

# To the Saints of God at Topeka, Kansas – August 25, 2019

## Godly Mindset/Jesus, the Captain

I have two topics today, the first is on mindset. Specifically, what a Godly mindset is. The second is characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Captain and Leader of the hosts of heaven, including their armies and the Captain bringing many sons unto glory (which I will start today and finish on my next sermon).

### I. Mindset



There is a lot of talk these days about mindset. In business, school and sports there is a discussion going on about a "fixed" mindset v. a "growth" mindset. See the last page.

*"In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits.*

*They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success—without effort. They're wrong. In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities. Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education, and sports."* Each of us can slip between a fixed and growth mindset and we can "catch" ourselves when we fall into the fixed mindset. Steve told me several years ago that I needed to learn to how to edit videos. He said it would take time, effort and hard work and I said, "No, I don't want to - it sounds too hard." I resisted because it sounded intimidating and too much work - my mindset was "I don't need one more thing to do." It was a "fixed" mindset coming through. He said, I will help you, it will be great, you need to do this. He was right. I caught myself and remembered that I love to learn new things and I decided to push against my initial reaction to say "I am too busy". That's one scenario. Another common scenario is that you are given the opportunity to do something at work that you have never done before, but it comes with great risk. Yes, it comes with a potential payoff, but typically it comes with the real possibility of failure. The fixed mindset says "don't take a chance, this is too

hard - what will I do if I fail?" The growth mindset says, "this is a great challenge, I like challenges, if I am successful I win and if I fail I will still win because I will have gained experience and learned something new - and that will help me learn and grow." It says "If I learn something, it isn't a failure."

Likewise in sports, nearly every elite athlete, professional or amateur, and in many cases sports teams, now have a sports psychologist that helps them achieve the "champion's mindset." Do you fold under pressure or are you resilient? Can you recover when something doesn't go your way or do you give up? In the finals of the 1984 Olympic 3000 meter track race (in Los Angeles) Mary Decker and Zola Budd from Great Britain (a bare foot runner) collided on lap 4 and Decker fell down. Decker was a heavy favorite to win the gold medal and she was in her "home" country. Collisions sometimes happen when you race in a pack. It was not intentional. Instead of immediately getting up and resuming (because it is a 7.5 lap race), she decided to stay down, and later claimed Zola Budd stole the gold medal from her. It was quite the drama. Decker never won an Olympic medal.

Do you see failure as temporary or permanent. Billie Bean, who the movie "Money Ball" was about, is the classic example of a fixed mindset. Even though he was one of the most gifted athletes on the planet for baseball - he saw every "at bat" as an opportunity to fail. The self-imposed pressure on himself each time he went to bat was enormous. A fixed mindset says every race is painful - a growth mindset, says every race, while difficult, is an opportunity to improve. Also, in schools from kindergarten to college this is being taught. If you have a growth mindset, you willingly soak up education like a sponge and want to learn and excel and get better even if you occasionally fail. That is why many school districts are teaching this and teaching it early as a part of their curriculum - so they can head off fixed mindset thinking early. They see it as something that limits a student's potential.

When it comes to sin and God what is your mindset? Satan would have you believe there is no difference. Rom. 6:1 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid.*

SATANIC/SINFUL MINDSET	GODLY/HOLY MINDSET
✚ Sow to the Flesh	✚ Sow to the Spirit
✚ Seek the Praise of Man	✚ Seek the Praise of God
✚ Fruits of Sin	✚ Seek Fruits of Repentance
✚ Discontent	✚ Content
✚ Pride	✚ Humility
✚ Works of the Flesh	✚ Deeds of the Spirit
✚ Proud of your Sin	✚ Mourn for your Sin
✚ Please man	✚ Please God
✚ Unthankful	✚ Thankful
✚ No Fear of God	✚ A Proper Fear of God
✚ Praying amiss	✚ Praying without ceasing

Gal 6:7-8 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that **soweth to his flesh** shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that **soweth to the Spirit** shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

John 12:43 *For they (the Pharisees) **loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.***  
Gal 1:10 *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet **pleased men**, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

Mat. 3:7 - *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore **fruits meet for repentance.***

Jude:16 *These are murmurers (**discontented**), complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. Ex 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? Nu 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

Phil 4:11 - *For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be **content**. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Pr 16:18 **Pride** goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Pr 11:2 *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: 1Jo 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Mt 18:4 *Whosoever therefore shall **humble** himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Mt 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall **humble** himself shall be exalted. Jas 4:6 God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Jas 4:10 **Humble** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. 1Pe 5:5 Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with **humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the **humble**. 1Pe 5:6 **Humble** yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

Gal 5:19 *Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Gal. 5:22 *But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Isa 3:9 *The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and **they declare their sin as Sodom**, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto*

themselves. Mt 5:4 Blessed are they that **mourn**: for they shall be comforted. 2 Cor. 7:10 For godly **sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.

Eph 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as **menpleasers**; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as **menpleasers**; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier**. Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Ro 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, **neither were thankful**; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Ps 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: **be thankful unto him**, and bless his name.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; **and be ye thankful**.

Psalms 36:1 The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that **there is no fear of God before his eyes**. 2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. 3 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good. 4 He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil. Ge 20:11 And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely **the fear of God is not in this place**; and they will slay me for my wife's sake. We see the constant stream of mass shootings and murder in this country and in the world. The reason is because the preachers of this country quit in mass teaching the bible that everyone has a duty to fear God and to fear the consequences of such behavior. These preachers bear a huge amount of responsibility for the state of this country and this world.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God**. Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and **godly fear**. Eccl. 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13 ¶ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring

*every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

*Jas 4:3 **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.** Pr 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but **the prayer of the upright is his delight.** 1Th 5:17 **Pray without ceasing.** Lu 21:36 *Watch ye therefore, and **pray always,** that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**

## **II. Christ Jesus - The Captain of Our Salvation**

*Joshua 5:13 **And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, **Nay; but as Captain of the Host of the LORD** am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the **Captain of the LORD'S Host** said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.***

*Daniel 10:2 **In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. 3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. 4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; 5 **Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. 7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. 10 ¶ And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. 11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. 12 Then said he unto*****

*me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.*

*Rev. 1: 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 **And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.** And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

*Mat. 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

*Rev. 19:11 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.***



Joshua 5:13 *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*



Strong's says the word "Captain" there means: *prince, ruler, leader, chief, chieftain, official*. A Captain is a *military leader - the commander of a unit or a body of troops*. It means *one who leads or supervises*. You could translate it "general" or "president" in our vernacular. Who is the leader of the U.S. military? The Commander in Chief is - POTUS (President of the United States). It is the same concept.



In car racing, they call legendary car owner, Roger Penske "The Captain." He is known by that worldwide. They call him that presumably because he is a "captain of industry." He is 82 years old. He is worth \$2 billion. He sits on the board of General Electric and sat on the board of Home Depot, Phillip Morris (Marlboro), American Express and many more. You might see his

name going down the road - Penske Truck Rental. He owns teams in IndyCar and NASCAR and is in both their Hall of Fames. His teams have won the Indianapolis 500 18 times (more than anyone else by far). In June, President Trump said he would award Roger Penske the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest civilian honor in the U.S.). Trump said: "He's very deserving. He's a great gentleman. A very brilliant guy,"

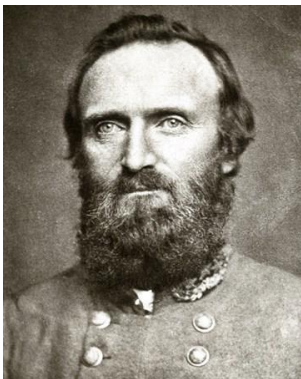
He is NOT "The captain." Christ is "The Captain." Roger Penske is in a lot of trouble. He is responsible for the deaths of millions as an architect of big tobacco. He pimped Marlboro cigarettes and smoking for 19 years on his cars - until the government passed regulations prohibiting it. He sat on the Board of Phillip Morris and had access to all of the medical reports and research saying smoking kills - which they buried. He sold his soul to make his billions. He played a part in the death of millions. There was an article in the early 90's entitled "How Does Big Tobacco Live with Itself?" Make no mistake here, his money has no value in heaven. How much of Roger Penske's fame and fortune will he take with him when he dies? That's a hard question? 90%? 50%? 25% 10% (\$200,000,000)? I don't have to speculate. I know the answer. Not a single penny - not one "red cent." (The original 1793 U.S. one-cent copper coin was issued until 1857. It was called a 'red cent,' due to the copper's reddish color - the penny we see today in the U.S. is mostly zinc.). It was a bad investment Mr. Penske to invest all of your time and resources into this world - pursuing fleshly lusts, fortune and fame. Your ROI (return on

investment) will be zero and worse than zero it will cost your never dying soul unless God has mercy upon you.

*1 Tim 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Mr 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Lu 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the Living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; Mat. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*



Joshua is on a reconnaissance mission to get intelligence on how he might attack Jericho. He is inspecting its fortifications and its walls to decide on a battle plan. He is trying to figure out how he is going to get through 6 feet of stone wall that goes up to the sky. This is normal work for generals and captains. They desperately need good intelligence. And, they need to survey the battlefield and talk to their troops.



At the Battle of Chancellorsville (in the U.S. Civil War - April 30, 1863 to May 6, 1863 - a Confederate victory) Thomas Jonathan Jackson ("Stonewall") and his executive staff were returning from such an occasion at dusk. His own troops mistook him and his staff for a union scouting party. This is commonly referred to as "friendly fire." He was shot three times - twice in the left arm and once in the right hand. Several members of his staff died along with several of the horses. His troops fired two rounds at them. Darkness prevented him from getting immediate medical care. He was also dropped

from the stretcher because of incoming artillery rounds. His left arm was amputated. He was thought to be out of harm's way; but unknown to the doctors, he already had classic symptoms of pneumonia - he was complaining of a sore chest. This soreness was mistakenly thought to be the result of his rough handling in the battlefield evacuation. You see the similarity to Joshua's story - are you for us or our adversary?

Jackson died of complications from pneumonia eight days after he was shot. On his deathbed, he said "*It is the Lord's Day; my wish is fulfilled. I have always desired to die on Sunday.*" A few moments before he died he said with a smile "*Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees.*" Upon hearing of Jackson's death, Robert E. Lee (Commander of the Confederate army) mourned the loss of both a friend and a trusted commander. As Jackson lay dying, Lee sent a message through Chaplain Lacy, saying: "*Give General Jackson my affectionate regards, and say to him: he has lost his left arm, but I my right.*" The night Lee learned of Jackson's death, he told his cook: "*William, I have lost my right arm*", and, "*I'm bleeding at the heart.*" They called him "Stonewall" because of his fierceness and bravery. Jackson was a predestanarian. He said: "*Captain, my religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me. Captain, that is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave.*" Many say this was the turning point of the war. The true turning point of the war was the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1 to 3, 1863), which the Confederates lost, many think in part due to Jackson's death so many weeks earlier.

The text says "***that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand.***" All of a sudden the man (the Lord Jesus Christ) appears. This is very similar language as we see in Daniel 10 in Daniel's vision.

Gill says the ground was holy, because of the Lord's mere presence. Here, the Captain of the Lord's Host is paying his commander on the ground a visit the night before an important battle (the assault on Jericho). Christ personally tells Joshua you don't need intel or to come up with a plan of attack. This will be no ordinary assault. I am going to take care of this and teach you of my sovereignty, showing you that I am the one by which all battles in all times and places are won or lost. The Lord is giving Joshua his orders. Christ is at the top of the chain of command. This meeting is no accident. The Captain of the Lord's Host "stood over against him." Strong's says: "to take one's stand," to "hold one's ground," "to endure, persist be steadfast," "to stand firm." Christ is in a posture of

authority and command and his sword is drawn. His sword is drawn not against Joshua but against His enemies, the Canaanites, and he means war against them. This is a clear sign of His indignation against the Canaanites. This is a military posture.

*Heb. 2:10 ¶ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.* Christ is the captain of their salvation.

Joshua is very respectful here *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?* Joshua understands his role and he understands the role of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will take this up again in my next sermon.

I love you all amen.

# MINDSETS

## FIXED MINDSET

The belief that skills, intellect, and talents are set and unchangeable.



## GROWTH MINDSET

The belief that skills, intellect, and talents can be developed through practice and perseverance.



I'll stick to what I know. Either I'm good at it or not.

DESIRES

I want to learn new things. I am eager to take risks.

It's fine the way it is. There is nothing to change.

SKILLS

Is this really my best work? What else can I improve?

This is a waste of time; there's a lot to figure out.

EFFORT

I know this will help me even though it is difficult.

It's easier to give up. I'm really not smart.

SETBACKS

I'll use another strategy; my mistakes help me learn.

This work is boring. No one likes to do it.

FEEDBACK

I recognize my weakness, and I know what to fix.

It's easy for him or her. They were born smart.

TALENTED PEERS

I wonder how they did it. Let me try to figure it out.