



SERMON #3: Mindsets – The Environment of the Soul

Ephesians 1:17-18

- **Mindset:** *“a set of beliefs or a way of thinking that determine somebody's behavior and outlook”*
- **Environment:** *“the general condition of a person's mind that affects thought life”*

Mindsets create an environment in your mind that identities your mind. The Bible talks about a...

- **Debased Mind:** **Ro 1:28**, *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a **debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting.”*
- **Carnal Mind:** **Ro 8:7**, *“Because the **carnal mind** is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”*
- **Shaken and Troubled Mind:** **2Th 2:2**, *“Not to be soon **shaken in mind or troubled**, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”*

Mindsets are like habits, they are familiar and, therefore, comfortable. Jesus said in **Mt 12:43** “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.” Strongholds are bits and pieces of partial truth that Satan uses to control our behavior. We assume they are true and, therefore, never question them.

ILLUSTRATION: $2 + _ = _$. Before you can know the answer, one of these blanks must be filled in. If the number 2 represents a truth that we hear then the second blank is filled from the environment of our minds. One person hears a 2 and adds a 3 and concludes 5 while another person hears a 2 and adds a 5 and concludes 7. Both come to completely different conclusions based upon adding the value of their previously learned conclusions in their mindsets or the environment of their mind.

EXAMPLES: John the Baptist doubted Jesus while in prison because of doubts that arose concerning his forerunner position compared to his circumstances. **Lu 7:19** says, *“And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’”* Peter heard truth and rebuked Jesus for it. Jesus then said in **Mt 16:23**, *“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.’”* Peter's preconceived ideas about Messiah produced false conclusions.

The Environment of our mind mixes all new information we receive with old mindsets before conclusions are drawn from that information. Here's how it works...

15 Mindsets that Create an Environment that Resists New Truth:

What Kind of environment do you have in your mind? Here are 15 Mindsets that create a particular environment that in your mind that will keep you from receiving new truth:

#1: Undisciplined Mind: This mindset keeps a person from focusing. While having conversation, reading, at school, church, etc., their mind is wandering off in all directions.

#2: Confused Mind: This mindset keeps a person from drawing conclusions. They are unable to prioritize, organize and categorize their thoughts in order to make sense of them.



New Mind, New You Sermon Notes!

#3: **Doubtful Mind:** This mindset causes a person to doubt like Thomas. Doubts keep us safe from risk and disappointment.

#4: **Troubled Mind:** This mindset causes a person to use their faith to believe bad things will happen. This produces anxiety, worry and fear.

#5: **Critical Mind:** This mindset causes a person to be jealous, judgmental, critical and bitter. This is all based upon the notion that the success of others automatically results in my own failure.

#6: **Wounded Mind:** This mindset causes a person to identify themselves as a victim. They are deeply wounded and easily offended. This environment keeps them locked away in their dungeon.

#7: **Suspicious Mind:** This mindset causes a person to be cynical. This often justifies their own impure motives and causes them to reject new truth.

#8: **Religious Mind:** This mindset causes a person to identify new truth as doubt, thus shutting it out. They mistake light as darkness and shuts off the flow of new truth.

#9: **Arrogant Mind:** This mindset causes a person to see themselves as superior to others and becomes blinded to new truths when they come from a source they disrespect.

#10: **Self-centered Mind:** This mindset weighs everything by what can be personally gained from it. If it doesn't pay immediate and generous rewards, they shut it out.

#11: **Stubborn Mind:** This person closes off their mind to anything new and different, period, believing that to do so is a sign of strength.

#12: **Complacent Mind:** This mindset causes people to be lazy and procrastinates a lot. They would rather watch TV than to read and learn new things.

#13: **Lustful Mind:** This mindset causes people to think inappropriate sexual thoughts about others. These fantasies crowd out anything useful from entering the mind.

#14: **Ignorant Mind:** This self-imposed mindset uses "I don't understand" as an excuse not to accept new truth when, in fact, they understand completely.

#15: **Insecure Mind:** This mindset causes a person to see themselves as inferior to others causing timidity and bashfulness. They wouldn't act on new truth even if they received it.