

Voices – 7

Through out the course of an average day we are bombarded with 50,000 – 70,000 thoughts
That's 35 to 48 thoughts per minute per person
Research shows that as many as 70% - 80% of those thoughts are negative

There is a word for this kind of “self talk”

Logorrhea meaning

1. Pathologically incoherent, repetitious speech.
2. Incessant or compulsive talkativeness; wearisome volubility

Most of us think that God never speaks to us, but the truth is God is always speaking, always directing, always protecting, warning, correcting and affirming

The Spirit of God will speak to us with promptings that may not be audible yet in perfect harmony with the scripture

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes **intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered . 27 Now **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is**, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the **will of God**. NKJV

4 things we must remember to quiet the clutter

God says I am – Overpower the *Voice* of your insecurities

God says He will – Overpower the *Voice* of your fears

God says He has – Overpower the *Voice* of condemnation

God says I can – Overpower the *Voice* of discouragement

We just learned how to discern between the enemy's threats and God's whispers to defeat the spirit of fear in our lives

1 Kings 19:12 NIV after the fire came a gentle whisper

By learning how the enemy speaks and the way God speaks, we move towards words of life and grow in the ways of God

Psalm 103:7

7 He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the children of Israel. NKJV

Mature Christianity is largely about becoming familiar enough with what is true to see through what's false

The problem is most believers never mature in their faith enough to distinguish between conviction and condemnation, good and evil

Hebrews 5:14

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. NKJV

Remember the Devil is all about *Accusation, Insinuation, Imitation and Limitation*

Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit and the Devil works hard at imitating conviction with condemnation

“The Holy Spirit makes us more aware of our lack of holiness to stimulate us to a deeper yearning and striving for holiness. But Satan will attempt to use the Holy Spirit’s work to discourage us”

– Jerry Bridges – *The pursuit of holiness*

Christian psychologist Henry Cloud says there is something he calls “Learned Helplessness” and that there are three categories of negative thinking which he calls the three p’s of negative thinking

- Personal
- Permanent
- Pervasive

Through condemnation the enemy wants you to continually think

“What’s wrong with me? I always mess up everything!”

I’m such a...

I always...

I never...

Now everything is...

We need to acknowledge our sin and shortcomings but it can not become our identity – we must take them to the cross – it’s the only place of true freedom

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. NKJV

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I** who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. NKJV

1 Timothy 1:15-16

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that **in me first Jesus Christ** might show all longsuffering, as **a pattern to those who are going to believe** on Him for everlasting life. NKJV

I am crucified – yet I live – so that others will believe!

Every time God calls out a deficiency in your life, you can be assured He will simultaneously offer an invitation

Drawing near to God produces holiness!

Matthew 11:28, 30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest
30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." NKJV

Isaiah 55:1-2 NKJV

1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters;
And you who have no money,
Come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without price.
2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

- God calls us to come to Him in our deficiency, not based on our own works
- He has paid the price that we can not pay
- His desire is for us to delight in abundance

Condemnation is the older brother of the prodigal

Luke 15:24

24 for this **my son *was* dead and *is* alive** again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. NKJV

- What *was* does not determine what will be
- He *was* dead
- He *is* alive

Luke 15:30

30 But as soon as this **son of yours** came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' NKJV

“Not only does the Spirit set us free from chains that have bound us to our past, but He actually unleashes the Father’s vision of our future into our present reality”
– Steven Furtick

Look at the life of Peter and Jesus’ relationship with Him

Matthew 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. NKJV

- Peter has a revelation that Jesus is the son of God
- Jesus calls him a rock

Then just verses later – Jesus talks about His death

Matthew 16:22-23

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." NKJV

- Peter is seeing only from a human perspective
- Completely missing the point of Jesus coming to earth
- Jesus calls him “Satan”

Peter’s present mindset and performance weren’t the biggest determining factors in his potential for the kingdom

God’s assessment of you isn’t limited by where you’ve been before or even where you are now

Luke 22:31-32, 34

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

34 Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." NKJV

- Jesus predicts Peter's denial
- Tells him He is praying for him
- Later restores him after His resurrection

Days later in Jerusalem Peter preaches

Acts 2:38-41

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. NKJV

The One who lives outside of time invites you into a reality where He is revealing His perfect plans to give you a future and a hope – John 16:5-15

God speaks in the past tense about battles you are fighting today and buries the shame of yesterday in order to resurrect the moment you are in for His glory

Judas hanged himself – Peter went on to advance the kingdom

- Instead of listening to... *You'll always be a traitor*
- He chose to hear... *On this rock I will build my Church*

The same all or nothing mentality that can be a powerful tool when submitted to the Spirit can be a deadly weapon for the enemy

“Unguarded strength is a double weakness”
– Oswald Chambers

When I miss exercising three weeks in a row, my pants start to feel a little tight.

When my pants start to feel a little tight, I hit the snooze button a few extra times because I dread going through the exercise of finding new pants that fit.

When I hit the snooze button too many times I get a week behind on my YouVersion Bible reading plan.

When I get a week behind on my YouVersion Bible reading plan, I'm embarrassed to pray because I feel like I'm delinquent in my commitment to God.

When I'm not praying I start behaving in a manipulative manner and living a more carnal lifestyle, creating situations that could have been avoided...

If only I'd switch to Direct TV

Romans 8:3-4

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. NKJV

- What I could never do God already did
- God took care of my sin – ALL OF IT!
- The Spirit of God has shut the mouth of condemnation
- God says HE HAS

There's a vast difference between *knowing about* what He's done and *knowing it*
You've got to own it!

Story – “God did it”

Testimony night – Elderly woman gives her last 20 dollars in the offering, when her atheist neighbor finds out he buys groceries to pull a prank.

She goes crazy... He did it! He did it! Dances – the neighbor can't take it and confesses he bought the groceries. He did it! He did it! God met my need and made the devil pay for it!

2 Timothy 1:12

12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. NKJV