

Thinking Differently V – Dr. James McDonald

05-01-16

Strongholds – fortified places in our thinking that are resistant to God's Word and God's way.

We can't think differently and tear down these strongholds until we *know* what they are.

"The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but are divinely powerful to destroy strongholds. We are destroying arguments and every lofty opinion that raises itself against the knowledge of God and taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." II Cor. 10:4-5

1. Ending Double mindedness

How do I change this: One way is to put a stop to double-mindedness in my life. **James 1:8** double minded = Wanting two things that cannot coexist in my life.

"I want...."

1. There is double-mindedness in all of us. In order for that to change, we are going to have to think differently. You really can't have it both ways; you need to decide what you want most and say goodbye to the other. So, we are going to have to get off the fence and settle it from now on. "What do I really want in my life and for my life?"

2. Double-mindedness makes us unstable. "Unstable in all His ways."

3. It affects everything. Double-minded in my marriage affects my career; double-minded in my finances affects my parenting. I want my private sin, and have it not affect anything else, but it will simply never be that way.

2. So, we are going to attack double-mindedness. I'm challenging you to locate an area of double-mindedness in your life tonight and pray right now for God to show and help you get rid of it. Jn. 5:1-15 V. 5 An invalid for 38 years, a long time. "Do you want to be healed?" What? Of course? Isn't it obvious? **Why ask this?**

"Nobody here to help me." Very defensive about his condition and need because of pain and frustration.

If he had no one to help him, how often was he getting his bed changed, making it to the bathroom? *Filthy bed*. Jesus tells him to take the bed with him. Why? Sabbath, but the Jews could not see past this.

3. Breaking double-mindedness, getting off the fence you're riding.

1. You have to want to think differently; nobody can do that for you. You have to care about it; be hoping for something better for your life.

Do Christians lose hope? Sure they do? Why does Jesus ask, "Do you want to be healed?" "Do you still want this?" 38 years can make you lose hope.

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38 years? Some of us have been looking for change in our lives for a long time, but our stinking-thinking has not changed, and thus we haven't changed and the thing that goes is HOPE.

When we stop hoping for something different, it is definitely not coming!

When you stop caring, it's a hassle to hope because hope can be easily lost and hard to keep. You have to work at hope (as opposed to being negative, which comes naturally); it hurts to hope (make myself vulnerable to disappointment.)

When we give up hope, hopelessness is the only thing worse than the struggle of hope, not caring anymore, not asking and seeking and knocking. Not striving for something brighter is far worse.

It's a world-class question that Jesus asks: "Do you even care about this anymore?"

2. We have to want to think differently, and then we have to take action that reinforces our desire. "Get up and walk, and take your bed."

Bed was his home. "You're moving." "You aren't living here anymore."

Have you made the decision to follow Jesus? Action, accept Him. Done with double-mindedness? Make a determined move against it.