

Series: Keys for Victorious Living

Keys of Proper Thinking

Philippians 4:8-9

October 29, 2023

Several years ago I began preaching a series of Keys of the Kingdom, based on the Scripture Matthew 16:13-19 (KJV)

^{Mt 16:13} When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**

¹⁴ And they said, **Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.**

¹⁵ He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**

¹⁶ **And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ **And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

Note in verse 19 that **it is not key of the kingdom of heaven but rather it is keys**. Along with the keys is given the results when those keys are used and that being said it shows that the warfare we are in is really a spiritual warfare. Further Scriptures reveal to us our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. So what are these keys given us? My understanding is enlightened by the following verse as well as others.

Deuteronomy 19:15 (KJV) -- ^{Dt 19:15} **One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.**

John 17:14 (KJV) - ^{Jn 17:14} **I have given them thy word;** and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Also these Scriptures:

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) -- ^{Mt 28:18} **And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.**

Ephesians 1:3 (KJV) -- ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Ephesians 1:20 (KJV) -- ²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Ephesians 2:6 (KJV) -- ⁶ And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 3:10 (KJV) -- ¹⁰ To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

With those scriptures in mind, my understanding is the Keys to the Kingdom is the Word of God and the battles we fight here in this present world we fight from our POSITION which is seated in the heavenlies with Christ.

In your study of the Bible, have you ever read Scripture which you did not understand but in later studies read Scripture that gave you understanding of those passages which you previously did not understand. I have found that to be true over my years of study. The more we begin to understand from the Scriptures, the more responsibility the Lord conveys unto us to understand even more. Just as in my time working at the State Capitol, the more the different offices began to know me, the more they began to trust me and eventually gave me keys to their offices. Some of those offices had key boxes with the keys to everything in their suite and most trusted me with a key to their keybox so I

had access to everything 24 hours a day. I have discovered through the years the Word of God works under a similar principle...the more we are accountable to the truth of Scripture, the more Scripture God opens our understanding.

Therefore, to be victorious in this life, we need to know the Word, know beyond any shadow of doubt what/where our position is, and how to use the Armor of God which He has freely given us to fight the battles with. So, let us begin to add to our understanding, **the Keys of Proper Thinking.**

Philippians 4:8-9 (KJV)

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

⁹ **Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**

With the information I have just shared with you, let me share with you at least 7 Keys of Proper Thinking I have discovered from my studies.

Proper Thinking Key #1 ----- “AS A MAN THINKETH”

Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11 (KJV) -- ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

One of the first things we need to learn as “born again believers” is how to get “right thinking” laid as a cornerstone in our lives. Scripture upholds this truth and this is stated very clearly in many places. One of the first things we need to settle in our hearts after we have been saved is “What is truth?”

For our study today, I will look at the following verses but want to start with the understanding of these verses: **John 17:17-22 (KJV) - ^{Jn 17:17} Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (Note the word sanctify used here is: from (hagios); to**

make holy, i.e. (ceremony) *purify or consecrate*; (mentally) to *venerate* :- **hallow, be holy, sanctify.**) Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

¹⁹ And for their sakes **I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.**

²⁰ **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;**

²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**

²² And **the glory (honor, praise) which thou gavest me I have given them;** that they may be one, even as we are one:

1 Corinthians 1:17 (KJV) - ¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1 Corinthians 1:20 (KJV) - ²⁰ Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1 Corinthians 1:30 (KJV) - ³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

In simplest of words, **1 CO verse 30 is telling us that Christ is all we need for every need of life. The words used for sanctify or sanctification mean to “Make Holy,” which**

shows us that it is done from an external source and not from ourselves. Sanctification by the Spirit brings about unity in our lives with other believers....**but the unity that the world seeks to impose, whether it is sociological, governmental, legal, or religious, will actually bring discord. However, the unity that Christ offers, brings peace within and between persons.** John 16:33 (KJV) - These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace.** In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world.**

Since Christ is the Word made flesh, listen to some truths from that Word which teach us how to overcome the world.

Proverbs 23:4-16 (KJV)

Pr 23:4 **Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.**

⁵ Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? **for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.**

⁶ **Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: (*Teaches us who not to associate with*)**

⁷ For **as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:** Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

⁸ The morsel *which* thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

⁹ **Speak not in the ears of a fool:** for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

¹⁰ **Remove not the old landmark;** and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

¹¹ For their redeemer *is* mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

¹² **Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.**

¹³ **Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.**

¹⁴ Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

¹⁵ My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

¹⁶ **Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.**

Proverbs 25:11 (KJV) - ^{Pr 25:11} A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Proverbs 4:23 (KJV) - ^{Pr 4:23} Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Luke 6:45 (KJV) - ^{Lk 6:45} A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Matthew 12:34 (KJV) - ^{Mt 12:34} O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

So, to sum up Key #1, it is important to our lives to guard our hearts because it is out of the abundance of the heart that a man speaks.

What we should learn to speak is God's Word because **Isaiah 55:11 (KJV) - Isa 55:11** So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV) -- 1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Key #1, As a man thinketh, reveals to us the importance of daily study of God's Word because it lays the foundation for our thoughts. The more we study the WORD, the more we will learn to speak what we have studied, and when we speak God's Word, it does not return void but accomplishes that which God purposes.

Proper Thinking Key #2 **"WHATSOEVER THINGS"**

whatsoever things are true, -- open, not concealed

whatsoever things *are* honest, -- honorable

whatsoever things *are* just, -- Holy, Righteous

whatsoever things *are* pure, -- clean, perfect

whatsoever things *are* lovely, -- Acceptable, friendly towards

whatsoever things *are* of good report; -- Reputation, well spoken of

if *there be* any virtue, -- Excellence and

if *there be* any praise, -- **a commendable thing**

think on these things. -- **Consider, count, Reckon**

Simply put this tells us what our thought life ought to consist of. **The best definition I have for the phrase “think on these things,” is the word reckon, The best definition for Reckon is: “counting so what isn’t so, so it will be so, because God says so.” Basically we need to RECKON on God’s Word even when it doesn’t seem humanly possible for it to be true for our lives.**

Proper Thinking Key #3
“WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD”

As we learn the truths from God's Word, we need to also understand the truth of **2 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV) -- (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

2 Corinthians 6:7 (KJV) -- ⁷ By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (KJV) -- ¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Proper Thinking Key #4

“THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE”

Ephesians 6:11 (KJV) -- ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 (KJV) -- ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Keep in mind these weapons of our warfare because they are instrumental in giving us victory in every trial we face.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV) -- ^{Eph 6:10} Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

We do not know how to pray concerning every situation, but even then, God supplies the need as He tells us **Romans 8:26 (KJV) -- ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

Proper Thinking Key #5 “PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS”

The word strongholds presents to us a picture of a castle which is fortified against all attacks. In simple terms, IMO, as it is used here, it shows us only God can pull down the strongholds the enemy has set up in our lives. Those strongholds have been erected by a devious enemy who is a spiritual one and it can only be broken down and done away with by the Spirit of God who is the only ONE who is capable of dealing with him. **The Holy Spirit brings to our remembrance whatsoever God has said unto us (through HIS WORD) and gives us the most powerful weapon we can have to fight the enemy with, the Sword of the Spirit.**

**Just recall that when Jesus was tempted by the Devil He always responded with “it is written” referring to the Word of God. We should do no less. Luke 4:4-10 (KJV) -- ^{Lk 4:4} And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.
⁵ **And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.****

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

10 For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: Note that in this verse the devil says “it is written” trying to twist the truth of God into his lie and he will also do the same with us, so it is imperative that we know what is written.

The biggest stronghold in our lives, IMO, is the stronghold of DOUBT. The Devil and his demons will always seek to deceive us by misquoting Scripture and causing us to DOUBT in God’s Word and the Power of that WORD, so staying in the WORD and memorizing as much as we can of the promises of God is a good approach such as **Galatians 2:20 (KJV) -- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me..**

Also another good one to memorize is **Philippians 4:13 (KJV) - Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

These two as well as other Scriptures reinforce the truth that without Jesus, we can do nothing. **John 15:5 (KJV) -- Jn 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

Proper Thinking Key #6 **“CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS”**

Think about the word imaginations and how the devil brings imaginations to our mind. We go to the doctor because we don't feel well or we have an unexpected expense arise and our imagination goes wild. Regarding our health, we imagine that it could be the worst possible news and in regards to the financial we imagine what the highest possible expense will be. **The ONLY WAY to cast these imaginations down is with the Word of God.** God always brings this verse to my remembrance when the occasion to do so arises and I preached on this verse September 3rd. **Philippians 4:19 (KJV) -- Php 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

Note once again this only comes through Christ and our relationship to HIM.

Proper Thinking Key #7

“TAKING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE”

Finally, let us consider taking every thought captive. IMO, this means that we do not let our thoughts run rampant. Taking every thought captive seems to magnify or add to the importance of casting down imaginations. To put it simply, God knows us better than we know ourselves and **He KNOWS when we receive a negative report of any type our impulse is to imagine the worst so He tells us to “take every thought captive.”** Imaginations defined is our thoughts. In simple terms, IMO, He is telling us not to let our imaginations run rampant and **the only way to accomplish that is by using the Sword of the Spirit and demolish the strongholds the Devil is trying to build in our lives through DOUBT.**

Doubt causes fear and fear causes us to doubt God’s Word. Our tendency as human beings seems to always think the worst. Just examine your own thoughts and see how adverse to the Word of God they are, **the majority of the time.**

God reveals that to us in His Word when He tells us **2 Timothy 4:2 (KJV) -- ^{2Ti 4:2} Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

Also, let us understand an example given us in the Scripture concerning Christ healing the servant of the Centurion.

Matthew 8:8 (KJV) -- ^{Mt 8:8} The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: **but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.**

Matthew 8:8 emphasizes our need for STUDYING and KNOWING the WORD.

In the 1st chapter of Genesis we learn God spoke creation into being by the command of His Word. **May we understand through this the power which resides in God's Word.**

Isaiah 55:11 (KJV) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it shall not return unto me void**, but **it shall accomplish that which I please**, and **it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

Then Paul tells us in **Ephesians 6:17 (KJV)** And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 17:14 (KJV) I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:17-22 (KJV) 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth. 18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. **20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Note Jesus says we have been sent into the world as He was sent and then meditate on this scripture: **John 1:1 (KJV)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (KJV) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

These verses definitely show us God's emphasis concerning His Word, and we can see that from the rest of the verses in this study also.

Psalm 17:4 (KJV) Concerning the works of men, by **the word of thy lips I have kept *me from* the paths of the destroyer.**

Psalm 119:11 (KJV) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:89 (KJV) For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:160 (KJV) Thy word *is true from the beginning*: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

Psalm 119:170 (KJV) Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.

Psalm 119:172 (KJV) My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.

Jeremiah 15:16 (KJV) Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

John 17:14 (KJV) I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Romans 10:8 (KJV) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even in thy mouth*, and *in thy heart*: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Acts 4:29 (KJV) And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and **grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,**

John 14:13 (KJV) ³ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

John 15:7 (KJV) ⁷ If ye abide in me, and **my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 16:23 (KJV) ²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

John 16:26 (KJV) ⁶ At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

1 John 5:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask anything according to his will,** he heareth us:

That being said, let me close this study in the WORD by reading our Scripture passage again:

Philippians 4:8-9 (KJV)

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, **whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just,**

whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Make note of the promise in verse 9, that if we do those things which we have learned and received, the promise is the God of Peace shall be with us.

Let us Pray!

Invitation