

The Character of an Obtainer 2

Meditation on the Word

The next characteristic any person must possess in order to obtain their inheritance is *consistent meditation on God's Word*

Any person who does not meditate on the Word of God cannot run the race and obtain the prize; *we must understand the path before we can begin going down it*

Joshua 1:8

- Here we see God commanding Joshua to meditate on God's word day and night so that he would follow through on all He commanded
- *God did not tell Joshua to meditate in the law PERIODICALLY* then go about his way, thinking that was sufficient
 - o The reason for God requiring this is because *it takes time for the Word of God to become engrafted in any believer's heart*
- The word meditate has many meanings and here 2 of its meanings is *to mutter and ponder*
 - o This gives a distinct picture of what believers should do with the Word
 - When we read any portion of scripture, *it is not to be read like a novel* – reading page to page without considering all its implications
 - After reading, we are to mutter it with our mouths and ponder it in our hearts
 - This describes the engrafting process going on in us; our hearts and minds should be discussing this throughout the day
 - (example: preaching to myself during the day)
 - o The more we mutter the Word to ourselves and ponder it, the truth of the Word is revealed to us; *it feeds our faith, refreshes our soul and strengthens our inner man*
 - o Obviously this does not mean that we are mutter to ourselves 24 hrs a day
 - If we did, everyone would look at us, keep their distance and suggest we invest in a straightjacket!!

- This simply means that during the course of the day, God's word should regularly come across our minds and hearts
- This prevents the cares of the world, all the anxiety, worry and fear, from creeping into our minds and polluting our faith
- The next thing we see in this verse is that *the only way to prevent the Word from escaping our mouth is by meditating on the Word every day*
 - Unless we ponder the Word until faith rises up in us, fear and unbelief will take control of our mouth
 - Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God; but if our faith is not fed, our mouth will continue to speak the circumstances and we will receive all its problems
 - When it comes to the mountains in our lives (Mark 11:23), we cannot be talking about the mountain but rather speaking to it
 - Example: magnifying glass
 - Hearing the Word is not enough; meditation is the key to making sure what we hear brings revelation to our spirit, enlightens our mind and controls our mouth
 - When hearing and meditation are coupled, it releases faith into our spirit and gives us control over our mouth; we then obtain the prosperity God promised Joshua

Psalms 1:1-4

- The first verses of the book of Psalms written are on the meditation of the Word and its results
- These 4 verses emphasize the same principles found in Joshua 1:
 - Delighting in God's Word
 - Meditating on God's Word
 - Prosperity being the result of meditation
- Here David extends the idea of meditation
- Because David delighted in the law and meditated on it day and night, *that meditating extended to pondering the path of his feet*
 - This is a critical key for anyone becoming an obtainer of God's best

- David saw the result of walking in the counsel of the ungodly; the result of going down the path of sinners and obtaining their counsel
- We must ponder the path of our feet so that they do not take us down paths of destruction
- Meditation of the Word enables us *to see where every path in life will lead*: whether it is a path of righteousness or one leading to eventual destruction
 - This is how we avoid going down the sinner's path and receiving their counsel
 - Then, just as was told in Joshua 1, the result is prosperity:
 - “He shall be like the tree planted by rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season; whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he does will prosper”
 - Prosperity is the result of meditation on God's word and *is an unreal expectation if we do not commit to doing it*

Proverbs 4:1-26

In this chapter, Solomon is writing about the path of your feet and **THE MOST** critical key to walking successfully down it: wisdom

- This can be seen in verses 7 and 8, when Solomon says that wisdom is *THE principal thing*; therefore, get wisdom and *in all your getting*, get understanding
 - Webster's dictionary defines principal as *the most important, consequential or influential*
 - There is nothing more valuable than wisdom when it comes to pondering the path of your feet and receiving instruction
 - We must not only know what path to walk down, but *have the wisdom on how to walk down it*
 - Every turn on our path presents us a choice; we must have the discernment to know which path to take, which turn to make
 - If we do not have this discernment, then *our limited knowledge will cause our decision-making to be average or erratic at best*

- Most decisions are obviously not going to destroy our lives; but there are many decisions that if not made wisely, can take us down paths that lead to misery and take time to get back to the path of righteousness
- Wisdom must be *sought out and taken* if we are to be obtainers in life
 - This seeking shows the level of value we are to place on wisdom; the body of Christ must not merely acknowledge its importance, but diligently seek it as the most crucial key to being an obtainer
 - Verse 18 is the result of obtaining wisdom: the path becomes as the shining sun
 - Wisely applying God's Word shines light on our paths, not causing our feet to stumble, but walking past the traps the devil sets for us
 - He is counting on us to walk the path ourselves, without the Spirit's guidance, so that he can block us from obtaining God's best
 - Not getting wisdom causes our path to be just like the path of the wicked: full of darkness and consistent stumbling
 - Other benefits that come from obtaining wisdom are
 - Vs. 6: It will keep and preserve you
 - Vs. 8: it will promote you and bring you honor
 - Vs. 9: God's grace and glory will be on your life
 - Vs. 10: it will give you long life

Psalms 119:15-18

- This chapter is loaded with scriptures about meditation in God's Word and shows David's love for God's laws
- The next key to believers committing to meditate on God's Word is in verse 16: *learning to delight in the Word*
 - Most Christians would be lightning quick to say they delight in God's Word, but *many can't seem to read it in between Sundays*
 - David studied and looked into God's laws so he was able to walk according to it
 - The word delight in this verse comes from a word that *describes a virtually simultaneous action*

- This is the way we act when we delight in something natural: *we want to get it or do it as quickly as possible!!*
- The question is are we this way concerning God's Word? *Are we just as quick to read and meditate on God's Word, simply for our love of it?*
- If we can respond to natural things immediately, how much more quickly should we respond to God's Word, *not just in trouble but when everything is fine?*
 - Joke: *We should respond to God's word like two high school lovebirds dating each other: so raveled up in each other they're virtually oblivious to things and people around them!!*
- David was so passionate about meditating on God's laws that *VS. 148* says that his eyes were open during the night watches, sitting there meditating on God's Word
 - He was there for hours on end, tending the sheep, sitting there with only the light of the moon and meditating on God's laws: *this is why he is called a man after God's own heart*
 - David had an unmatched passion for God and it was evident in his love for God's law and the praise and honor he continually offered to Him
 - We must develop this same passion to meditate on God's Word so we can ponder the Word *without paying attention to the clock!!; for many believers, 5 minutes feels like 30*
 - *This is only because we have not taken our delight for the Word to new heights*; when we do, then we ponder it and lose track of time because we're so captivated by it

1 Timothy 4:12-16

- Here in chapter 4, Paul is giving Timothy various instructions about his ministry to believers:
 - Not letting people despise his age
 - Be an example to all believers in conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity
 - Be diligent in reading the Word and exhorting others
- After giving these instructions, Paul tells Timothy the most important task concerning them: *to meditate on them and give himself entirely to them*

- Paul did not believe that telling Timothy was enough; he did not just tell him what to do and then leave him to do it
- His responsibility was to take these assignments and meditate on them; to ponder them in order for him to not just perform the tasks, but to do them with excellence to God's glory
- Timothy's meditation was critical for several reasons:
 - (v.14) Not meditating on them would lead to neglecting the gift in him
 - (v.15) The progress of Timothy's ministry was dependent on meditation
 - (v.16) His meditation was crucial for the salvation of those he was leading
- These same principles are crucial for believers today if we desire the same success Paul was telling Timothy about
 - When we look at the Word, we must meditate on it fervently; just as Paul said to Timothy, "give yourself entirely to them"
 - The only way we will be committed to giving ourselves entirely to the Word is by meditating on it to the point that it becomes alive in our spirit
 - Casual reading of the Word will only go so far and then you will hit a ceiling in your faith; *we must add meditating on the Word to our hearing the Word if we truly want to grow*
 - This is true because Paul said that our progress being evident to all comes through meditation
 - When we are given entirely to the Word, it will be so alive in us that it will govern our words, actions and thoughts
 - As a result, those around us will clearly see the progress in our lives, shining as a witness and inspiring others to do the same
 - Timothy's charge to be an example for those under him would be enhanced by meditating on his instructions; his progress would lead to their development
 - We must implement this same principle as well; our level of progress will not only affect us personally, *but also has an effect on those around us, who look to us for instruction and counsel*
 - When others observe our lives as an example of Christian living, are they seeing the same person this year that they saw last year?

- Is our level of instruction in the Word of God more or less than in months gone by?
- Meditation of God's instructions is critical; we will only implement God's Word to the degree it is revealed in our hearts, which only comes by meditating in it until we have faith to act upon it

We have seen the invaluable importance of meditating on God's Word day and night. We must not esteem it lightly, but embrace it and allow it to bring us all the benefits described in the Word.

Meditation on the Word – Part 2

The next principle that is central about meditation in God's Word is that God will consider the meditations of our hearts

Psalms 5:1-7

This is what David desired the Lord to do

- David asked the Lord to take note of his innermost thoughts
 - The word "consider" comes from a word that means "*to come to a standstill*"
 - The idea is that David wanted God to stop and focus on what was abundant in his heart and be satisfied
 - David longed for God to perceive his meditations and judge them as pleasing to Him
- Verses 2-7 show the result of David's meditation on God's promises
 - The result of David's commitment to meditate on God's word was that *he was inspired to praise and worship God*
 - *Believers will always be inspired to praise and worship God when they meditate on God's Word*; it becomes revelation to their mind and opens the eyes of their understanding
 - Verse 2 shows David urging God to listen to his voice; whether in the midst of distress or during the peaceful times, David was a person of praise and worship

- He never ceased to lift his voice to God, praising and worshipping Him for His continual mercy upon him
 - You can see David's fervent praise and worship to God in verse 3 when he says to God that He will hear him praising him in the morning; praising God was always at the forefront of David's thinking
 - Verse 7 shows more of this attitude; David's meditation resulted in him walking in the fear of the Lord and worshipping in the temple

- Believers today must want God considering their thoughts
 - Believers must come to the point that they continually want God looking into their heart and being pleased with what He observes
 - However, *wanting this cannot be a casual request*; this must only be asked for if we are consistently meditating on what pleases God

- In *Psalms 19:14*, the cry of our hearts should be the same as David's: "let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight"
 - He reiterates this desire in *Psalms 104:34*, praying that his meditations be sweet to God
 - David longed for his thoughts to satisfy God; this cry developed because he meditated on God's law constantly and it only developed with committed discipline

- This same diligence is required of the body of Christ today
 - This cry will only develop by meditating on the truth of the Word until we gain revelation
 - When God's truth is revealed to us, the enlightening will spark the fire of our hearts to think on those things that please God
 - Our minds will cease to be conformed to the world's way of thinking, which only contaminates our minds
 - What believers must understand is that consistently meditating on the Word is the key to God being pleased with our thought life

- God takes satisfaction in any of His children who spend their days continually meditating on who He is, what He has done and the vast inheritance they have been given

Philippians 4:8

- The meditation of our hearts that pleases God is found here
 - This list of 8 qualities of thought are to rule the meditation of our hearts
 - The two previous verses are the reason for Paul giving this list
 - Too often our hearts meditate on things that are displeasing and rather offensive to the Lord: *anxiety, fear, doubt, worry and unbelief*
 - When anyone's heart is focused on these, it shows that our eyes have not been on God's Word, but rather the circumstances of life
 - Meditation on the wrong things will cause our minds to stray from the Word, which chokes the ability of our faith
 - However, when we meditate on the truth rather than the circumstances, verse 7 shows that the peace of God will stand guard over our hearts and our minds, enabling us to fulfill verse 8
 - By meditating on God's Word day and night, we will set our hearts and minds on those things that are above and not beneath
 - Because God is constantly considering our heart's meditations, He is always the example we should follow
 - We are not to stop at knowing that God is observing our thoughts, but *we are to develop the same habit as God and do it with diligence*
- God will always consider the meditation of our hearts; when they please Him, it shows Him our faith in His ability to deliver us from evil; when they do not, it is offensive because it shows our fear, which is faith in Satan's capacity to steal, kill and destroy

2 examples in the Bible thoroughly show each of these thoughts

The thoughts of faith are demonstrated by David facing Goliath

- When David came and saw the Philistine out in the field mocking Saul's army, his thoughts were very different from anyone else in the army

- Every other soldier was consumed with the size and power of Goliath, thinking that anyone who went up against him would be foolish; this kind of thinking went on for 40 days, two times a day, and they could think of nothing else
- However, when David looked out at the giant, his thoughts were not on the size of the giant, but rather on the fact *that this giant was uncircumcised, having no covenant with God*
- He looked at Goliath and saw him the same as the lion and the bear he had previously killed
 - David's boldness was rooted completely in his confidence of God's faithfulness to deliver him from harm; this is why he looked at a giant and saw past the outward appearance of the giant
 - This bravery was evident in verse 32, *when David told Saul, the same king who was in fear, not to be afraid*; even the king thought David fighting the giant was ridiculous
- The body of Christ must have this same mindset today if it is going to obtain God's best and be a witness to the world
 - God looked down at David's heart and observed his thoughts, causing Him to be pleased; this type of thinking is what enabled a ruddy youth to be more fearless than all of the experienced soldiers in their armor
 - David refused to allow the circumstances of the situation to pollute his mind with fear and anxiety, which all the other soldiers had allowed
 - If believer's today are to possess their inheritance, they must renew their minds through the Word to the point that they can disregard the outward appearance of Goliath and kept their minds stayed on their covenant with God
- Every child of God must not look at the circumstances and tests through the eyes of unbelief, but through the eyes of faith
 - Keeping our eyes on focused on the Word will bring peace to our minds, produce faith in our hearts and bring pleasure to the Lord; As joint heirs with Christ , we can boldly look at the various Goliaths of life and expect them to be struck down
 - But in order to do so, the body of Christ must get their eyes off of the negative, which can do nothing except produce fear
 - We must meditate on who we are in Christ so that our minds see the devil as just another lion or bear

The thoughts of fear that offend God and arouse His displeasure can be clearly seen by the Israelites approaching the promised land

- In Numbers 13, we see Moses sending the 12 spies to search out the promised land and bring back a report about it; all the inhabitants, whether they were weak or strong and what was in the land, if it was rich or poor
 - The spies had 40 days to spy out the land and see all that God had promised to give them
 - However, after the assignment was accomplished and they reported back to Moses, they could not keep their minds on the prosperity found in the land or the excellence of their inheritance
 - They still focused on fear and anxiety in spite of seeing all the wealth and prosperity found in the promised land; they saw the strength and number of the inhabitants and feared that they would be defeated
 - This is the same flawed thinking that the warriors had concerning Goliath and it produced nothing but fear
- The Lord looked down at the nation of Israel and was very displeased with the report given by 10 of the 12 spies; Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who trusted God more than the power of the giants
 - The reason for this fear was the refusal of the spies to keep their minds focused on what had been promised to them rather than on the obstacles standing in their way
 - Rather than focusing on the obstacles, they should have walked fearlessly *because their going in and possessing the promised land was not a suggestion of God, but a command*
 - If the spies had taken this approach, they would have kept their eyes off of the various groups in the land and boldly taken possession of it
 - Instead, when they looked at all the various groups that were residing in their land, they allowed their minds to be overtaken with fear and worry, seeing the giants as more powerful than God
 - This flawed thinking is what caused their whole nation to waste 40 years wondering around in a dry parched land rather than enjoying what was rightfully theirs
 - That whole generation of believers, except for Joshua and Caleb, died off in the wilderness due to disobedience and unbelief

- In **Hosea 13**, it tells of reasons why God was angry with the nation of Israel and one of those reasons was how their thinking kept them from His best
 - God would not allow a people with this mistrust and doubt about Him to take possession of His greatest blessing for them
- Any mind that has this thought pattern has not been renewed to the Word, but rather polluted with the garbage of the world: fear, doubt, unbelief, anxiety and so on
 - No child of God can expect to obtain their rights and privileges in Christ if they are not willing to guard their heart and mind
 - **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** tells us how to prohibit these crippling thoughts from overtaking our minds
 - We must strike down every thought that tries to convince us it has more credibility than God's Word
 - Any thought that tries to persuade you of this has been sent by the devil as seed for the sole purpose of producing a harvest of destruction
 - Those thoughts must be immediately cast back to hell where they came from and not be tolerated for a second; *the more you toy with those thoughts is the same as playing around a burner: the more you are around it, the more likely you are to get burned*
 - Instead of allowing the devil's thoughts to be exalted in your mind, you must make sure that only thoughts which bring glory to God are allowed to fill your mind
 - *Exalting these thoughts in your mind is what produces the peace of God*; it stands guard over your heart and mind just as a security guard would stand post at a building
 - The body of Christ today must develop the mind of Christ; this is a mind free from the corruption of the world and renewed to the Word of God
 - It is a mind that does not pattern itself according to the fear and unbelief in the world
 - It is a mind that is so rooted in God's love for us that we rise up and boldly take possession of our inheritance in Christ

- It is a mind that will not question God's faithfulness to perform His Word, but will enable us to step out in faith, even when all we can see and think screams the opposite
- When this type of thinking controls our mind, we can be sure that it positions us to forcefully keep the devil under our feet

The last principle that is central to meditation on the Word of God is that when we commit to diligently meditate on the Word, our mind develops security in God's faithfulness to protect us and lead us into a successful life

Joshua 1:7

- We see in this verse that our courage to stand against the enemy is directly connected to observing to do all that is in the Word
 - Meditation is a necessity here because we cannot go and do the Word until we ponder it in our hearts long enough to have faith in it
 - This is why God commanded Joshua to not to turn to the right or to the left, but to keep his attention strictly on the Word
 - It is only when we do this that we can have more confidence in God than in our enemy's ability to harm us
- Joshua was finally given responsibility to go in and possess what should have been taken 40 years previously
 - He could only do this by maintaining the same focus he had when he saw the promised land the first time
 - His mind was fixed on being well able to take the land, but that was only possible by believing that God was mightier than the enemy
 - Not only that, but Joshua's ability to stay focused on God did not only affect him, but now as the leader of Israel, *his focus directly impacted Israel's ability to possess the land*
- It is imperative for the body of Christ to maintain the same focus God required of Joshua
 - If we don't, then we will wander around in our own wilderness and be defeated by our enemies rather than joyfully possessing God's best

- *Colossians 1:12* shows us that we have been made able to be partakers of God's best, *but just we are able to partake doesn't necessarily mean that every believer will*
- Turning to the right or left means that we are allowing the distractions of the world to divert our attention away from the Word *and prevent our victory*
- We only obtain God's best for our lives when we *constantly keep our eyes on the target* of our inheritance and shield our eyes from all the diversions of the devil
- Our resolve to do this will decide whether or not we partake of all that God paid such a high price for

Psalms 63:6-10

- This psalm shows David longing to see God's glory demonstrated among the people and to see God deliver him from his enemies
 - In order for this to happen, verse 6 says he *chose to remember and meditate on God's laws during the night watches*
 - Instead of choosing to focus on what he didn't have or the strategies of his enemies, he chose to keep God's Word on his mind and in his heart
 - This time of mediation allowed the peace of God to fill his soul; choosing to do this cut off the ability of fear and worry to discourage David
- Because of David's choice to meditate on God rather than his troubles, verses 8-11 show us the result
 - David's meditation on God's Word caused him to *fervently pursue God and see His right hand of deliverance manifested*
 - The more God's Word consumes our hearts and minds, the easier it is to not fulfill the lusts of the flesh that lead us into progressively unproductive lives
 - This is how we are able to be motivated to push past the flesh and into the Spirit
 - Meditating on the truth of the Word causes the life in the Word to rise up in our hearts, renew our minds and govern how we act in our daily lives
 - However, by choosing to allow the enemy's distractions to divert us, just the opposite will occur: *we will be motivated to push into the flesh and away from the Spirit*

- The more we focus on the devices of the devil, the more they are magnified in our minds, making them looking more and more powerful than they are
- The most tragic outcome from meditating on the devices of the devil rather than on God's Word is that by magnifying the mountains against us, we credit an ***ALREADY DEFEATED ENEMY*** with the ability to steal, kill and destroy
- When we meditate on God's Word concerning our enemies, one of the most neglected truths comes to light: IT IS NOT OUR JOB TO DEFEAT THE DEVIL, BUT ONLY TO ENFORCE WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED
 - If this was said in most charismatic, non-denominational churches today, ***they would immediately grab some jagged rocks to stone you with or look for the nearest cliff to push you off of***
 - What far too many believers don't realize is that this mindset implies that God has not defeated the devil
 - It implies that God has put the weight on our shoulders rather than on His
 - If we think that it is our responsibility to ***PUT*** the devil under our feet instead of ***KEEPING*** him there, then we are actually saying that Jesus did not fulfill his mission on Earth
 - And if this did not happen, there is no hope or chance that we can do this on our own
- We must renew our minds to the truth ***that the good fight of faith is not a fight to defeat the devil***, but to implement God's Word over his attempts to deny us access to our inheritance in Christ
 - If we go into the good fight of faith thinking that the devil must be defeated, then we think that ***his defeat has not yet occurred***
 - In essence, we attempt to take God's responsibility; ***by doing this, we try to take over a responsibility that was never ours to begin with***
 - Thinking this way is poisonous to our faith and prevents the manifestation of God's Word in our lives
- This is why believers too often stare at the mountain instead of casting it into the sea: ***they look at the mountain and think that THEY have to defeat it***

- Yes, this does mean we have to speak to the mountain to move it, but it does not mean that we have to defeat the mountain first; Jesus has already done that
- If believers took the approach that they were speaking to an already defeated mountain, a mountain that was already powerless and ineffective, they would speak in faith and cast the mountain into the sea
- Instead, they magnify the circumstance and see it immovable
- Believers must eliminate this type of thinking and simply enforce the victory that is already theirs; this will light the fire of faith in any believer and cause them to triumph
- Continual meditation on this truth will make them more than a conqueror and a terrible threat to the devil's kingdom

For believers to obtain God's best, we must remember the important keys about meditation. First, we must be aware that God considers and observes the thoughts of our minds and meditations of our hearts. Therefore, we must diligently commit to feeding on the Word in order for the thoughts and meditations on God's Word to bring a smile to His face. We must crave that He be pleased with our outlook on life. This comes by renewing our minds to the Word of God and training them to think according to Philippians 4:8. The body of Christ cannot consider meditating on God's Word an option or something to be done periodically, but must be seen as a daily activity that we take pleasure in.

Finally, continual meditation on the Word will produce security in God's ability to deliver us from our enemies. It will strengthen us to possess all that Jesus purchased for us. Meditation on God's Word will create a champion's mentality in all believers, empowering them to laugh at the giants while possessing their promised land.

