

29-Do You Have a Passive Mind?

Of all the mindsets that satan can use to cripple a believer, the passive mind is the worst. Why do I say that? If you have a wandering mind you are aware of it. The same is true of an anxious mind or a confused mind. But the passive mind gives you no real warning. You have a lack of feeling, a lack of desire, general apathy, luke-warmness or laziness. None of these conditions set off alarms. There are no red flags. But the passive mind is most dangerous in a marriage. Man was designed to be a servant leader. How can a man be a leader if he is passive? Passivity is the opposite of activity. A passive mind is not aware of the needs of his spouse, his children, his family or his friends.

In **1 Peter 5:8** we are told that “Word of God teaches that we must be alert, cautious and active”. How can we shepherd our flock if we are not alert to the devil’s moves? Who wants a passive shepherd to watch over their flock? Why the devil does! The devil knows that inactivity, failure to exercise the will, will spell the believer’s ultimate defeat. Why? Joyce Meyer tells us “The place we give satan is often empty space. An empty passive mind can be easily filled with all kinds of wrong thoughts. A believer who has a passive mind and who does not resist these wrong thoughts often takes them as his own thoughts.”

We have been told that nature abhors a vacuum. Of course, believers understand that our Creator designed us for action not passivity. Our men’s pastor admonishes his men to “do something instead of nothing”. His direct message relates to what God expects from us. The best way is to fill the vacuum with what God designed your mind and heart to be filled with---- His Word! **2 Timothy** instructs us what we are to do--- “We are to fan the flame and stir up the gift within us”. How can you stir up the gift if it is absent? You must fill your mind and heart with the Words of your Creator. Ms. Meyer tells us “one way to keep wrong thoughts out of your mind is to keep your mind full of right thoughts. The devil can be cast out, but he goes and wanders in dry places for a season. When he returns to his old home and finds it empty he comes back and brings others with him (see **Luke 11:24**) making this worse”.

You can ask Jesus to cast out the devil and He will do so, but if you fail to replace the “stinkin’ thinking” with right thinking then the devil will return! Once Jesus has done his part then you must do yours. You must follow the advice of Gary Smalley and fill your heart one hundred-fold by meditating on the Word, chewing on the Word and burying it DEEP in your heart. Leave no room for the devil when he returns. Give him no foothold because your heart is a stronghold for the Word.

My personal experience is that men who follow the strategy of discarding their passive minds and fill their minds with God’s Word experience a much deeper sense of peace. They also are blessed in their marriages. Their spouses see the difference and respond by honoring their husbands. Husbands can only live with their wives in an understanding way when they are active. To this my wife says a large AMEN. Just ask her if my Christ filled, Christ directed heart is better than my old passive mind and heart.

Verses:

Luke 11:24 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left'".

Personal Reflection: How well do you know the Word? Have you locked the Word deep in your heart? How would your life change if you meditated daily on His instruction book?

Group Discussion:

How can the group select and discuss a verse each week? How can we encourage each other to lock His Word in our hearts?

How can we share the joy of knowing the devil has been cast out of our passive heart to make room for the peace that transcends all understanding?