RETROSPECTIVE REFLECTION ON THE BATTLE OF THE MIND

Introduction

The battle of the mind is the continuation of the battle that took place in heaven between the devil and God. The devil re-strategized and decided to attack the children of God through their minds. This is because he understands the power of the mind and how God operates in a man. Take the devil as an enemy who was once your friend and knows all your corners, weaknesses and strengths.

A Christian must be cognitive of what is happening around him plus must secure his mind from being poisoned by the devil.

Devil's Tactics

2 Corinthians 4:4 reads:

For the god of this world has blinded the unbeliever's minds that they cannot discern the truth, preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ the Messiah, who is the Image and Likeness of God.

The god of this world, the devil, blinds the minds of people. The purpose of blinding the minds of people is to prevent them from knowing the truth (or discerning the truth) and receiving the light that comes with the Gospel. The devil understands the power of man's mind than probably how man understands his/her mind. This is because we are dealing with an enemy who was once an angel and God's favourite angel. As such he knows a lot about man.

The devil knows that if he can control or infiltrate the mind of a man, then he can twist the thinking and understanding of man. Once he has twisted the thinking and understanding of man, he is able to control his decisions. And in that case, being the devil, all the decision that a man whose mind is controlled by the devil makes, are skewed towards evil no matter how seemingly good the decisions can be. The devil targets to control the minds of everyone especially those in decision making positions like presidents, pastors, session clerks, vestry chairpersons, CEOs etc.

The world, through the devil's tactics, is structured in such a way that we are forced to receive what they want us to receive. For instance, gay rights, atheism, media (pornography), etc are being thrown anyhow and being accepted as a norm to the point of being legalised. All this is because the devil wants these things to infiltrate our minds. And once they have infiltrated our minds, their images or thoughts will always be with us. Psychologists claim that when one sees certain type of pictures for a certain period, your mind tends to be inclined towards that. So those that are in control will feed you what they want you to receive.

Another example, if the rulers do not fear God and have no respect for God, they will do things that will make it impossible for you to receive the word of God. During a certain period in Malawi, the Bibles for Bible Knowledge were stopped from being freely given to students in secondary schools. Why? There must be no access to the word of God. Because if they have access to the word of God, they will be controlled by it and we will be unable to infiltrate their minds.

These people will always infiltrate leadership so as to control systems of government. They even infiltrate churches that is why you see wayward pastors being tolerated, wayward elders or deacons being given big positions. Thieves and drug dealers are church leaders today. You might take it lightly like mere coincidence but that is systematic and championed by the devil himself through our minds, the Battle of the Mind.

The media is a tool that is being heavily used by the devil to condition our minds in such a way that at some point we end up accepting things that we used to abhor. And this happens slowly through what we see in the press, television, social media etc. In the 1980's, movies rarely had sexual graphics let alone simple pecks. But these days, they are explicit, and we have come to generally accept that it is expected. Our minds have been conditioned, The Battle of the Mind.

There two forces in the world that oppose each other, and these are forces of good and evil. Jesus is the head of the good force while Satan is the head of the evil force. Jesus has his own network and Satan too has his own network that he uses.

In the network of Jesus, man has two missions: a) service to God through studying the word and, b) service to man through evangelism and discipleship.

In the network of Satan there are many things, and some of these these are: spiritualism, secret societies (Free Masons and some organisations that hide behind charity), sex and porn, wealth, homosexuality, drugs abuse, unholy parties, some PC games, even some sport like yoga, cell phones addiction, etc. These are used to distract man from studying the word of God as the devil is trying to infiltrate the mind. The devil looks at studying the word of God as a distraction to his mission. That is why most people either do not study the word of God at all or just reads the word of God and not study it. Remember you do not read the word of God, but you study the word of God.

So, the battle of mind is whereby the evil force is pulling you this way and the good force is pulling you this other way. The good force will use your spirit while the evil force will use something that will stimulate your body like music, sex, sport etc to draw you away from God as you have a certain sense of belonging to something. And through that, the devil gets to your mind as what you were doing sticks to in your mind.

Why the Mind

Mark 9:23 reads (Amplified Version):

And Jesus said, "You say to Me, If you can do anything? Why, all things are possible to him who believes"

Believing takes place in the mind. For all your prayers to be answered you just have to believe. For man to defeat the devil he must believe. The devil fears defeat because his whole purpose is to defeat man. All this starts in the mind. So, the devil tactfully attacks the genesis of his defeat, the mind.

Titus 1:15 (Amplified Version) reads:

To the pure in heart and conscience all things are pure, but to the defiled and corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their minds and consciences are defiled and polluted.

The devil deliberately pollutes the mind of man so that everything that he does, is impure. Purity and holiness starts in the mind. That is why the devil goes straight to the mind. And all his tactics focus on the mind.

In some cases, the devil uses some men of God who twist the truth in a very clever way. And he pollutes the minds of people through twisted gospel as he comes like an angel of light, wolf in sheep clothing.

What Must Man Do

1 Peter 1:13 (Amplified Version) reads:

So, brace up your minds; be sober, circumspect, morally alert; set your hope wholly and unchangeably on the grace, divine favour, that is coming to you when Jesus Christ the Messiah is revealed.

The Bible urges us to brace up by having alert minds. Always. The devil is at work 24/7. Only the study of the word of God and personal prayers to God can jack our minds up spiritually to be alert always.

1 Corinthians 2:16 (Amplified Version) reads;

For who has known or understood the mind, the counsels and purposes, of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ the Messiah and do hold the thoughts, feelings and purposes of His Heart.

As Christians, in order to defeat the devil, we must desire to have the mind of Jesus Christ. And we can only desire if we have understood the mind of Christ. And we can only understand the mind of Christ if we study the word of God for that is where His whole mind is found.

Similarly, Hebrews 8:10 agrees encourages man to put the laws of God in his mind so that He can be our God. We cannot have the laws of God in our minds if we do not study the word of God.

Acts 17:11 encourages man to interrogate any message that he has received be it from your pastor or reverend. Man must be like the men of the church in Berea. Whatever someone teaches or preaches to us, we must find time to study the word of God so as to fully understand and ascertain the truthfulness of the message. This helps our minds to be alert.

Lastly, we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds according to Romans 12:2. This is through study of the word of God. In some instances, because some minds might have been totally possessed, deliverance is required. And that deliverance can only be sustained through the study of the word of God and prayer. No two ways about it.

I used to love some great circular songs that did not glorify God and I memorised the lyrics of many of these songs. My dad and many others used to admonish me for some of those songs. But I remained adamant. I was studying the word of God, praying, fasting but I still got so much into some of those lyrics. On June 5, 2001, during a deliverance session by my two good brothers Dr. Clement Nyirenda and Mr. Alex Gondwe in the Main Lecture Theatre at The Polytechnic, I got delivered. I went to my room and the first thing I noticed was that I just developed a hatred towards some of those songs. I ended up discarding all the songs that did not glorify God. No one told me. But on my own. That was the power of deliverance.

Remember, we plunder hell in order to populate heaven. We touch heaven in order to change earth. Nsungwi ikhale nsungwi, nzimbe ikhale nzimbe (Undiluted Gospel).