

FORWARD ▶▶

Leader Conversation Guide – Forward: Part II

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued in our series, **Forward**. We are not going to get stuck in the past. God is preparing the way and it's our job to move Forward! But how often do we start gaining forward traction and then all of a sudden we get yanked right back? Pastor Curt used the imagery of being chained to something that only allows us to go so far. One of the biggest things that keep us chained to our past is wrong thinking. Jesus didn't come just to save us, He came to set us free! The way that you step into becoming a new person is by changing the way you *think*. If you think a certain way for long enough it becomes a neural pathway in your brain. That thought pattern becomes your default response. Then what you think, will lead to what you do, and ultimately becomes who you are. Your life is always moving in the direction of your strongest thought. Don't get caught up stuck thinking in the past. What are some ways we can unlock *forward* thinking?

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12:2 NLT

Make it Practical: The key to unlocking forward thinking.

- **Take back your thought life.** Read Romans 8:5-6. You don't have to think every thought you think. Every thought you think is not from God. Some thoughts aren't even from *you*. Satan will try to sneak in and let sinful nature control your mind which leads to death. Take control of your thought life by allowing the Spirit to control your mind.
- **Identify the lie.** Read John 8:44. Where in my life am I believing the lie? What does the enemy have you believing that is absolutely not true? In order to move into forward thinking, we need to be able to identify that lies that are holding us in the past.
- **Replace the lie with God's truth.** Read Ephesians 6:10-18, Ephesians 1:3-4. It's not enough to just stop thinking about the lie. You need to replace it with the truth of God's word. If you don't replace the lies with truth, *something* is going to fill that space. Most likely more lies. Identify the lies, and replace them with God's truth.

Talk About It

- Our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts. Where do you think your life is headed, based on your thoughts? Is there anything you would like to change about your destination?
- What stronghold is holding you back? What negative statement do you say about yourself, and how does it affect you?
- What truth demolishes that stronghold? How can you replace that negative statement with truth from Scripture?

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We 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."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

Prayer

Father, reveal to me any lies that I am believing about myself, others, or You. Help me replace those lies with Your transformative, healing truth. Renew my mind. Transform my thoughts. And make me more like You today and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Leader Tip

Invite Group members to join us during 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. "21 Days" will take place January 15 – February 4, 2023.

You can view our prayer and fasting guides at victorychurch.org/resources/21-days/