

The Literal “Battleground of Your Mind”

THOUGHTS ARE SPIRITUAL. In fact, we don’t really understand usually just how spiritual our thought life really is. We will have victory and have faith, or suffer loss and defeat through what is ruling our thoughts. Our thoughts will shape who that we are and our very emotions. **It’s the mind that we must conquer first, or we lose everything else.**

Many times we concentrate on how that we “feel”. If we are feeling God and there is money in the bank and the blessings of God and life are obvious, then we are good, but if we are going through a trial of our faith then we are terrible. That should not be. **Our thoughts control our feelings** and faith is based on who Jesus is and the truth of God’s Word and not in our circumstances.

HEBREWS 13:8 (KJV) “JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TO DAY, AND FOR EVER. “

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 (KJV) “ (FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT:) “

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 (KJV) “ 11 NOT THAT I SPEAK IN RESPECT OF WANT: 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. “

Paul said that he had **“LEARNED”** that whatever state that he found himself in to be content. He learned! This is the reshaping of our thought processes. Faith and walking by faith no matter the circumstances is something that we “learn”. **The knowledge of the truth** reshapes the way that we think and we are renewed in the Spirit and faith arises! **JOHN 8:31-32 “ 31 THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED; 32 AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE. “**

You shall “know” the truth, and the truth shall make you free!

The knowledge of the truth builds faith. That is why we need to hear the “truth” of God’s Word when we come together to worship as a church. It is the hearing of the truth or the Word that builds faith, and we have everything that we have from God through faith. **ROMANS 10:17 “ SO THEN FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD. “**

There are two things that go together in the Kingdom of God that gives us liberty from sin and death and Satan and darkness! **One is “knowing the truth”, and the other is the Holy Spirit! 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 “NOW THE LORD IS THAT SPIRIT: AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY. “**

JOHN 16:13-14 “ 13 HOWBEIT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, IS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: FOR HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF; BUT WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK: AND HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME. 14 HE SHALL GLORIFY ME: FOR HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE, AND SHALL SHEW IT UNTO YOU“

The Holy Spirit and the Truth of the Word of God goes together. **Jesus Christ is the living LOGOS or Word of God**, so the Spirit of Truth always reveals Jesus Christ. He will always glorify Jesus Christ when He is free to work.

The **“anointed” Word of God** brings the truth of God in our minds and knowing the truth fills our hearts with His presence and faith. We are told to study the Word to show ourselves approved, **but we must also “hear” the Word of God.** When a preacher or teacher **under the “anointing”** of the Spirit of Truth brings the Word and we hear it, faith is built in our minds.

It is the PLAN OF GOD to always have the Spirit and Truth given together at the same time.

- The church that has all Word and no Spirit will DRY UP.
- The church that has all Spirit and no Word will BLOW UP.
- The church that has both Spirit and Truth together will GROW UP and God will Manifest there!

Folks, this is how that we are to worship God as True Worshipers, in Spirit and in Truth together!

JOHN 4:23-24 " 23 BUT THE HOUR COMETH, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH: FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM. 24 GOD IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH. "

So, we should have a blending of the Word of God or Truth with the power and moving of the Holy Spirit to bring liberty and in our worship services. This is the hallmark of true spiritual worship.

Jesus Christ is the living LOGOS or WORD of GOD. The **Holy Spirit** brings the Word of God into play in our lives and makes it a weapon. The Word of God is called the two-edged sword of the Spirit both in Ephesians and Hebrews. You see the absolute necessity of blending the Word of God with the move of the Holy Spirit if you want the **POWER OF GOD** to move and make a difference.

In fact, God is seeking this kind of worship. We are to live this way with a balance of the Spirit and the Truth together. The children of God are to be led by the Spirit and full of the Word.

God will show up since He is looking for this kind of worship when we have worship that includes both the Word (the Truth) and the Spirit together. That is why it is important to have both the loving giving of worship to God and the giving of the Word of God both in church.

We need that Word to bring the **knowledge of the Word of God** and the Holy Spirit together to have liberty from the bondages that sin and the enemy would bring to us. If we walk this way... as true worshipers walking in the Spirit and the Truth, then we will walk in God's liberty, and our minds will be clear and free of bondages.

Remember: thoughts are spiritual! Knowledge changes your thoughts and feelings. The knowledge of the Word of God empowered by the Holy Spirit brings transforming power into our lives.

- **Before you ever sin in your body, you thought it in your mind!**
- **Before you ever fell victim to some weakness, it started with a thought!**
- **Before you ever decided to walk by faith and make a stand, it began with thoughts!**

Everything that you have ever learned is still in your mind somewhere. That can be good or bad. Every **scripture** and every **profanity** and every **godly vision** and every bit of **pornography** as well is stored in there. That is why it is **so important** that you guard as best as you can what goes in to your mind, for it has an effect.

It is important that you understand that your actions and your feelings and even your faith is dependent upon the knowledge that you have filled yourself with.

There is a battle daily in our thought life between following the Holy Spirit to do what is right and good, and the pull toward the flesh and carnal sin. God motivates the spirit within man and demons motivate carnal flesh, but it is the mind which is the seat of the soul of man that decides which rules.

If your thoughts are holy, then you will walk in the Spirit and not sin. Jesus said out of the treasure of your heart, your mouth speaks. If your thoughts are full of holiness and love then ungodly things will not proceed out of your mouth. Your heart is your soul which includes both the feelings and knowledge which both comes from your thoughts!

We will be spiritual if our thought patterns are after God, and they will be sinful if the flesh rules our thoughts. The devil uses our own carnality against us in this way, **SO THE MIND BECOMES A LITERAL BATTLEGROUND.** **ROMANS 8:5-8 (KJV) " 5 FOR THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE FLESH DO MIND THE THINGS OF THE FLESH; BUT THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE SPIRIT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT. 6 FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH; BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE. 7 BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD: FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE. 8 SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD. "**

What knowledge are you filling your mind with? Are you praying and submitting to the Holy Spirit so that He can renew your mind from being carnal into a spiritual direction? What are you feeding your mind with and who are you submitting to?

ROMANS 12:1-2 (KJV) “ 1 I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE. 2 AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE **TRANSFORMED** BY THE **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD. “

Quite literally, it takes consciously putting our flesh on the altar daily and wanting the Holy Spirit to renew or refresh our minds daily to keep us walking the walk of faith and the Spirit. If we walk in the Spirit, then we will NOT fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Before we can be used of God to touch others or this world, then we must have victory ourselves in our own mind. Our mind must belong to Jesus and He must sit on the throne of our lives if we want to have practical victory in this life.

That means that we must willingly put Jesus in charge of our thought life.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 (KJV) “ 3 FOR THOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH, WE DO NOT WAR AFTER THE FLESH: 4 (FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS;)

5 CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, **AND BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT** TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST; “

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5 (AMP) “ 4 FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT PHYSICAL [WEAPONS OF FLESH AND BLOOD], BUT THEY ARE MIGHTY BEFORE GOD FOR THE OVERTHROW AND DESTRUCTION OF STRONGHOLDS, 5 [INASMUCH AS WE] REFUTE ARGUMENTS AND THEORIES AND REASONINGS AND EVERY PROUD AND LOFTY THING THAT SETS ITSELF UP AGAINST THE [TRUE] KNOWLEDGE OF GOD; AND WE LEAD EVERY THOUGHT AND PURPOSE AWAY CAPTIVE INTO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST (THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE), “

Most of us understand that strongholds are areas that Satan and his demonic powers have set up in people’s lives to dominate and control them. It might be in an area such as living in **fear**, or an **addiction** such as **drugs** or **alcoholism**. It might be bondages of **lust** from everything to dominating lustful thoughts to **pornography** to **adultery** and **fornication** or **homosexuality**. It might be **greed** or **bitterness** or **false religion** or **idolatry**, **but they are areas that Satan sets up strongholds in the human mind to dominate the person.**

The greatest strongholds of evil such as murders and homosexuality and adultery and hatred all began as ungodly thoughts that were allowed to go and grow and form into literal strongholds that demons could come in and dominate. **IT ALL BEGAN WITH UNBRIDLED EVIL THOUGHTS.**

The Process of Building Strongholds:

1. Thoughts that are not under the Lordship of Jesus
2. Thoughts that in pride oppose the Truth or Knowledge of God
3. Evil imaginations or reasonings that are contrary to the will and truth of God (dwelling)
4. Strongholds which become the arena where demons rule humans

THE WORD OF GOD IS A MIGHTY WEAPON THAT NOT ONLY STOPS THE ENEMY BUT TEARS DOWN THESE SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS OF THE MIND. THE WORD OF GOD (THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT) CAN LITERALLY SEPARATE THOSE EVIL FOUNDATION THOUGHTS AWAY FROM US AND REVEAL THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES TEARING THE DOMINION OF EVIL OFF OF OUR LIVES.

HEBREWS 4:12 (KJV) “ 12 FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL, AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD, PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVIDING ASUNDER OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF THE JOINTS AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART. “

Hebrews 4:12 says the LOGOS, and Ephesians 6 says the RHEMA (spoken Word). The Word in our minds is the LOGOS. The Word that pushes back demons and sets others free in action is the RHEMA.

THE WORD OF THE SPIRIT OR LOGOS that becomes a part of us is what **TEARS DOWN STRONGHOLDS AND KEEPS EVIL THOUGHTS AT BAY**. You hear and read the truth of the Word and the Spirit activates it in our minds and it destroys the power of sin and evil over our lives.

When we **SPEAK THE WORD OVER OTHERS**, the same Holy Spirit activates that Word and brings delivering power to others. But before we can be effective in setting others free of their bondages, we **MUST** be free ourselves and the Word of God has to have its full effect in our own minds to keep strongholds torn down.

EPHESIANS 6:17 “ AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD: “

JOHN 1:1-2 (KJV) “ 1 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. 2 THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. “

JOHN 1:14 (KJV) “ AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. “

This is the same Holy Spirit and the same Word of God (which the full manifestation of which is the Lord Jesus Christ) in both cases. Both are the sword of the Spirit. But the spoken Word sets others free and literally tears down the strongmen in others. But the Logos written Word of God (Jesus is the Word – see John 1) in our minds is what puts thoughts under the control of Jesus and tears down those evil strongholds in our thinking.

One application is in using the sword to set others free, and the other is the work inside the actual battleground of the mind.

Let's go back to what the carnal does to our relationship to God. **ROMANS 8:5-8 (KJV) “ 5 FOR THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE FLESH DO MIND THE THINGS OF THE FLESH; BUT THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE SPIRIT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT. 6 FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH; BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE. 7 BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD: FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE. 8 SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD.”**

Not only can you not please God with a carnal mind, but the enemy will use your carnal mind to oppose God both in your life and in those other lives that you impact. It is easy to be used of the devil, sadly. Just don't pray and submit your mind and thoughts to God and the carnality of your own mind will become Satan's ally.

To be carnally minded is death, but that is exactly what all of us are unless we are praying and getting full of the Word and letting Jesus have rule over our thought lives. We have to surrender our thoughts to Jesus or the carnality of our flesh will mess our lives up.

We need to fill our souls or hearts with godliness and holiness so that God fills us up with His will and thinking and then we arm ourselves with the mind of Christ. We can think and be given the same love and concerns and convictions that Jesus has. The Holy Spirit will give us the mind of Christ if we want it. **DO WE WANT IT THOUGH? ARE WE WILLING TO SUBMIT TO GOD TO GET IT?**

1 PETER 4:1-2 (KJV) “ 1 FORASMUCH THEN AS CHRIST HATH SUFFERED FOR US IN THE FLESH, ARM YOURSELVES LIKEWISE WITH THE SAME MIND: FOR HE THAT HATH SUFFERED IN THE FLESH HATH CEASED FROM SIN; 2 THAT HE NO LONGER SHOULD LIVE THE REST OF HIS TIME IN THE FLESH TO THE LUSTS OF MEN, BUT TO THE WILL OF GOD. ”

Understand this: the strongholds in the individual's lives are built from ungodly thoughts that oppose God's Word. But if you build a stronghold in a person, be it that of sin like addiction or lust or bitterness and unforgiveness, then demons can come and use it to control and dominate that person.

If that stronghold is an ungodly iniquity (a spiritual sin) then it can open the door for demons to do more than just oppress or control the person, but to come inside and literally inhabit and possess the person. The church is called to use the authority of the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit... we are given the **KEYS TO THE KINGDOM** so that we **CAN CAST** out these unclean spirits.

But before God can use you as part of the church in setting others free, you have to be submitted to God and free in your own mind yourself! You have to get the **BATTLEFIELD OF YOUR OWN MIND** under Jesus' dominion before you can really be used of God to set others free.

MATTHEW 16:18-19 (KJV) 18 AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. 19 AND I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN.

Gates are stationary strongholds. We are given spiritual mighty weapons to tear down strongholds.

The church does have the keys or authority to tear down strongholds in Jesus' name, but before we can move in the power and authority of the church, then our own minds must be under the lordship of Jesus Christ first and the strongholds in us already torn down.

MATTHEW 15:18-20 (KJV) “ 18 BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH PROCEED OUT OF THE MOUTH COME FORTH FROM THE HEART; AND THEY DEFILE THE MAN. 19 FOR OUT OF THE HEART PROCEED EVIL THOUGHTS, MURDERS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, THEFTS, FALSE WITNESS, BLASPHEMIES: 20 THESE ARE THE THINGS WHICH DEFILE A MAN: BUT TO EAT WITH UNWASHEN HANDS DEFILETH NOT A MAN. “

To reiterate, this is what we must do: **ROMANS 12:1-2 (KJV)** 1 I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE. 2 AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD.