

Uprooting Passivity

What is Passivity?

A lot of people today are weak-willed. They seem to struggle to follow through and do what they intend to do. They hardly ever live beyond their good intentions. At the root this behaviour is often mental passivity. Most dictionaries will describe passivity as one of or a combination of the trait of remaining inactive, a lack of initiative, passiveness, inertia, inactiveness, inactivity - a disposition to remain inactive or inert; "he had to overcome his inertia and get back to work", spiritlessness, numbness, apathy, indifference - the trait of lacking enthusiasm for or interest in things generally, torpor, listlessness, torpidity - inactivity resulting from lethargy and lack of vigour or energy. In order to be people that live beyond good intentions we need to deal with passivity in our lives. Passivity is the acceptance of what happens to you without any reaction or response. Many people are entrenched in a worldview of fatalism which asserts that events are fixed in advance so that human beings are powerless to change them. This mindset breeds passivity.

I believe that passivity begins in the mind. We are essentially dealing with mental passivity. The enemy has besieged the minds of many believers. The Devil has limited access to our human spirits but entices our minds to passivity. The result is that believers end up living like they have not been saved. In essence, they become fruitless and useless. Your mind is a powerful gate that impacts the quality of your will and your emotions. These in turn influence the theme of this series; getting things done.

Matthew 22:36-37

³⁶Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

James 4:17

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Look how active the Word of God is:

Isaiah 55:11

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Eph 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword,....

We are living epistles (2 Cor 3:2) called to be fruitful and impactful just like the Word.

Prov 18:9

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

There can be no room for lethargy and passivity in Kingdom work. The result is destruction.

Based on Princeton University WordNet 3.0:

- Passivity is lack of courage, lack of confidence, lack of persistence to accomplish what God has called us to do.
- Passivity is also inactivity, subdued in attitude, not responding to a word or action that was received. Going on a personal "go slow".
- Passivity also refers to the inability to resist evil. It refers to being dull and without energy, emotionless and inexpressive. You hear people saying, "I couldn't help it." Or "It's human nature."
- Passivity of mind speaks of a mind that is easy for imposters to access.

How secure is your mind? Who has security access? Is it password protected? Your mind is more powerful than any computer. The key question is who is its programmer? Who is writing the code?

Although there is nothing you can do to change your past, you can change the way you look at it. You can also take control of how it affects your relational patterns.

We react and respond to things based on the state of our minds. If I believe that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, when someone insults my looks the result is that I feel sorry for them. I cry out to God for mercy on their behalf. What they say to me does not hurt me because I know that they don't define me. This is because of the state of my mind with regards to that matter. When you know that your school team is the best in the league and others are jealous, you are not hurt when people tease you about your team. You know that it is just talk.

Your mental state affects the meaning you attach to life events at any given moment.

Get a revelation of this scripture so that it is easy to spot any imposters.

2 Tim 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Some of the Greek words found in this scripture are:

'Deilias': cowardice, fear, timid

'Pneuma': spirit, breath

'Dunameos': power (miraculous, might, strength)

'Agape': love and goodwill

Sophronismou: discipline, self-control, properly, safe-minded, issuing in prudent ("sensible") behaviour that "fits" a situation, i.e. aptly acting out God's will by doing what He calls sound reasoning (used only in 2 Timothy 1:7).

Romans 8:7

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

What is governing your mind, the flesh or the Spirit?

What is my mind set on? (default thoughts)

Conduct regular emotional activity logs (How was I feeling in the last 30 minutes? What is the message from that emotion? What does that say about the state of my mind?)

How was my mind contaminated today?

What lies am I carrying in my mind today? (Lies about self, others, God, and how the world works). This is how the enemy takes us captive.

What truths can I use to displace the lies with?

How has my mind affected my emotional state today?

Have you lost your voice?

The enemy's strategy is to silence you specifically and the church in general. He plays games with your mind so that you believe it is not worth speaking out. Do you stand up for what you believe? Do you know that you are powerful?

What are the causes of mental passivity?

- Birth order and parenting.
- Media - TV and computer games.
- Drugs.
- Demonic activity and ancestral worship.
- Domineering authority figures in your life.
- Escapism and fantasy
- Trauma (rape/abuse, etc.).
- Habitual sin without repentance.

What are the consequences of a passive mind?

Are you the subject of the action or the victim? Are you conditioning yourself to be a certain way or is your mind a blank slate that the enemy writes his code on? Outlined below are some consequences of mental passivity.

Consequences of mental passivity

Passive will - indecisiveness, never completing tasks, continuous distraction, living through others.

Passive decision-making - inactive mind, hesitation, rashness, lack of concentration, lack of judgment, bad memory.

Passive intellect and imagination - gazing, evil gazes, dulled vision, bound mind, cannot think. Our creative imagery should be for the Lord and not besieged by the enemy.

Passive judgment or commitment to a position - cannot make a clear judgment on issues. There are things we are to judge and not placate. Take a position or else people tend to see you as two faced.

Passive reason - closed mind. Often bound by doctrines of demons or a cultish spirit.

Passive conscience - moral degradation, moral stagnation, retrogression in life and service, false reasoning. This also happens when your conscience is seared, for example thinking homosexuality or fornication is acceptable and rationalising it.

Passive spirit - wrong thoughts, wrong spirit, inactive spirit, faint spirit, bound spirit, filthy spirit, mixed condition, impure spirit, absolutely powerless spirit, no liberty, wrong mental conclusions, mixed feelings about God, soulish spirit, ignoring spiritual truths. It is important to understand the born again spirit and develop it.

Passive body - cessation of consciousness, passive sight, passive hearing, passive smell, passive taste, passive feeling, dulled consciousness, dead consciousness, unconscious habits, repulsive habits, peculiar habits, lethargy. What part of your body is not working? What senses are not working because of passivity?

Passive whole man - dormant affections, dormant bodily needs, severity to body, indulgence of flesh, stoical feelings. Being stoic is being calm and almost without any emotion. When you're stoic, you don't show what you're feeling and you also accept whatever is happening.

Relational passivity - This is seen where you don't express your opinion or preference in relational situations. You are indecisive and always defer to the other person. Your relational boundaries have collapsed. One of the signs of passivity in relationships is lack of assertiveness. When you are relationally passive you allow others to choose for you. You are emotionally dishonest. You are indirect, self-denying, inhibited. You often feel anxious, ignored, helpless, and manipulated. Others achieve their goals at your expense. The underlying belief of someone who is relationally passive is I should never make anyone uncomfortable or displeased except myself.

3 things that a sound mind can do for you

1. A sound mind is there to design and shape your future state

Phil 4:6-8

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Everything starts as a thought!

2. A sound mind is there to protect what enters your spirit

Value your mind. Guard what goes in. Watch what you let into your eye gate and ear gate. You are in charge.

2 Cor 10:4-5

⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

3. A sound mind helps you to do the impossible

Eph 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us