

May 7,
2016



DRUG-USE AWARENESS MONTH

Protecting the Door

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me"
(Revelation 3:20).

**OPENING
HYMN:**
*Adventist
Hymnal,
No. 437*

**SCRIPTURE
READING:**
Revelation 3:20

**CLOSING
HYMN:**
*Dare to be
a Daniel*

SERMON

We have several paths that lead to a door. Satan knows them very well and knows the alternate routes to those paths. That door is our mind. It is very important to guard our thoughts so that they do not open the door to Satan. He knows our weaknesses and knows that we are the only ones who can open the door to him

God, in His great love, gave us a beautiful gift: the power of choice. We are the only ones who are able to open that door. Even our Creator does not enter if we do not invite Him to come in, if we do not open the door for Him.

The mind integrates various faculties of the brain capable of collecting information, reasoning, and reaching conclusions. Our mind is involved in everything we do, think, or speak. Man is still learning about God's creative work. It is a machinery immensely capable of doing whatever you want it to do.

The brain is the most powerful, the most complicated, the most wonderful, and the most incredible organ in our body. Weighing about one kilogram and a half, its consistency is that of soft gelatin. It works 24 hours, 7 days a week,

365 days a year, and does not close for a holiday or go on vacation. It is the computer that runs the body and regulates each of its functions.

- It is estimated that we have about one hundred billion neurons or brain cells.
- Each neuron or cell is connected to others through about forty thousand connections. This means that we have approximately thirteen trillion connections in the brain.
- Our networks and connections are like the stars in the universe.

The mind receives information and stimuli: it has the ability to analyze and evaluate them; it can reject or accept them; it decides and determines our words and actions, always waiting for our order or command. This is a gift from God and Satan knows it is very important; thus, he will try to entangle those connections so you think, act, and feel badly.

When Satan sees that he has a chance to make you open the door to him, he will start throwing darts to see if he can get in. Among the darts he throws are lies, envy, violence, gossip, adultery, fornication, pornography, jealousy, and pride.

If you look up Proverbs 6:16-19, you will notice that there are many similarities between the darts that Satan throws and the six things the Lord hates and a seventh that he abhors whole-heartedly: haughty eyes (pride), a lying tongue (lying). The hands that shed innocent blood (violence), the heart that produces wicked thoughts (pornography), the feet that are swift in running to mischief (jealousy), a false witness who speaks lies (envy), and the one who stirs discord among brethren (gossip).

Of course, he knows what is displeasing to our heavenly Father and he is going to attack from that side. Our mind is under continuous attack

1. By the wounds of the past.
2. By the pressures of the present.
3. By tomorrow's challenges.

The inspired writer, Ellen G. White, said in her book *Mind, Character and Personality* that "grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life-forces and to invite decay and death" (vol. 2, sec. 11, p. 451).

So, why worry about what has already happened? Holding a grudge from past squabbles makes us unhappy. It is as if we were drinking a poison while pretending that the one who offended us is the one who is going to die. That is what Satan wants—for us to be unhappy and for our mind to be occupied with feelings that will end our life forces and our relationship with God.

The same author, in the book *Steps to Christ*, said, "It is not the will of God that His people should be weighed down with care" (chap. 13, p. 122).

She added, "Some are always fearing, and borrowing trouble. Every day they are surrounded with the tokens of God's love; every day they are enjoying the bounties of His providence; but they overlook these present blessings. Their minds are continually dwelling upon something disagreeable which they fear may come" (*Ibid.* p. 121).

This is what Satan wants—to keep us constantly haunted by the past, the present, and the future.

In short, Satan rejoices when he sees us pollute our minds with bad thoughts. He is going to put them near us, looking for the slightest weakness and opportunity. When they reach the threshold of our minds, let us seek help and hold firmly to the Lord. We are not alone.

When we put our mind under the sovereign power of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God restores it and releases it from the power of Satan, He takes charge of it again and records His law on it.

Our whole being, mind, soul, and body are called to worship God (Mark 12:30).

Prayer

I beg you, my beloved Jesus, to fill our minds with Your purity and beauty, Your righteousness and holiness, so that our lives might reflect Your love and kindness. Amen.

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