

A Winner's Mindset: Feeding Winning Beliefs (Part 4) –

Discussion Notes¹

(Pas. Baines, Jr. 11/2017)

Read Romans 12:2 --- ²*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Proverbs 18:21 --- ²¹*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Romans 8:37 --- ³⁷*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

Introduction: If we believe that we are losers, we will sow and reap like losers. But if we believe that we are winners through Christ, God can help us to sow and reap like winner. We are in process of talking about feeding winning beliefs. A key idea in today's discussion is **“We should feed winning beliefs with God's word and our words.”**

Key Points:

1. A Mind Renewal Plan. Notice that Romans 12:2 teaches the importance of renewing our minds. Here is a mind renewal plan. Take at least five minutes in the morning to read a scripture (e.g., sermon notes, growth group material, Sunday School material, etc.) and pray a prayer. Take at least three minutes in the evening to read something constructive (e.g., Bible or Amazon Christian living books) and pray. And then take at least two minutes in the middle of the day to think about important passages of scriptures (e.g., Rom. 8:28; Phil. 4:19) or affirmations and list things you are thankful for. We can grow from this elementary 10 minutes plan to 20 minutes and more. A renewed mind helps us deal with trouble better (see Jm. 1:2-4; Ps. 42:11). *Let's work on carrying out our mind renewal plans.*

2. What you say is so important to you. Notice how passage like Luke 6:45; Proverbs 16:23 teaches that our speaking comes from our mindsets/hearts. Passages like Romans 10:17a teaches that what we say influences what we believe/have in our mindset. And passages like Proverbs 18:20-21; Matthew 12:36-37 teaches that what comes from our mindset and words influences what we sow and reap. *Let's work on keeping our speaking in line with God's will.*

3. Examples. Notice how passages like Romans 8:37; Philippians 4:11b; Psalm 23:1; James 2:17 all give us something positive to think and talk about. Instead of talking about having the blues, we should try talking about being more than conquerors. Instead of talking about being old and

¹ Prepare to discuss the following: What is the point, what scripture supports the point, what is the application sentence, and what is an example of living by the material? After the material is covered, be prepared to answer the following: Which point do you want to spend extra time on, why do you think this point is so important, and what tips do you have for living by this material, in spite of the challenges? **What is one thing you will take from this session and work on, in regard to your discipleship goals?**

sickly, we should try talking about being content in the Lord. Instead of talking about being broke, we should try talking about how God takes care of His sheep who have working faith. Joel Osteen has a nice book entitled, ***The Power of I Am***. *Let's work on Bible based speaking, instead of just loose talk based on how we feel in the moment.*

4. Troubles will still come. Notice how Matthew 5:45b supports the idea that no matter how positive our talk may be, there will still be some troubles in our lives. Denial of troubles often leads to irresponsibility and then disappointment and then despair. Too many diabetics move from denial to being irresponsible with treatment plans and then disappointment and despair. The same is true of people who should be more proactive with their finances. There are things that make no sense to us, no matter how much we work on our mindsets, sowing, and reaping (e.g., hurricanes still come; innocent men are still killed by suspicious police actions; infants are born with terrible birth defects; women and men are still raped). *Let's not fool ourselves into thinking that we can talk our selves out of troubled times.*

5. Talk right, when life is wrong. Notice how Romans 8:28; Hebrews 13:5b; Psalm 30:5b give us some winning things to think and talk about, when we are waiting for night time to give way to morning. The Christian faith does not deny how terrible Friday's Calvary can be. However, we chose to focus more on Sunday morning's resurrection. *Let's make sure that we have some night time scriptures to talk about.*