

## “MIND GAMES IN THE MINISTRY”

2 Tim 1:1-8

*Conversation with a Pastor: He was upset with me! The devil was assaulting his mind. We need to see this.*

### I. THE MIND ASSAULTED

- A. We are involved in a spiritual conflict: The enemy of our souls seeks to control people: Dominate their lives
  - 1. In order to control people – he needs access
    - a. *Garden: Keep the garden – protect against intruders; That will influence you*
  - 3. We must understand the power of the mind: The mind is the origin of all actions
    - a. *Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he: We act based on how we think!*
- B. The enemy of our soul gains access through our minds
  - 1. *Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
    - a. *Wiles: With a road – the road the devil travels to get into our lives: Trickery – the mind*
  - 2. *2 Cor 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.* Devices: Mind – thoughts!
    - a. This is true in the ministry: Except now it won't just affect you – it will affect the whole church!
  - 3. *2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
    - a. Paul is writing to a young Pastor that has been affected in his mind – now affecting the church

### II. THE MIND AFFECTED

#### A. Intimidation

- 1. Paul sums up Timothy's great problem: Fear *2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear...*
  - a. *Timidity: Cowardice – turn away from*
    - 1. *Afraid of certain people* 2. *Feeling overwhelmed: I can't do it/I won't make it* 3. *Afraid of certain actions*
- 2. The word idea is one of bondage: Tied up or controlled/ruled
  - a. Our feelings change – then our viewpoint changes – then our actions change

#### B. Separation

- 1. The devil will try and drive a wedge between you and your Pastor
  - a. *Mark 14:27 ... for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.*
    - 1. *Pastor doesn't understand/doesn't care/prejudiced/trying to keep me from growing*
- 2. So something happens in the heart – that affects our view – then affects our actions
  - a. Get an attitude – blame your Pastor! Common mistake: Become embittered at the one who helped!
  - b. Pull away from: Don't call/visit – connect in any way
    - 1. *He's busy* 2. *Don't want to disappoint* 3. *He's unfair*

#### C. Drift: The enemy wants us to drift – to turn away from truth

- 1. The classic lie from hell: That doesn't work here
  - a. *These people are too wicked/religious/intellectual/uneducated*
- 2. So the temptation is to begin to drift: Move away from preaching truth/acting in truth
  - a. *Don't want to preach certain truths/issues* b. *Fail to hold the line in righteousness* c. *Begin to change practices*
    - 1. *2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

### III. THE MIND DELIVERED

#### A. Paul is writing to alert Timothy to the danger: The key is his eyes being opened

- 1. **You need to see what's happening to you!** *V7 It's a spirit!* From hell
  - a. Look at how you feel/look at how you've changed/how you're tempted to change
- 2. **You need to see who God is!** This is always the key to survival in life
  - a. *V1-2 the will of God/promise of life in Christ Jesus/grace/mercy/peace V6-7 gift of God*
- 3. **You need to see who is on your side:** Paul is reminding Timothy of their history/relationship
  - a. *V4 I pray/I thank God for you/I believed in you V6 I believed in you/gave you a chance/supported*
- 4. **You need to remember the past:**
  - a. Where did you come from/what God has done/who you're connected to
    - 1. He reminds him of conference/sending service!
- 5. **You need to remember your purpose**
  - a. *2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

B. All of these are things Timothy has to do for himself

- 1. Requires some personal actions