

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

In this program we are going to continue with our talk about 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. As I did last week, 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 and make lifestyle choices 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.

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On Saturday June 12th LBIC will be hosting a simple workshop called "The Issues of Life". The workshop will begin at 1PM and end at 6PM on Saturday June 12, 2010. Only can god change your life. Our God has chosen to bring about change through the word and his holy spirit working in tandem. Good intentions won't bring change, but intentional choices will. We need to be intentional in seeking the face of our Redeemer. You will need to register to attend by calling toll-free at 1-800-806-7140. The event will take place at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Toronto at 655 Dixon Road.

At the close of the program, I posed the question: "How do you guard your heart?"

But first let me revisit a couple of ideas quickly. The human brand is fragile. When I say fragile, don't picture a glass being shattered, but picture a foundation being weakened. Overtime a foundation can be weakened to the point where it cannot serve its purpose of giving stability and longevity to the structure that is built on it. So, Regardless of our muscle mass our being, body, soul and spirit can be easily damaged. Second if you have been damaged emotionally or otherwise, there is room for restoration. The foundation can be restored. Not only is their restoration but also protection. God has made a way for you to suffer loss without being damaged.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

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

Psychologists estimate that up to 77% of what we hear and see throughout our day is negative. Negative thought, negative attitude, negative words, negative drift will weaken your innermost being to the point where what God has designed to sustain your life does not function as it should. Faith in Christ and practicing the teachings of Jesus will set you on a path to function properly. I want to function properly.

I love action and adventure films. I love the feeling that a bit of adrenaline brings. It's a great kick to my sympathetic nervous system. There's nothing like an epinephrine rush. Epinephrine is another name for adrenaline, a natural God-given substance that prepares our bodies to fight or run when faced with danger. But on another level I am personally getting tired of drinking in the violence that sometimes goes hand-in-hand with that genre. I'm at the point where I just don't need to handle one more gun play, murder or torture event. Do I really need to drink that in.

The spirit of God will make you aware of the things that affect us over time. The proper rule of thumb probably could be phrased: "If it's negative, run from it." It's like being exposed to low doses, low levels of radiation. Over time exposure to negative words, events, frameworks damages the soul, even defiles the spirit.

It is possible to be aware of the thought patterns, ideas and concepts that bombard our innermost being like exposure to low doses of radiation. It is possible to be very selective about what we allow in and out of our heart. Guard your heart and be diligent about it.

The most dangerous time during commercial or even non-commercial flight is take-off and landing. Landing an aircraft requires diligence. There is no room for error. Error means fatalities. That's the attitude we need to have when it comes to our heart.

There is nothing magical or spooky about the act of guard or keeping one's heart. It is about being intentional with what we listen to, read, speak and watch.

When you have experienced a loss, one must be even more diligent in guarding your heart.

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

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Throughout the New Testament account of Christ life, we see and hear him speaking and making deliberate choices in order to fulfill the scriptures.

Setting goals is not directly mandated by scripture. Our Father has a plan for your life and we need to actively make intentional choices to flow with that plan. God's plan for your life is not automatic. It's not a plan for all-night entertainment where you sit back, relax and enjoy the show until you fall asleep.

Make no plans, set no goals and you will aim at nothing and your results will be like the servant from the parable who hid his masters money in a rabbit hole.

The victim mindset will often masquerade behind the legitimate desire of wanting to sense the perfect leading of God's spirit. The Holy Spirit does not lead only in spontaneous ways. He does lead spontaneously but also in the realm of deliberate choices. Please do not sacrifice your life, your purpose and results on the altar of spontaneity. Step out in faith and set goals.

Let's turn to Proverbs 6 and we will step down to verse 6.

Proverbs 6:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸ she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

The writer is admonishing us to be very deliberate and intentional about our encounters with the cycles of life. Set goals, set goals, set goals. No plans, no goals and you will aim at nothing.

I would say that the mindset of the victim is one that is "afraid to make plans because God will bust them up any how." Why plan you might get it wrong. True our knowledge is finite and therefore as we plan we do so in submission to Christ.

At this juncture we'll call it a wrap for this week. So far we've tackled two aspects of the victim mindset, with respect to handling loss and setting goals. Next week we will round out our discussion by taking a close look at James 4: 13-16. The intent of this series of programs is to enable you to make lifestyle choices from God's perspective and not from that of a victim.

I'm Charles Gordon, I do love you and look forward to meeting you once again around the spoken word. Live Big in Christ.