

**“Don’t let the Devil Fool You”
St. Mark: 11-23**

My brothers and sisters the devil loves to make a playground out of people’s minds by working on their imaginations. He takes delight in filling their perceptions and senses with illusions that captivate them, paralyze them, and ultimately destroy them. The adventure in the garden shows us how Satan operates. He fools us with his deception. Church don’t let the devil fool you with his lies!

But how can believers avoid falling victim to the devils attacks? Well first they must make a spiritual and mental decision to take charge of every thought that enters their minds, second they must pray, third they must read God’s word and fourth they must believe what it says. Amen! I say believe that the Word of God, His Holy Word is truth and inspired by the Holy One. Amen Thank the God of our creation.

My brothers and sisters taking your thoughts and making them captive are going to require determination and energy on the part of Satan. So when you make the decision not to let him have your mind, you must stick with that decision, in the NAME of JESUS. Amen, Thank God. Do you believe me?

My brothers and sisters if you’re not really committed to seizing every thought the devil wants to interject into your mind spirit; he will continue to strike you again and again. And if you don’t stop these thoughts from invading your mind, it won’t be long until your faith begins to erode and the enemy will have you just where he wants you.

Because my brothers and sisters your mind will begin to empower those thoughts and they will become a bona fide reality in your life, and thus making your will begin to belong to him. Do you believe me?

My brothers and sisters, *Mark 11:23* says:

²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

And is a powerful verse about faith and confession that believers claim and use around the world. Amen!

So as we look at it my brothers and sisters the principle in this verse works both in the positive and the negative sense or to put it another way, this principle works both in the realm of God and in the realm of the devil.

That is why you must be careful about what you believe in your heart and what you say with your mouth, because when your heart and mouth are in sync or get in sync with each other, it literally makes things happen. So when you’re in the

will of God only good things come forth and when you're in the wrong camp only bad things come forth.

But the devil also knows how to use this principle against us. So my brothers and sisters I do need to remind you that the enemy knows when he can fill your mind and heart with lies that you will believe and then he will be able to coax you into confessing those lies and accusations with your mouth.

Because by then you will be willing to make the evil images that he has planted in your head and placed on your tongue come to life. You do know that lies and accusations have lives don't you? That is exactly why the devil wants to fill your mind with pictures and lies seen so vividly on the "movie screen" of your mind. That is why he assaults your mind and emotions again and again. He knows he just has to get you to embrace the lies and to start believing them.

My brothers and sisters he also knows that once you believe, you will soon start to speak those lies out of your mouth. And if you start speaking them with your mouth, it will only be a matter of time until they become your reality. Jesus said, in Matt.12:34, "O you generation of vipers out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks". So according to Jesus whatever is in your heart will eventually come out of your mouth. You are obligated to make it good as opposed to bad, when you love Jesus. Amen Thank God!

I will repeat it again for better understanding, *Mark 11:23* says:

²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

My brothers and sisters according to what Jesus taught in this verse, you can bring to pass whatever you say and believe in your heart. Do you believe Jesus? Amen!

My brothers and sisters did you notice also there is some key wording here, because Jesus said if a person confesses something, "and shall not doubt in his heart", in other words, if he believes the words that he is speaking with his mouth, he will have exactly what he says. Do you believe Jesus?

My brothers and sisters what Jesus is saying here in context is when a person's heart doesn't differ from what the mouth is saying, then the combination of the heart and mouth in agreement will always make things happen. *Proverbs 16:1* says:

¹The preparations of the heart are in man, but the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

My brothers and sisters, I like to call this concept "the heart-mouth connection." For instance my brothers and sisters, if you believe in your heart that Jesus brought healing by his death and resurrection and you put your heartfelt faith

together with the confession of your mouth, you can literally bring that healing into manifestation in your physical body, salvation to your family, prosperity to your business and growth to our church because of your faith and how to use this principle for us! Amen Thank God! Do you believe Jesus?

My brothers and sisters scripture also says, “Let the meditation of my heart and the words of my mouth be acceptable to you my Lord and my redeemer,” Church creative power is released when the heart and mouth get into agreement because great power is released when your heart and mouth start to work in unison, it’s extremely important that you put the right things into you heart.

So Mark 12:23 becomes even more important because it promises that whatever you believe in your heart and say with your mouth will come to pass, because the kind of prayer that moves mountains is prayer for the fruitfulness of God’s kingdom, it would seem impossible to move a mountain into the sea, so Jesus used that word picture to say that God can do anything Amen to God! He will answer your prayer, but not as a result of your positive attitude.

Therefore, as I said before, it doesn’t just apply to Bible verses; it applies to anything you believe in your heart and say with your mouth. My brothers and sisters if the devil can get you to believe and say wrong things, your heart and mouth will cause those killer confessions to come to pass.

Don’t forget my brothers and sisters that we are to love the Lord our God not only with our hearts and souls but also with our minds. You will convict yourself, just listen to your mind sometime and you sure can tell the good from the bad thoughts coming out, the problem is to keep the mouth shut.

But my brothers and sisters don’t get me wrong, because I know that it’s not easy to keep your peace or control your mouth sometimes. However, I do need to remind you again that when you start to “run off at the mouth”, and say anything that the devil puts into your head, you are playing with fire, because the Bible says, don’t hold a grudge, don’t pray with a selfish motive, and don’t request anything not good for the kingdom of God.

It’s a scientific fact that when you speak something out loud, those words are verified and empowered in your mind that are etched into your brain forever, I mean until death and the Bible talks about stewardship of the mind. Amen thank God!

My brother and sisters that is why the devil wants us to repeat every little silly thing that he has put in our head, by repeating it out loud, we are helping him build a stronghold in the realm of our mind and imagination! Think about it because it’s a trap! I’m reminded that Jesus thought about it and did not fall into the trap, but I’m also reminded that He was perfect. He was in complete agreement

with God and confessed to God's goodness. We must confess to that goodness too and come into agreement with God too. Amen thanks God!

My brothers and sisters this is another reason why it's so important for us to spend time in the Word of God and as you spend time meditating in the word, your mind will become renewed to the ways of God and his thinking . Amen!

When we read into *Ephesians 4:23* it says:

³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; My brothers and sisters, God's Word brings a supernatural cleansing that washes your mind and emotions from the contamination of the world, the memories of past experiences, and the lies that the enemy has tried to sow into your brain.

Again my brothers and sisters, I need to remind you to hold fast because Jesus showed us that when you make it a priority to fill your mind with truth from God's Word, the enemy can't penetrate your mind and he can't fill you with his lies.

And Church, if you don't allow yourself to be filled with his lies, you won't be speaking and confessing things that are untrue! You see, when your mind is renewed to the Word of God, you become inwardly strengthened and very hard to deceive!

But how can you be deceived or tricked, well my brothers and sisters, Satan knows that empty heads are much easier to deceive. That's why he just loves it when he finds a believer who has made no effort to fill his mind with the truth from God's Word. The devil knows he has found another empty head just waiting for him to come along and fill and I might add he is glad to accommodate you. Lord have mercy upon us!

My brothers and sisters the question is who or what is going to control your mind, God and His word or the enemy and his lies? Your mind is going to be filled with something, so you may as well choose the right thing to fill it. Your choice in this matter will determine your success or your failure in life, so make sure that you choose wisely!

My Christians friends I'm reminded that when Jesus was born and then baptized, you needed a Savior to save you. We all needed saving. We all needed the God of mercy, and love to save us from the breast! Amen Thank God! Scripture says, "He was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."

Matthew tell us the great Biblical story in the fourth chapter, verses 1-11, about the forty days of temptation of the Savior. You may know the story. But I will ask that you read it again for a better understanding.

My brothers and sisters when Jesus was in the wilderness, He was approached by the breast with all kinds of promises, but our Lord and Savior kept saying no thank you, because it is written, what to say.

Church the devil needed to know that as far as God was concerned the battle was over and that God had won.

The message is that Satan can and does process a weakened power and he was never as great as Jesus, but it is greater than ours. Therefore, we need to stay prayed up, read up and in the will of God. We know who Jesus is and what he did for us, we also know that He always prayed and praised the Father, so we should too. "I can do all things through Him who strength me."

But Satan has us my brothers and sisters when we pray a little, read the Word a little and forget to praise and Thank God a lot.

I ask you have you prayed lately, have you praised God lately, have you Thanked God lately for his goodness, mercy and love?

My brothers and sisters don't let the devil fool you with his lies.
Romans 10:10 says:

"FOR it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth, that you confess and are saved."
Remember my brothers and sisters that the Savior is always near you in the person of the Holy Spirit. That the word is near you that He is implanted in your heart and comes out of your mouth.

Let us pray! Lord, we want our heart and mouth to say the right things! We know that we need to spend more time filling our heart and mind with your Word. We also know that we need to be speaking positive confessions about ourselves, our family, our businesses, our future, our health and every area of our lives. Your Word has the promises we need for every sphere of our life, so we ask you to help us fill our hearts with the truth and line up our mouth with what your Word promises in our lives. Amen thank You GOD.

I pray in the strong Name of Jesus! Amen, Amen, Amen. Thank God Church. Praise God church for He is worthy to be praised. Amen Glory, Glorify the Lord.