

## **Mind Wars - week 5**

### **“Winning the War of the Corrupted Mind • 2.0”**

Proverbs 23:7

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The enemy is coming after a lot of things. We *know* we're under assault. Where he really wants to get us, though, is in our thought life - in our *mind*. We are the gatekeepers of our minds. Nobody else *can* be. Only *we* can guard what is coming in through our eye gate and ear gate. We don't *have* to watch what's on T.V. or on our screen.

**1] We gravitate towards what we gaze upon**

**2] We become what we behold**

**3] As a man thinks in his heart so is he - Proverbs 23:7**

*Message from Pastor Jimmy: Good Morning Team! My heart is on fire this morning as I stand on "the Book!" I cannot wait to gather with the Saints, worship, and receive our "marching orders" from our Lord and King. How can we not kneel before Him and collectively answer, "Yes Lord!" to His call to grow up, stand up, and speak out? Let's do this!*

### **It's Time to Grow Up and Stand Up**

*It's time to grow up and stand up. As our culture blindly follows dark and malevolent influencers and leaders off the moral and spiritual cliffs, we need courageous prophetic voices to speak up and speak out against the black holes of evil, sin, and wickedness in our time.*

*Many in the Church in America have mistakenly embraced the lie that it is better to say nothing, to keep their heads down, to passively go with the flow as our nation degrades and decays into a hollow shell of what it once was - all in the name of "love." However, they are ignoring the part about speaking the Truth.*

*What will you do? Will you be counted among the brave, godly souls who are not afraid of being canceled, marginalized, or challenged? I'll say it again, it's time to grow up and stand up. No more rearranging the chairs on the deck of the Titanic as it sinks. This is our time. Lord, bring revival! - (Devotional from Pastor Jimmy)*

2 Timothy 3:8 ESV

*“Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted [to spoil entirely, to destroy, to utterly perish] in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.”*

1 Timothy 6:3-5 ESV

*“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved [to rot thoroughly and to decay utterly] in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain [wrong motives, wrong heart, wrong mission].”*

Paul goes on to say that we’re not to associate with those people, because that spirit is contagious - and it’s dangerous. There is no truth in Satan. John 8:44 says, *“[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

### **Like seed bears like fruit**

We allow all kinds of seeds to be planted in our minds and our hearts through the eye gate and ear gate - what we watch, listen to, the people we allow in our orbit. There are people in our lives that ought not to be there. That’s Truth in love, because we need to be protected. For every step we take away from the cross, there will be twelve to fifteen people patting us on the back telling us that we’re doing the “right thing”. Those are not our friends. Are we guarding our minds?

Hebrews 3:12-13 ESV

*“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”*

Sin - we need to call it what it is - not “toxic behavior” - not “issues” - not “missteps and mistakes” - it’s *sin*. We have lost or abdicated our position to stand up and say, *“What you are doing is wrong - and it’s sin.”*

It sounds archaic in our enlightened culture. It's hard to stand up when there's a line of people with signs saying, *"My body - my life - my choice,"* for us to then say, *"You're not right. That's a baby inside of you - not an embryo or a fetus - it's a baby."* That doesn't mean we don't have compassion, but we need to be there to love them and help them navigate, but we also need to stand up against the spirit behind that mentality of, *"I am my own god."* That's idolatry of *self*.

Romans 1:18-21 NKJV

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile [empty, vain, foolish, idolatrous] in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

God can right the ship, but we have to go to him to get it done. It will happen because God sovereignly shows up in our midst. There is a strategy to destroy this nation - to move us away from our foundation, which is built upon the Bible, and when we forget our history we're doomed to repeat it. We need to go back and remember - not the revisionist history - but actual history.

Half of the signers of the U.S. Constitution were pastors and ministers with churches, and they came together and said, *"We need to do this right - build it on the right foundation - the Word of God."* Now, there is a clear strategy to move us completely away from it - that's called *Marxism [destroys religion and the nuclear family, takes possessions and private property]*.

Romans 1:22-27 NKJV

*"Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."*

Romans 1:28-32 NKJV

*“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers [the little foxes that destroy the vine], backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”*

### **We need to stand up - stand out - and grow up**

At what point do we stand up in the office or in the group we want so badly to belong to, and say, *“This is not right!”* When are we - in our sphere of influence - going to stand up for righteousness? When will we show up at a school board meeting and say, *“Woah!”* or a city council meeting and walk up to the microphone, filled with the Holy Spirit, and say, *“This is not right!”* or write our own op-ed to the paper.

We need to find a place for our voices to be heard - voices anointed and filled with the passion of God - and say, *“This is not right! Not on my watch - not while I’m here!”* America is in the same place that Germany was in in the 1930’s just before Adolph Hitler became chancellor and furor of that nation - when Dietrich Bonhoeffer stood up - a young twenty-six-year-old pastor - stood up and preached, *“If we - the Church - don’t wake up - we will lose this nation.”* ...and the people yawned.

Nobody listened to him. Just a few weeks later, Hitler became chancellor and a fire (like present-day Covid) was used as an excuse to declare a state of emergency, giving the executive office absolute power, thus ending the parliament’s ability to vote on anything. Hitler then activated his plan, and Bonhoeffer was imprisoned and hanged because he dared to stand up. (He authored a book titled, *the Cost of Discipleship*, and also said, *“Jesus bids a man Come and die.”*)

If we, likewise, stand up and let ourselves be counted - saying what needs to be said, and speaking the Truth in love - we may not be cheered. We might be *jeered*, demoted, and *not* be celebrated. It will take people to stand up in a heroic way and say what needs to be said. We’re now in the same place as a nation, and unless we know our history, we’ll be doomed to repeat it.

We are called to be a voice. We can start by voting. Our vote matters even if we don't win. We should not vote our conscience - but what Jesus tells us to vote. It's called prayer. We're in an unprecedented time in our history as a nation - and it's time to stand up, to stand out - and be counted. May people say of Bridge Church, *"They are courageous. They are bold - unafraid and unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ - and they will say what needs to be said."* May we be known for speaking the Truth in love, where we say what needs to be said ...*because we love.*

## **Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, we raise up a battle cry and say, Now is our time. We say, Lord, bring revival.*

*We're ready to take everything that comes with that, which means that we are bold and courageous. Father, show each one of us how You desire us to respond, starting in our own hearts. Lord forgive us. Cleanse us. Fill us with Your Spirit. Speak to us and show us the path that we might walk in obedience to You. Give us Your grace and courage to make that move. We love You and honor You - we move towards You. In Jesus' name. Amen*