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I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

March 2024

He is Risen!!!!

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; "

In our last newsletter we began studying "soul prosperity" based on **3 John 2**: *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.* In my opinion, if prosperity (*success*) in all things is connected to how my soul (*mind, will and emotions*) prospers, I should pay attention to the things that I allow my soul (*mind*) to be exposed to.

As I followed the trail that started with **3 John 2**, I came across the scripture above, **1 Peter 1:13**. What on earth are the loins of my mind, and what does this have to do with the prosperity of my soul? Well, I found a teaching by Rick Renner where he talked about this very thing. According to Rick Renner:

Most frequently this was used to describe a runner running a race. To run without hindrance, he would reach down to gather the long, dangling ends of his garments and tuck them up under his belt. The runner would get in trouble if his garments fell down and became entangled in his legs.

But Peter is not talking about a garment made of fabric; he is referring to the loins of our minds. He is telling us that if we don't:

- deal with the loose ends that exist in our minds and emotions;
- correct those parts of our thinking that we know are wrong;
- grab hold of all those dangling areas in our thinking and put them out of the way; and remove them by the authority of the Word of God —
- then we are choosing to allow things to exist in our lives that will hinder our steps and slow us down in our race and in our ability to successfully walk with God!

So, if we want to be successful in our spiritual lives and truly walk with God, then we must start by dealing with the "loins of our minds." In other words, we must seek to deal with all the loose ends in our **thinking** that haven't yet been submitted to the Word of God or surrendered to the

Holy Spirit's power. But how do we do that? It's part of **Romans 12:2** where Paul said: *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"*

Then in **Mark 4:24** Jesus said: *... "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given..."* In **Luke 8:18**, Jesus said to take heed **how** you hear...

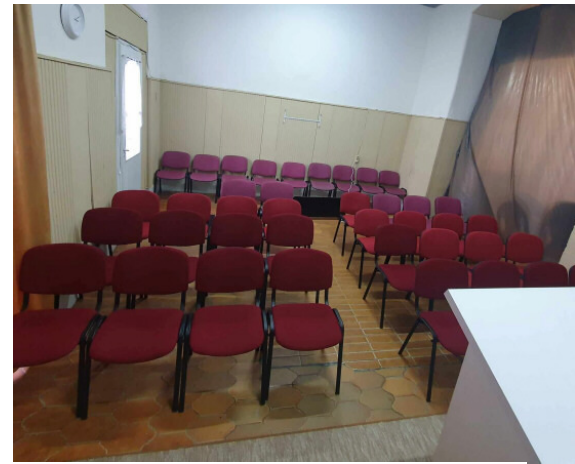
How it's measured, has to do with how you heard it. It's not always about what was actually said, but, how did you hear it? A lot of times people hear what they **expect** to hear, even if that isn't what was said.

And 2 Cor. 10:5 says: *...casting down arguments (also translated imaginations or reasonings) and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every **thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* This is where the battle takes place - it matters where our minds are.

Where you allow your mind to go, allows your spirit to connect with where you go and allows whatever is there to connect with you. The mind is the connector.

Last time we talked about spirit, soul and body, but to most people today, the world is only what they can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. They don't know about their **inner man**, (their **spirit**). They only know the outer man. Our connection with God is spirit to Spirit. It's spiritual, but it's still the result of where you let your mind go and where you let it stay. What's going on in the world right now is spiritual.

Thoughts will come. You can't prevent the enemy from bringing thoughts and feelings and temptations to you, but you don't have to sit and think about it, and play with those thoughts for hours on end. That's why **2 Cor. 10:5** tells us: *...bring every **thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* How do I do that? Look at **Phil. 4:6-8**
*6 Be anxious for **nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*



Above left: Here is Pastor Norbi Rozsa in Szakcs, Hungary, teaching from his large-print Bible provided by partners of Light to the Nations. There is no greater tool that any Christian can have than the Word of God. **Above center:** People gather for pre-service prayer with Pastor Istvan Sule in the church in Ózd, Hungary. This prayer time has been growing steadily. **Above right:** The chairs finally came! Only about half of the chairs we ordered last September were delivered. After many letters and phone calls, everyone now has a good chair to sit on. The chairs are also thanks to the faithful partners of LTTN.

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts **and minds** through Christ Jesus. (It won't seem reasonable to others that you are as calm as you are.)
 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy** — meditate (**think**) on these things.

We have to pay attention to what we see, hear and think. Thoughts that lead you away from peace and joy need to be rejected. It's easy to focus on obvious things right in front of us, but the Bible is telling us what we should be meditating on: true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report virtue, anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.

Isa 26:3 says:
 3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose **mind** is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

To be honest, this is one of the most challenging things anyone will ever do – learning to control your mind. And sadly, most people don't even try and they don't have a clue why there's so much chaos and lack of peace in their life. But if you tune in to all the chaos and junk going on in the world – the enemy is glad to feed it to you, and you will be upset all the time!

This month (March), Easter Sunday is observed. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ reminds us that there is hope, no matter what circumstances we may find ourselves in. No matter how low one may appear to have fallen in life, victory is still available. **Galatians 6:9** reminds us: *not to grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (don't give up).*

I know that sometimes due season seems like it will never come, but if we quit, it will for sure never come. I bring this up now, because we recently had a “due season” arrive

that didn't look like it was ever going to happen. Just a couple of weeks ago, a young lady contacted us with an incredible story. Ilona (not her real name) grew up in a “religious” home, but realized that her father was using the ministry for his own gain. When he was exposed, she made a series of choices out of rebellion, choices that naturally speaking it looked like she would never be able to recover from.

We have known Ilona and her family since she was a little girl, and were heartbroken at the disgrace her father brought on the family, and especially at the bad choices we knew she was making. We continued to pray for her and her family even though it looked hopeless, but finally, due season!

Ilona told us that she is now living in another country, and had broken away from the lifestyle she had been trapped in, had found a good Bible believing church and knew she had been set free from her past. Ilona has also started the LTTN Bible school! She thanked us for praying and not giving up on her.

Maybe there's someone like Ilona in your life - or maybe any number of situations that look hopeless to you. Don't give up! You will reap if you don't give up! Keep sowing the seed—the harvest will come!

Thank you, partners for not growing weary with your connection to Light to the Nations. Your prayer and financial support are vital to this ministry.

Love, blessings and

He is Risen, Indeed!!

Dan & Martha Lewis