

Lesson 4 – Treatment 2 Ownership

Read these Scripture verses below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. Do not offer brief answers. It is better to ramble your way to understanding yourself than to give short, thoughtless answers. Allow yourself to be stirred up. Do not complete this lesson thinking the same way as when you started. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

In our first lesson in the area of treatment, we looked at thinking errors and the power of our internal tongue to direct our behavior. This leads to the idea that if we are going to take responsibility for our behavior, we must first take ownership of the thoughts that lead to that behavior. We have a choice of whether or not we are willing to take every thought captive. We entertain thoughts because we like them, we believe them.

Several of your future lessons in the area of treatment will offer you scenarios to consider. You will read the background and situation and then you will be asked how you view what you just read. The focus will be on taking ownership of your own behavior and deciding the appropriate course of action.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the **heart** his mouth speaketh. (Luke 6:45 KJV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. (Romans 1:20-21, 25 NIV)

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. (Romans 2:14-15 NIV)

What an amazing concept: even the Gentiles have the requirements of God's law written on their hearts. So we are without excuse when our thinking and behavior become futile and opposed to the ways of God. The truth is in our heart from the beginning. God put it there.

For us to have acted out as we did, the truth had to be exchanged for a lie. We use thinking errors (lies) to drown out God's truth that speaks to us from our heart. Continuing to entertain these lies will naturally flow out of our mouths as well as feed on itself in our self talk. Unless we recognize this and allow this revelation to change our thought process, we will forever be subject to it.

Lesson 4 – Treatment 2

Ownership

In conclusion, we start with God's implanted truth and then over-ride His truth with lies (thinking errors). Anytime we do something negative, act rudely to someone, disrespect them, violate them, even doing something "without thinking", we really do think about it, by using lies to drown out the truth that screams at us from God's heart.

1. In the past, how did you see the source of your negative behavior? Did you blame the devil or was someone else responsible for your decisions to hurt others? Give examples.
2. How does taking complete ownership of your behavior (and even the thinking that leads to that behavior) lead to a life that honors God and others?
3. How might a person respond to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit if he doesn't recognize the need for change in a particular area of his life? How has this proved true in your own life?
4. When do we think most clearly, Godly? When is it easier to take thoughts captive, when the thought first enters your mind or when you are in the middle of the negative behavior? For example: You are making a plan for how you are going to enter into an appropriate, godly relationship with the woman God has determined for you. You are writing out this plan while watching a porn video. Are you going to end up with a good plan? Why?
5. How will you use what you've learned in this lesson in your everyday life?