincing. They speak through your soul or even through other people who don't believe in or understand faith. They cause symptoms an illness to return, such as: pain, blurry vision, bleeding or anything one may have had before. These symptoms are real because you can see and feel them.

The Bible says that when you have done everything you know to do, you stand! You make a stand against any reoccurring symptoms; against any repetitive voices that would cause you to doubt any progress you've made. II Corinthians 13:1 says that "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." That means that you are a witness. The Word of God is a witness and your condition is a witness. These are the three witnesses and whichever has the majority brings the established result. Two out of three—the last time I checked—is the majority. This means that your symptoms or condition wants you to agree that nothing has happened and it has returned to defeat you.

The Word of God wants you to agree that no matter what you see or feel, you are healed by faith in God's Word. Because it's through the Word, your faith is given the force it needs to fight against all of the reoccurring symptoms. The devil doesn't like to lose any progress that he has on you. Your body, your mind or anywhere that he can create doubt by bringing back a symptom of your condition.

He will do it repeatedly until you resist his plan, declare healing, restoration, fulfilled prophecy and answered prayers. As you continue to agree with the Word of God and any progress you may have experienced, a power is released and progress can be expected to move in a big way! God's Word says that you're healed. When you say that you're healed, you make a stand with that. Everybody needs an Alamo! A place where you stand against all odds!

Your circumstances are talking to you. They wait for every waking moment of your life. They love reminding you of how much you don't have. They can't wait until you come home from church. You may have just felt His presence and experienced His anointing but when you walk in your front door, they're waiting for you. "You're not healed, you're not getting better, nothing has really changed!" The next morning, you call the church and say, "Pastor, last night all that pain left. I went home and I was fine. Then this morning, every pain in my body came back."

Your problem has a witness, and it realizes that by talking to you, it plays with your psyche. It plays with your mind. Sometimes your problem is encouraged because demons reinforce your symptoms, "Yeah that's right, things aren't any better." Sometimes these demons are encouraged because the people around you are like Job's friends. They don't understand what it is to be healed by faith. To be healed by faith has nothing to do with your feelings. Your pain may still be there, but according your faith, you're healed by the Word. You have people around who think that their job is to keep you in your integrity and keep you out of self-deception.

They will say to you, "Well, is the pain gone? You say, "Well, I am healed according to the Word." It does not say, "I got healed according to my feelings." I don't want to agree with my feelings because my feelings lie and can be deceiving. I want to agree with what is true. I am a witness, God is a witness and His Word is a witness! Therefore myself, the Spirit of God and the Word of God agree. Let it be established. You have people all around you who want to ask, "Is the pain gone? I see your face, and it is still there."

They may have good intentions, but you need to reply, "No, I am healed by the Word." Your friends are trying to pull you out of your faith and your confession. In their minds, they are trying to keep you honest, but there is nothing more honest than God's written Word. They don't realize it, but the realm of faith is more real than any other realm. Until that realm becomes real to you, you won't be able to pull anything out of it. You wouldn't go to the grocery store if there wasn't any food inside.

You look through the window and you see food; that is how you know there is food in there. You have to realize that there is a Kingdom with shelves lined with blessings. It's like the story of the four lepers (2 Kings 7:8). God took them into the enemies camp and the tables were already set. You must see the Kingdom as a huge department store with healing, money and blessings. You have to see that you are going to get it!

Romans 4:19 says of Abraham, "and not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body..." Way too much consideration is given to outside voices and it creates a mixture that takes power from the Word of God and from the end result that you so desire. You have by-standers who witness your circumstances, the voices that tell you that you cannot win and your own feelings.

If you are not spending time in the Word, prayer and communion, then your feelings can't be trusted. Your soul isn't saved; it's in the process of being saved. Be careful when your feelings lead you down the rabbit trail. Is that the prophetic word you received? Then go back to that word and hold on to it. Is that what the written Word says? Then go back to the Word and stand on it

When God gave you those prophetic words, He knew you would struggle. He didn't give you a prophetic word and then say, "Let's have a board meeting. I didn't know he was going to smoke, I didn't know he was going to swear." When he called Peter, "The Rock," He knew that Peter was going to deny Him. He knew Peter was going to fail. That Word is from God and it is coming to pass, not because you're good, but because He's good! You need to begin agreeing with His Word and stop agreeing with your sin. Stop agreeing with your feelings. If God said it, it will come to pass in its rightful time.

"I can't waiver. I can't go by my feelings. I can't let my parents, my pastor or my church break my agreement with the Word of God." God told Noah to build a boat when there wasn't a cloud in the sky. Imagine how difficult that must have been. When we do the difficult, God will do the impossible! There may be something that nobody understands about your marriage, business or children.

You may be holding on to a promise that seems it will never come to pass. You can't afford to have friends like Job's guide you. You need to be on guard with people and not react to their lack of understanding. Inside yourself you need to say, "I don't receive that." Sometimes you even have to draw a line in the sand so that people will know where you stand. That's creating a standard to be measured.

Everything in our life is subject to change. Your thoughts determine your imagination. Your imagination

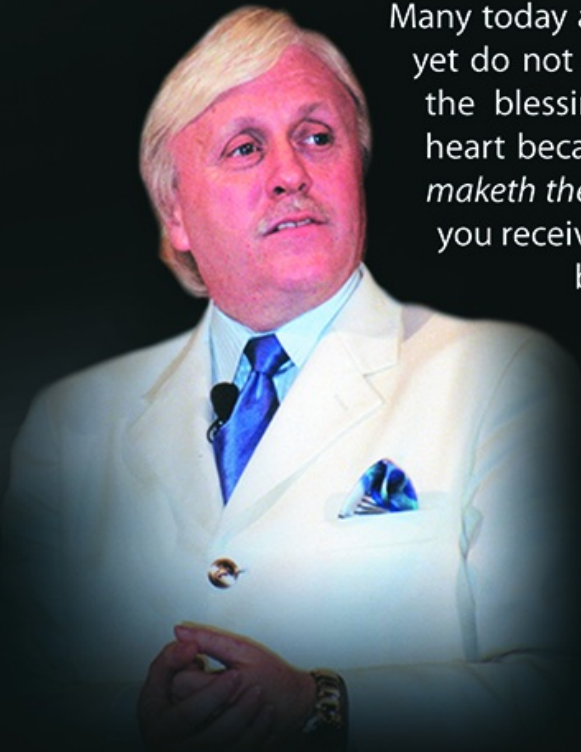
determines your choices. Your choices determine your destiny. Make plans today to find out God's thoughts on your issue. Then begin to align your thoughts to His thoughts and your words to His words.

Feelings were always meant to follow your faith—never lead. When you align your thoughts with God's thoughts and your words with His words everything else will begin to line up and produce a single-mindedness. Single-mindedness is what finalizes and establishes your faith in the heavens. The hand of God is now free to move in your direction!

FREEDOM *from* FATAL THINKING

GOD'S REMEDY FOR HEALING OF THE MIND

Today there is an unleashing of demonic forces that are attacking the **MINDS OF MEN** all over the world. There has never been a day like today when people are hearing more strange voices, acting out strange ideas, and struggling to press in to the fullness of what God has for them. This is largely due to the solemn truth that whoever or whatever controls the mind controls you. The entire secular media is poised to release a flood of filth to jade man's power.



Many today are getting blessed, healed and set free yet do not have the muscle in their mind to keep the blessing. Therefore, they suffer with a sick heart because the Bible says that *"...hope deferred maketh the heart sick"* (Proverbs 13:12). Whatever you receive by way of the anointing must be kept by way of a renewed mind that has its foundation in the Word of God.

Through simple revelation in this book, Billy Burke reveals how to break the mindset that holds you hostage. You will experience a fresh release in your mind and a new level of discernment that will enable you to be completely **FREE** from **FATAL THINKING!**

Billy Burke has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Europe conducting Healing Crusades. There have been testimonies of notable physical healings... **deaf ears hear, blind eyes see, cancers disappear, HIV eradicated!** Others have been **set free from demonic bondages and emotional pain**. Billy has become a strong prophetic voice in the church today. Many testify to prophetic words which have given them personal freedom and direction for their lives. Billy Burke is based out of the Miracle Center World Outreach located in Tampa, Florida.

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