

Greatest Problem

What if the greatest hindrance in life isn't race, geographic location, or even socioeconomic status? If you believe you are automatically at a disadvantage because of these areas, that belief itself can become the very thing that keeps you bound. There may be real obstacles in this world, but there is no greater hindrance in our lives than the way we think. I have many people approach me with a list of problems, and I will gently interrupt them and say, "No, you don't have ten problems. You have one problem, and it is the way you think about those problems."

Growing up, I often heard people around me say that being a woman and being Black automatically put us at a disadvantage. But my question became: Why was no one preaching to me about the advantage I have now that I am in Christ and a citizen of heaven? Why was I being taught more about what could work against me than what Christ had already made available to me?

Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." Romans 8:6 tells us, "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Notice how much of the battle targets the mind. If the enemy can capture your thinking, he can influence the direction of your life. Psalm 143:3 even describes the enemy as seeking to crush one's life to the ground. One of the primary battlegrounds is what we allow ourselves to believe.

So how do we overcome the enemy's tactics? Second Corinthians 2:11 tells us not to be ignorant of his devices. We must know the truth. The enemy's greatest weapon is deception. He needs you to believe something contrary to what God has said.

If you believe your promotion ultimately comes from your boss, you have already placed another person in a position that belongs to God. Psalm 75:6–7 says, "For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another." People may be involved in the process, but they are not my source.

If you believe your ethnicity, your background, where you were born, or what you did not have growing up determines how far you can go in life, have you considered whether you have become more conscious of your natural disadvantages than your spiritual advantages?

Psalm 103:1–5 tells us not to forget all His benefits. As believers, we cannot afford to know everything that is working against us while remaining ignorant of everything that is working for us in Christ. The enemy would love for you to build your identity around what happened to you, where you came from, what you lack, or what someone else thinks about you. But none of those things have the authority to redefine who you became when you were placed in Christ.

The question is not simply, "What disadvantages do I have?"
The greater question is, "Do I know the advantage I have in Christ?"