

## Voices – 9

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

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

### John 16:7-8

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: NKJV

- The Holy Spirit never condemns us
- He is our...
- Advocate – Helper – Counselor – Divine Reminder

### John 14:26

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. NKJV

### 2 Corinthians 4:6

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. NKJV

The same power that created the universe is now available for you and me in the radiant face of Jesus Christ

That same face that changed Peter and took him from the pain and paralysis of what he did to the constant memory of what Christ has done

## 2 Peter 1:10-15

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. NKJV

We've all heard the adage that those who forget the past are destined to repeat it but the Gospel version is those who fail to forget the past are destined to live in it

- Don't get held up by the past
- Forget your shame, sin and shortcomings
- Look to Jesus beholding His benefits, mercies and provision
- The same Spirit that helps us to forget also labors to help us remember

### Isaiah 43:16-19

16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea  
And a path through the mighty waters,  
17 Who brings forth the chariot and horse,  
The army and the power (They shall lie down together,  
they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are  
quenched like a wick): 18 "Do not remember the former  
things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a  
new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert. NKJV

### Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended;  
but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind  
and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I  
press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of  
God in Christ Jesus. NKJV

- Its not that were no longer conscious of the wrong things we've done
- We are no longer controlled by them
- We now have an active memory of God's faithfulness

Condemnation reminds us of our past, shortcomings,  
regrets and mistakes

Conviction from the Holy Spirit tells us who we can be,  
and gives us a reason to live today and plan for tomorrow

### John 10:28

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;  
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. NKJV

God loves to work through imperfect vessels so that all the Glory is His and not of us

The same glory that dwelt in Jesus is dwelling in us even in the midst of persecution, pressure, trials and death

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. NKJV

- God's glory doesn't eliminate discouragement from our lives it overcomes it!
- Christ will prevail!
- God has a next level for us who are called to do great things
- God will not give us a life that never has opposition
- We don't arrive at a place that has no difficulties or challenges
- My joy is not determined by what happens to me but by what Christ is doing in me and through me

## 2 Corinthians 4:16

16 Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. AMP

Every Christian has a divine call with a significant role in the body of Christ

The voice of the enemy is designed to interrupt that calling and try to discourage us along the way

You and I must overcome that voice by believing that God says I can

Again, we must keep our eyes on Jesus – not on our past, our shortcomings or on others – these feed discouragement

John the Baptist

John 1:6-9, 23

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

23 He said: "I am

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Make straight the way of the LORD,'" as the prophet Isaiah said." NKJV

- John knew that he was not "The Light"
- But he prepared the way for "The Light"
- He called everyone to repent and turn to God
- He rebuked Herod for marrying his brother's wife and many other wrongs he had done

He was then thrown into prison

For "Doing the will of God" and "Fulfilling his calling"

If you've ever felt extreme discouragement don't assume it's because you're out of God's will – in fact it might mean your smack dab in it

Inner conflict is often a confirmation of your calling

We may get discouraged when we are exhausted or a friend disappoints us but I think the greatest discouragement comes when we are going through pain and we don't see the point

It hurts when we give our all and seem to get nothing in return for it – I'm sure that's how John felt

### Matthew 11:2-3

2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" NKJV

- I don't think John was denying Christ
- I think he's questioning out of an unmet expectation
- I believe John expected "Burning up chaff with unquenchable fire"
- It's hard, in fact impossible for us to see things clearly to the end the way God sees them
- John had spent himself and he's wondering, what's the point?

### Matthew 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. NKJV

The enemy's voice says...

*"God wouldn't let you go through this if He loved you"  
"This wouldn't be happening if you had more faith"  
"If it were possible for things to change, they'd have changed by now"*

We must learn how to live by faith in the "in between" times – the times "in between" Gods promise and the fulfillment of that promise

Some of us ignore it and pretend everything is fine if you do this your hope will die

We say things like...

*"I'll hope for the best but expect the worst"  
When things go wrong "Story of my life"*

God says...

*"You're better than you think"  
"It's less about you than you think it is"  
"You matter more than you think you do. More than you could ever know"  
"Don't stop! It's working, it's not in vain"*

Jesus' Reply to John

Matthew 11:5-6

5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." NKJV



Then He goes on...

**Matthew 11:7-11 NKJV**

7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he of whom it is written:

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.'

11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- Instead of just answering the question Jesus affirms John's calling to the whole crowd – this is the one...
- Jesus doesn't rebuke him for wondering
- He uses the question to esteem John publically
- But John didn't hear any of it – not one word
- Why would Jesus want John to hear?

Could it be that Jesus wants John to endure based upon the work that He was doing and not the work John had done?

Could it be that He wants our faith to rest on the character He's developing in us rather than our performance?

Is it possible what God would say behind your back is more important than the current circumstance you're facing?

Ultimately John is beheaded  
Is that what John expected when he said...

**John 3:30**

30 He must increase, but I must decrease. NKJV

**Mark 8:35**

35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. NKJV

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. NKJV

**Philippians 3:10**

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection , and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, NKJV

**Matthew 25:23**

23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' NKJV

- Better to this face to face than from a messenger

What's He saying behind your back?