

## THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND

*2corinthians10: <sup>4</sup>(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup>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;*

The first warfare we are to engage in after our spirit is saved, is to possess our minds for the Lord. The mind has been a stronghold of the enemy; it is guarded by the enemy and must be overthrown. We must pursue the renewing of our mind.

Satan is the god of this world, the god of the air, the thought patterns that govern this present age. The natural reasoning's of human beings is the stronghold of Satan.

*2cornithinans 4: <sup>3</sup>But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Evil spirits blind the thoughts of unbelievers, so that the illumination of gospel of the glory of Christ will not shine upon them.

Before our spirit is born again, our thoughts prevent us from knowing God. There is a veil over the human heart that keeps us from knowing the Lord. When the Spirit of God begins to draw us and we turn to the Lord with all of our heart, the Lord removes this veil and quickens our spirit.

When our spirit is enlightened, the Spirit of God becomes real to us, and we taste of His divine nature and know that He is good. The life

of the Lord enters our spirit, but our soul is still not saved- it also has to be renewed. Our soul is basically our thought patterns and the feelings and desires of the human nature that govern us.

The mind is the stronghold of the enemy, and he can keep us a prisoner through our mind. Our mind is the part of us that is most easily influenced. Until we become broken in spirit, where we no longer lean-trust in our own understanding, the Holy Spirit cannot lead us into all the truth which transforms our life.

This reasoning of the unrenewed mind lifts itself up against the knowledge of God (the knowledge of the Lord is experiencing His nature). The self-nature is egocentric; it is easily puffed up because it is self-centered. When we no longer trust in our own ability to understand the Word, the Holy Spirit begins to teach us-this is called revelation knowledge. The Holy Spirit reveals to our spirit as it is communing with him, which illuminates our soul-mind. It is only as our spirit is crying out for the knowledge of the Lord, that His Spirit shines in our spirit to give us the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We fellowship with evil spirits through the mind, when we were pursuing the lusts of the flesh we were in complete agreement with the evil spirits. Once we turn from living unto our selves, to live unto the lord, all the temptations to please ourselves, come through the mind. The devil always entices us through thoughts. We cannot separate temptations from the mind. The enemy always entices us by turning temptations into some kind of thoughts.

*James1: <sup>14</sup>But every man is tempted* (occurring now-passive, desire to sin), *when he is drawn away* (to draw out, thoughts moving in a certain direction) *of his own* (properly one's own, belonging to oneself) *lust* (longing), *and enticed* (beguile-bait, trap, allure, delude). <sup>15</sup>*Then* (of order, succession) *when lust* (strong desire) *hath conceived*

(with-to lay hold of, to seize as a prisoner), *it bringeth forth* (to produce) *sin: and sin, when it is finished* (accomplished), *bringeth forth* (generate) *death*.

We are to be led by the Spirit, through the intuition of our spirit. The natural man is led mostly by his mind; the mind is what directs his conduct.

There has to be a change that takes place in the mind, before our spirit can be made alive with the life of the Lord. This is called repentance, we become willing through the conviction of the Spirit of God to turn from everything the Spirit of God is convicting us of, in order to know God and then God enlightens our spirit. Once our spirit is enlightened our mind is not completely delivered from the enemies workings. As the enemy previously worked through the mind, he still continues to work through the mind.

*2corn 11: <sup>2</sup>For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup>But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

We need to be concerned about having a right spirit at all times, as we learn how to have a right spirit, then the understanding will come in time. The more we seek to do the will of God, the more understanding will come. The teachings of the Holy Spirit are real simple, once our mind is renewed. Our focus is to be on walking in the word that has been revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, and then more light will be given.

The enemy attacks our mind more than any other part of our being. It is the battlefield of the mind. We are transformed by the

renewing of our minds. Until we come into the renewing of the mind, the enemy has access to us to lead us astray.

Before we believed into the Lord, the mind was the enemy's stronghold; even now there are still areas of our mind that have not been renewed. When the enemy has access to our mind through deception, he can cause us to lose the power of choice. We believe a lie, or we decide to do what is right but are unable to because of the thoughts that keep coming into our minds that do not originate in God. The temptations do not stop coming when we try and resist them, because our mind is still not renewed.

We can receive a new spirit, without receiving a new mind. Our mind may still be filled with opinions and ideals that do not originate in God. Many of God's people believe in false teachings, their minds are very narrow and prejudiced in their thoughts; they have made up their minds about the truth. They completely reject any teachings that do not agree with their prejudices.

Our mind has been defiled by sin, the world and the flesh. Just like our spirit has been renewed, our mind must be renewed. Part of the restoration of our soul is our mind being renewed. Our mind must be restored so that we not only glorify God with our spirit but also with our mind. In order to come into the fullness of the Spirit our minds must be renewed.

When our mind is affected by thoughts and imaginations that cannot be controlled it is the work of evil spirits. We have a soul tie that must be broken. It is the will of God that we control our spirit and our mind.

Our minds are attacked by evil spirits because we have given place to evil spirits in our mind. All sins arise when we give ground to evil spirits. When we pay attention to sin in our mind, we give the enemy a place to operate. When we yield to sin in the mind, we cannot resist the evil spirits behind that sin. All unclean, haughty, unkind or unrighteous thoughts give place for evil spirits to operate. Once we yield to these thoughts, they come back more easily the next time. Any time we accept the lies from evil spirits we give place to evil spirits.

The mind is not the organ for direct revelation from the Lord or fellowship with the Lord. We know the things of the Lord in our spirit, but we confirm them with our mind. The guidance we receive in the intuition of our spirit is sometimes contrary to the reasoning of our mind, this is when we must wait upon the Lord with a teachable spirit so that he can confirm his word. We receive the leadings of the Lord in our spirit and then we consider and ponder with our minds to see if what we received is of the Holy Spirit. Our mind is always secondary, but needed to examine every kind of leading to see if it is from God.

We are to understand what the will of the Lord is, proving what is good, acceptable and perfect. The Lord does not negate the faculty of our soul but renews and uses it.