

# **THE BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET PRT 2 – MAKE CHRIST YOUR CHIEF JOY**

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a series teaching titled **THE BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET PRT 2**. Last week I introduced the concept behind this teaching series and if you missed that teaching, please go and catch up on our website as well as on our Facebook page.

I want to continue where we left off last week and I want to start off by highlighting a few points which will show us how your mindset influences all that you do. Before I go there, let me remind you of how we defined mindset:

*Your mindset is a set of beliefs that shape how you make sense of the world and yourself. It influences how you think, feel, and behave in any given situation.*

Lets look at a few **insights about the mindset**

## **i. Your mindset determines your approach to life**

- If you have a mindset that says your ability is what determines the outcome of your life all the time, without realizing it, you start limiting your engagements because you are generally limited.
- If you have the mindset that says the more positive thoughts you have, the more you can achieve, you start putting more emphasis on yourself than in Father God – our source
- On the other hand, the breakthrough mindset says; according to *Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.*
- This mindset exalts the Lordship of Jesus over anything else – it acknowledges that Jesus is the one that enables you.
- If your mindset says that your identity is attached to your personal achievement, then every time you don't achieve, you start feeling like you are less of a human being than others.
- If your mindset says that the more money you have in your account, the more blessed you are, then every time you run dry in your account, you feel less and less blessed.
- If your mindset says your level of righteousness is based on the good deeds you do, you will then equate your level of righteousness to your behavior. This is the mindset that the tax collector had who was used by Jesus as an example in the following scriptures.

*Luke 18:10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’*

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## **ii. Your mindset shapes your relationships with people around you**

- Sometimes we don't say it but our actions have a way of betraying us. If your mindset says that you can't relate with certain people from a certain background, you might not physically run away from them but when you are in their presence you tend not to discriminate against them.

*James 2:1 My brothers, do not have the faith of our Lord Christ, the Lord of glory, with respecter of faces. 2 For if there comes a gold-fingered man in fancy clothing into your assembly, and if there also comes in a poor man in shabby clothing, 3 and if you have respect to him who has the fancy clothing and say to him, You sit here in a good place, and say to the poor, You stand there, or sit here under my footstool; 4 Did you not make a difference among yourselves and became judges with evil thoughts?*

- The majority of your blessings are attached to people, the more people you connect with, the easier your life will become. Your breakthrough will be easy to come by.

## **iii. Your mindset determines your pursuits and ambitions**

- Your mindset determines your values – in other words, you place value on certain things based on your personal beliefs.
- Jesus prays for His disciples and in His prayer in John 17, He mentioned something profound:

*John 17:14 I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

- The word He gave them, changed their mindset and as a result the world started hating them for it.
- Paul mentions the same concept:

*2 Corinthians 10:3 For though walking about in flesh, we do not war according to flesh.*

- How do you measure where your mindset is currently?
  - Are you excited about the things of the spirit i.e prayer, bible reading, Christian fellowship, giving towards the work of the Lord?

*Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth.*

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## **iv. Your mindset is the difference between excellence and mediocrity**

- This is so profound because your mindset will be the difference between a successful marriage and a failed marriage, a successful business and a failed business.
- Your mindset determines who you are doing it for and why you are doing it.

*Colossians 3:22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only to please them while they are watching, but with sincerity of heart and fear of the Lord. 23Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men, 24because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

- Having said all this, let us start unpacking what Paul was encouraging the church of Philippi to adopt as their mindset.

*Philippians 3: 1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is indeed not grievous to me, but for you it is safe.*

### **1. Mindset 1 – Make Christ your chief joy**

- Whatever the source of your happiness is, it has the ability to make you happy or take it away from you.
- Paul was then challenging the church to reconsider the source of their joy – if their joy was the presence Paul, at that time Paul was incarcerated in Rome, if it was their leader Epaphroditus, at some point he was afflicted with sickness.
- The true source of true joy for a believer is found in having an intimate relationship with Jesus.
- In another place Paul writes and he says in *Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*
- Anything outside of Jesus cannot bring about real joy or happiness. In his letter to the Philippi church, Paul is emphasizing the need for Jesus to be the main source of their joy.
- Paul was in a very difficult space but no amount of pain could sway him from the joy he had in the Lord.
- In a space of 104 verses, Paul uses the Greek words for joy and rejoicing sixteen times
- He reminds us of the power rejoicing in the Lord – we rejoice in the Lord not because all is well, but we rejoice for all He accomplished for us on the cross.
- Because Jesus overcame the greatest adversary called death, He is able to withstand anything your life can throw at Him.
- You have to place your trust on someone who is stronger than you, on someone who has been where you haven't been.

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*Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross. 15 Having stripped rulers and authorities, He made a show of them publicly, triumphing over them in it.*

- **Your joy in the Lord can be challenged by** so many things and Paul mentions a number of them - Enemies of joy:

- **Prisons of life**

*Philippians 1:12 But I desire that you should understand, brothers, that the things which happened to me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel; 13 so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places.*

- **Opposition and contradictions of life**

*Philippians 1:15 Some indeed even preach Christ because of envy and strife, and some also of good will. 16 Those, indeed, preach Christ out of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds. 17 But these others preach in love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Nevertheless, in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached. And I rejoice in this. Yet, also I will rejoice.*

- **Uncooperative situations and individuals around you**

*Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings,*

- **Conflict and disagreements**

*Philippians 4:2 I beg Euodia and Syntyche that they be of the same mind in the Lord.*

- A believer's joy must not be rooted in circumstances but in the Savior, who is trustworthy, dependable and capable to save utterly.

The Supremacy of Christ inspires confidence and we should set our eyes on Him

- Christ is supreme and when you focus on Him, He will not disappoint you

*Colossians 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

- We rejoice in Him being in the form of God, and equal to him, and therefore able to save his own completely.

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- We rejoice in the power of His blood that washes our sins and gives us access to the presence of God
- We rejoice in His High Priestly role in which He mediates between us and the Father