

## A Biblical Key to Success: "Take Charge."

### Introduction

- A. God has promised the believer, through a knowledge and practice of the truth, spiritual freedom.

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

- B. The freedom, most needed by the Christian, is found within. It has to do with the spiritual control of our thoughts, emotions, and body.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. Proverbs 25:28

### I. The Biblical Basis for this Key.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Corinthians 7:1

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. II Corinthians 10:4,5

But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . temperance (self-control). Gal. 5:23

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true . . . honest . . . pure . . . lovely . . . of good report . . . think on these things. Phil. 4:8

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (without reward). I Corinthians 9:27

- Observations: 1. The believer has the ability to "take charge of his thinking, emotions, bodily desires, and daily life.
2. It is important to recognize that we are not always responsible for the presence of a thought, emotion, or desire -- we are under no obligation to reject all that is wrong in these areas. To accept and act on a wrong thought, etc., is sinful.

### II. The Biblical Explanation of this Key.

- A. The believer is exhorted to "take charge" of this thinking.

1. There are three possible sources of wrong thoughts.

- a. The sin principle of the "flesh".

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries . . . and defile the man. Mark 7:21,22

b. The sinful world system.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. I John 2:16

c. Satanic suggestion or accusation. (Note Rev. 12:9-11)

. . . Yea, hath God said. Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?  
. . . Ye shall not surely die . . . ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3:1-5

And when the tempter came to Him, he said. If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread. Matthew 4:3

2. We are exhorted to "take charge" of our thinking, refuse those thoughts that are wrong and aggressively choose to think on correct thoughts.

Wherefore putting away lying . . . Eph. 4:25 But now ye also put off all these, anger, wrath . . . Col. 3:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love . . . I Thess. 5:8 Put on the whole armour of God . . . Eph. 6:11 . . . Bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. II Cor. 10:5

Suggested method: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take charge of thinking. I refuse to accept that thought of \_\_\_\_\_. In full dependence on the true and living God I bring all my thinking into subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ."

B. The believer is exhorted to "take charge" of his emotions.

1. The same explanation, Scripture, and method given above would apply here.
2. It is Just as wrong, if not more so, to accept wrong emotions - such as the feeling of hopelessness - and to act on it, as it would be to accept a wrong bodily desire. The believer has no reason to be hopeless and should not accept and practice error. Reject all such emotions, accept the truth of Romans 15:13, and then carefully practice it - by faith.

C. The believer is exhorted to "take charge" of his bodily desires.

1. The same Scripture, explanation, and method given above would also apply here. Study the following verses: Rom. 6:1-18; 12:1,2; I Cor. 9:25-27; Eph. 4:22-32; Colossians 3:1-14
2. The very first step of practical obedience is so often described as a spiritual control of our body.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign In your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God . . . Romans 6:11-13

Conclusion: God can only deliver us through our practice of the truth. We must be aggressive, choose to deny ourselves (Mark 8:34) and "take charge" so we may glorify Him.

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