

Hello my name is Charles Gordon and let me welcome you to the Spoken Word broadcast for the second week in February 2010.

In this program we are going to be examining the concept of the Victim Mindset. That word victim carries the meaning of someone suffering physical, emotional or financial harm as the result of a criminal or irresponsible act. It's not possible to live life without suffering some sort of harm. For the rest of the program I am going to use the word loss as a stand in for the word harm. Therefore, it's not possible to live life without experiencing some form of loss and every loss experienced must be handled properly. The intent of this series of programs is to help you see your lifestyle choices from God's perspective.

The title of the series is the victim mindset. Over the next few weeks, I am going to walk you through some ideas that will help you make some intentional choices to handle loss away from the influence of the victim mindset.

Please Stay tuned for more, I'll be right back to continue the program right after this.

My name is Charles Gordon and you're listening to the Spoken Word on Joy 1250 AM radio. Consider subscribing to our free podcast on iTunes. You can find us on iTunes by using the search term "The Spoken Word". We are listed in the Podcast section under Religion and Spirituality. You can also subscribe by going to our website at livingbiginchrist.org. On our website you can download past programs from the media player on our home page in mp3 format.

At the top of last week's program, I opined that setting goals should be an important part of the turn of each New Year. I found this stat week that indicated that only 5% of North Americans are committed to written goals. We do need to set goals. Setting goals will help to prevent you from turning 40 or even 50 and looking back over the years with excuses rather than results.

If you are 40 years old or even 50 or 60, it is possible that you may live another 40 years. In one sense that's a long time and in another sense it isn't. Let me encourage you to realize that you are not washed up. Life does not end at 40 or 50 or even 60. There is still time for you to accomplish some good things. Commit to staying healthy and manage loss. Dare I say some great things are still yet to come. In the next 10 years, I want you to look back at your life and see results and accomplishments. I'll come back to the proposal of setting goals later on as we work through the series. The title of the series is the victim mindset.

Before I begin to share, let me invite you over the next few minutes of the broadcast to step into the role of a friend. My aim is not to talk down to you but for us to work together and build a strong relationship based on mutual respect and commitment. In life, great things are accomplished through relationships.

At the top of the broadcast, I made the statement that it is not possible to live in our society and not experience a loss. Loss of prestige, power, and authority. Loss of a Job, loss of a relationship and even hair loss.

I don't care how much of a tough exterior we position to people around us, the human brand is very fragile.

The starting point to becoming and remaining free from a victim mindset is recognition of this point, that we are fragile. The word fragile simply means easily damaged and destroyed.

Perhaps there are really two levels operating here. On one level, let's call it level A, The mind of a victim is set on viewing the damage done to the human brand as not repairable. On another level, we can call it B, the mind of a victim is not sensitive to the fact that God has made a way for us to endure hardship and loss without damage. We can suffer loss without damage and if we have been damaged, there is room in Christian theology for a might Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost renovation.

No one listening to me right now has to be a level A or level B victim. Going forward, you do not have to be a victim.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) addresses level B when it says

23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

You can spend the next 20 years setting goals, but if you are unwilling to address victim mindset B and fail to guard your heart so that you can endure hardship and loss without damage. On the balance of probabilities, if God allows you to live another 40 years, you will look back with regret having failed to achieve lasting results. The God that we serve is a God of results not regrets. The parable of the Talent in Mat 25:14-30 serves as a stark reminder that God's mind is set on results.

Let me turn to the idea of the heart.

The word heart in Prov 4:23 speaks less of the physical heart muscle. It is a figure of speech that points to the innermost part of an individual.

Let me talk some more about the physicality of our existence. The bible allows us to view a human being as composed of a body, soul and spirit. All of three divisions or compartments are relevant to the Christian world view. Christ came to redeem our soul, spirit and body. There is a part of us that is like the heart and like the physical heart it is elemental to the rhythm of life. It is a place where are moral, intellectual and emotional life as well as our spiritual personality resides.

Damage to the body affects our soul and spirit and damage to the soul (the issues that take place in the soul) affects our body and spirit. All three are a unified whole.

Romans 12:1 (ESV)
A Living Sacrifice

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Our physical bodies as well as our soul and spirit are part of spiritual worship. I won't unpack the word worship in this series. Let me suffice here to say that worship is what we are created to do and goes well beyond the corporate events or singing.

The Christian worldview says that all of humanity is born under the influence of rebellion. It warps our thinking and the choices we make. Our body, soul and spirit has been affected. The bible describes the state of an unregenerate person as being dead in trespasses and sin.

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)

2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

It is a great miracle that by faith in what Christ did on the cross we can cross over into a new lifestyle of freedom. We enter into a process called sanctification. Sanctification is a heart issue. It's a multi-year project of repair, restoration and even renovation of your mind, soul, heart and even your body.

Imagine the things that you can accomplish with a lifestyle of purification. Imagine the results that could come out of your lifestyle of caring, if you manage what gets into your heart.

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How do you guard your heart? You don't need to study Jujitsu.

Here's another piece of stat. Psychologist estimate that up to 77% of what we hear and see throughout our day is negative. In an atmosphere of loss we experience significant bouts of negative drift. We imagine retaliation, by brute force or slander. We may even daydream of doing harm.

We are going to end or foray in the topic right here. Please join me next week as we continue with the series titled The victim Mindset. I'm Charles Gordon and until next time live big in Christ.