

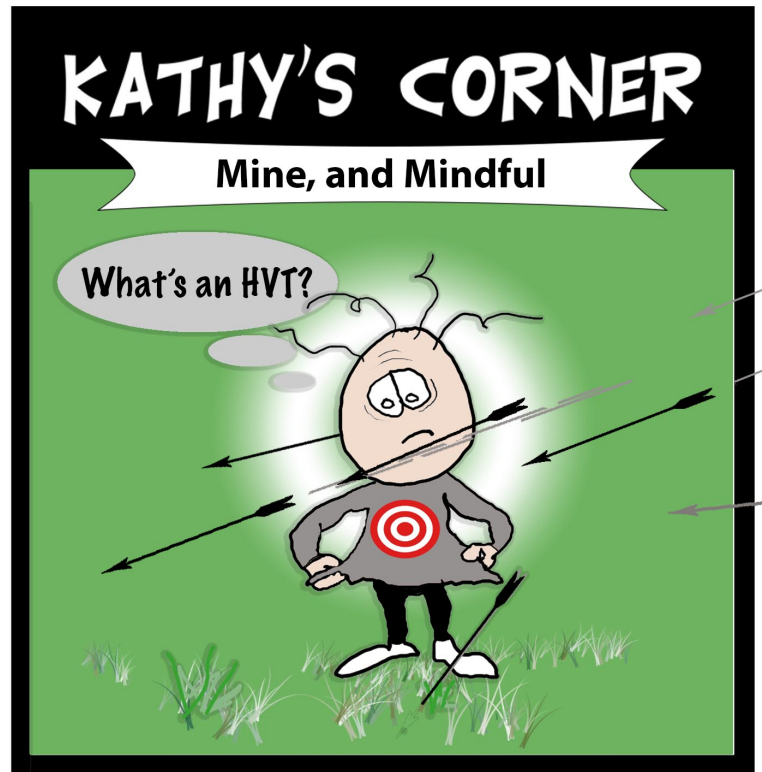
“Mine, and Mindful”

(Republished with heavy edits & additions)

It is my habit to ask God what He would like me to share with you all when I write. I heard these two words when I awoke some time ago when I had asked the Lord for a topic on which to write.

The man or woman created in His image is the only one God could be referring to with the words ***Mine and mindful***. *Although all creatures are His, they are not particularly mindful of the fact.* Today I guess there are a lot of people who don't see themselves as belonging to Him. How are we His? **He created us.** Anything I create belongs to me. **“In Him we live and move and have our being,”** according to Acts 17:28. Whether men recognize this or not, doesn't alter this truth. In fact, it is stated in Psalm 104:29, **“...When you (God) take away**

their breath, they die and turn again to dust.” (NLT) We are referred to as the work of His hands. Who is it that belongs to Him who doesn't know that we are indeed a work of His *in progress*!



What Is It To Be Mindful? **What is God after here?** It is the opposite of being careless:

- Careless with words,
- Careless with emotions,
- Careless with opportunities (*when we see the needs of others, or He gives us an appointment*),
- Careless with relationships,
- Careless with temptations,
- Careless with distractions,
- Careless with the authority given us in Jesus' name.

You could probably add to this list.

We should be mindful. We should be purposeful. We should be good soldiers of the Lord— **“No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier.”** (2 Timothy 2:4) We should be striving to please our Lord who enlists us. We should be mindful to engage and defeat the enemy of God and men. And, what is the Lord's objective? That He would give eternal life which is, **“...That they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”** The richness, the relationship, the revelation, the resting—all in Him, made available to us. And we are witnesses, kind of like character witnesses to the knowable God. Being a witness to Him in our day is challenging. Through many years the church has been intimidated into silence. We could coexist with the world as long as our views and our communication of Jesus was kept inside the four walls of a building. Now, satan is no longer satisfied with intimidation to silence the church, but instead he is attempting to make every word of truth that might be spoken against the law. In some places, if the powers that be think you are thinking truth, they seek even to punish Christians for that as well. So then, we are supposed to shut up and refer to people whose minds

don't function properly by whatever pronoun they prefer for the day (just one example). Are we to live in the world's insanity?—If satan has his way, we are. Are we faithful witnesses? I think it is interesting that the word translated *witness/evidence/testimony* in Greek is *marturia*—looks very much like our English word *martyr*. There will be suffering. There will be persecution. There may be martyrdom. **“It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void your law.”** (Psalm 119:126) We are the remnant—the end-time army. Are you truly a **H**igh **V**alue **T**arget?

Be mindful of Whose you are. Be mindful of with Whom you will spend eternity. We should be mindful of what the Holy Spirit is doing—His prompting, guiding, leading and living in us—working through us. **We choose to believe every word of God no matter what we see or how contrary things appear to be. Yes, it is a choice!** Anything contrary to the word of God is a lie of satan, no matter who the lie comes from—even a friend, or one who has given us good advice in the past.

MINE—Are we really His? Is He our first love? Are we loyal to Him until death? Are we faithful through the rough times? **Even more—are we faithful when things are easy**, going well with us and pleasant? These are the times it is easy to forget. The pleasures of life should not possess us. We are His! **When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. “But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.”** (Deuteronomy 8:10-14 NLT) Remember, we are building one kingdom or the other. There is no middle ground.

Many good works have been started in the name of Jesus—churches, colleges, schools, movements, and ministries such as the Salvation Army, but as the entrusted leaders relied more and more on people and their resources than on their God, they compromised. The name of Jesus could no longer be the power under which they operated. Man's good efforts are “filthy rags” in God's eyes—those rags you would only pick up from a small corner or with gloves. You wouldn't want to touch them except for getting them to a place of disposal.

The Bride of Christ has His name. Jesus is her head. He is her provider, protector, and so much more. They are one Spirit. She is mindful of what He is doing and helps His purposes. She submits joyfully to Him. She brings Him honor and praise. She wouldn't think of bringing disgrace to His name—it is her name too! She belongs to Him totally, and **chooses** (*There's that word again!*) to trust Him.

The Lord spent a lot of time with me stressing the importance of His Word. Faith is based on It/Him. It is our weapon and our defense. It frees our minds so that they are able to function properly again, so that we can be truly set apart for Him—not just in body and spirit, but also in our emotions. It is in our minds that we win or lose the battles. When we live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, we have the truth that sets us free, that grows our faith, and gives us victory personally.

Our minds and mindsets can harbor the strongholds of satan. Are we living by our old mindsets? There is spiritual loss and danger in this. Instead we should reset our minds. We do this by choosing. From the beginning we have always had a choice. Do we flirt with temptation? (*We will lose if we do.*) Do we make bad choices out of deception, fear, or due to pride? Do we know the word well enough to take a stand on it—the firm foundation? Are we renewing our minds to have as our own the mind of Christ? Are we setting our minds on those things He told us to through Paul? (Philippians 4:8, and Colossians 3:2-4), **“Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is**

revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.” (NLT) Mindsets can be erroneous until we determine to set our minds according to His word.

Choices: I choose to reset my mind by the power of His Holy Spirit and faith in His name. By faith I choose to refuse to be offended no matter how offensive one’s intentions are. I choose to turn the other cheek, to go two miles instead of one, and to give more than what is requested of me. By faith I choose to see people as a work of God. By faith I choose to love them. By faith I choose to seek Him diligently—He is a rewarder of those that do. By faith I choose God as my portion in preference to anything the world or the devil has to offer. By faith I choose to lay down my life to follow Him, to take the narrow path that leads to life—true life. I choose to count blessings and be thankful for His dealings, pruning and provisions, no matter who they come through or how they come. He is my Heavenly Father. My best interest is in His heart. He is so good and so kind!

I think most of us believe we are in the end times. We are the remnant—the end-time army fighting for God, fighting against the spiritual Babylon of Revelation, similar to the judgment on the physical Babylon in Isaiah 13:

A pronouncement concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw:

2 Lift up a banner on a barren mountain.

Call out to them.

**Signal with your hand, and they will go
through the gates of the nobles.**

**3 I have commanded my consecrated ones;
yes, I have called my warriors,
who celebrate my triumph,
to execute my wrath.**

**4 Listen, a commotion on the mountains,
like that of a mighty people!**

**Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms,
like nations being gathered together!**

The Lord of Armies is mobilizing an army for war.

**5 They are coming from a distant land,
from the farthest horizon—** (From verses 1-5 CSB)

As a remnant—end-time army, we put on all the armor of God. Then we stand; we pray; we follow orders. As a bride our motives are pure, and we are one with Him, united in Spirit. *A bride in combat boots?*

**...but my dove, my perfect one, is unique,
her mother’s only child,
the darling of the one who bore her.
The daughters see her and call her happy;
the queens and concubines praise her.
“Who is this, shining forth like the dawn,
fair as the moon, bright as the sun” —
but formidable as an army
marching under banners?**

Song of Solomon 6:9-10 CJB