

A Winner's Mindset: Feeding Winning Beliefs (Part 5) –

Discussion Notes¹

(Pas. Baines, Jr. 11/2017)

Read Hebrews 3:13 --- *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.*

Matthew 7:20 --- *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

Romans 8:37 --- *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 our words and our actions.”**

Key Points:

1. Our words are important to others. Notice that Romans 10:17a teaches that faith comes by hearing. This means that when people here what we say, they are subject to believe it and act accordingly. What do you want to be responsible for others believing, sowing, and reaping? Do you want to pass on negativity or positivity? Passages like Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25; 3:13 all support believers being encouragers of positivity. The church should be a place of building people up, not spreading negativity. *Let’s work on speaking life into people.*

2. Mindset actions. Matthew 7:20 teaches that we can tell the tree by the fruit that it bears. And James 2:17 talks about faith without works is dead. We should nurture a winning mindset with not only God’s word and our words, but also with our actions. We should have some mindset actions like the “mind renewal plan” based on Romans 12:2 (i.e., 5 minutes in the morning, 2 minutes in the middle of the day, and 3 minutes in the evening). However, in addition to this prevention plan, we need to have a treatment plan. What do you do when you feel like cussing right now? What do you do when you have already cussed somebody out? How do you regain your balance and focus? Learn how to be still and remind yourself that God has more for you than what is going on right now. Don’t waddle in feelings of guilt and remorse. Forgiveness and grace are available, even when people don’t want to reconcile (see I Jn. 1:9). *Let’s work on prevention and treatment mindset actions.*

3. Health actions. I Corinthians 6:19-20 teaches that our bodies are God’s temples and His property. We should have deliberate routines, habits, and actions aimed at having “winning

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?**

health.” Diet, exercise, stress management, and doctor visitation all come under this heading. *Let’s make sure that we are not only familiar with the importance of healthy living but that we actually do the work.*

4. Wealth actions. Luke 9:11-27 is a great support for not only giving God His 10% but also our taking care of the remaining 90%. Earning high, spending low, investing, and passing wealth on fits under this label. Think about how when we don’t tithe, we are tempting God to punish our disobedience. Think about how our children and grands and great-grands are impacted by our stewardship. Think about how our young adults could have paid for educations, starter homes, and retirement accounts, instead of student loan debt, low paying jobs, and poor consumer habits. *Let’s work on wealth build actions for our benefits and generations to come.*

5. Relationship actions. First, Ecclesiastes 4:12 supports the idea of having some strong relationships. Good and strong relationships call for work. We can learn to be likeable, trustworthy, and encouraging. Strong Christian relationships can help us withstand the devil and enjoy our journeys. Second, forgiveness and reconciliation are important. We should forgive quickly and unconditionally, so we can focus on something more positive, enjoy fellowship with God, and clear the way for God to handle those who have mistreated us (see Mt. 6:14-15; Rom. 12:17-21). Reconciliation, restoring trust, is much harder and calls for the parties involved to work together (i.e., The offender needs to confess and repent. The offended needs to forgive and be willing to give it a chance). Too many would rather just quit than reconcile. Third, we cannot control the toxic and negative people in our families, churches, and communities, but we can and should limit or eliminate the negative impact they have on us (see II Cor. 6:17; Col. 2:8). *Let’s work on nurturing the good, fixing what we can, and controlling the negative relationships around us.*

6. Contribution actions. Matthew 5:13-16 supports the idea that Christians should be involved in making a positive contribution in this world. With family and friends, we are often call on us to be listening ears, helpful hands, and willing contributors to outstanding needs. In church, we are called to contribute our time, talent, and tithes. And in our communities, we are called upon to pay our taxes, vote, and give ourselves to donations and service. The NAACP, National Action Network, Urban League, CityLink, community council, Greek organizations, and more are great places to serve. Public service (e.g., politicians, government workers, teachers, police officers, and others) should not be forgotten. When God looks at what you contribute to family, friends, your church, and your community, does He say, “Well done”? Or is He disappointed by what you have or have not done **and** your unwillingness to change. *Let’s work on contributing or being a blessing to others.*