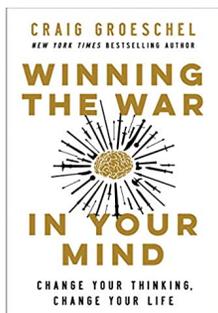


BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Winning the War In Your Mind
Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life

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ISBN#: 978-0-310-36272-2

Scripture Readings:

July 1-3
 1Peter 2:16

July 4-10
 Romans 8:1-4

July 11-17
 Acts 13:38-39

July 18-24
 Colossians 1:21-23

July 25-31
 Isaiah 61:1

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.
Galatians 5:1 (NLT)

Feed Your Faith To Be Free!

We've always had freedom in Jesus, but there are so many of us who don't live in it. It's not because of the rules of the land that man and woman have to live by in order to be abiding citizens of the law. It's not because it was stolen from us or we were denied the right to have it. If I were talking about the freedom offered by the governing forces in the world, then this would be a true account of our lack of freedom across the globe for many peoples. But the freedom I speak of didn't come 'from' man, but it came 'for' man. That is – freedom that Jesus Christ has given to all humanity.

So why is it that so many people aren't living in this gift of freedom we were given by our Savior? The reasons are numerous based on varying perspectives. But one cause that surely tops the list is that people have a restraint on their heart and mind – a shackle that they will not allow the Word of God to release them from because they are stuck in the history of their personal experiences. They have walled themselves in from what the Word of God clearly tells us is a part of this life – the trials and tribulations – that challenge and test us in our walk of faith in the earth. For people with no faith in God, yes, it is difficult to believe in anything beyond what life presents them. As for people of faith who wall themselves in, it is evidence that their faith is weak and their belief is incomplete in the One Who has authority and dominion in all the earth.

What must people do to receive the freedom they have that our Savior paid for on an old, rugged Cross? All people can stand and walk boldly with courage in their gift of freedom by freeing their mind and heart from the chains of resistance to God and the Power of His Holy Word. They must abandon the reasons for their restraints and fall into a relationship with God seeking only to live as He instructs them to. The tougher life gets in this world, the more people must feed themselves the wisdom of the Holy Word. That is our way of growing and maintaining our faith. What you don't feed won't grow. And if people don't grow in faith, neither will their mind and heart grow in freedom.

Jesus tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." Let's not be guilty of denying ourselves the freedom we have in Christ. When we do so, we are also denying ourselves a relationship with Him. Feed your faith. Come to Jesus, and be free.

Pastor Daniel Simmons