



The Battle of the Mind

This is a War Against Sin in the Mind

- It's common to blame all that's bad on somebody else, or on some other circumstance external to yourself. This is covering your sin. (Hebrews 3:13 ; 2 Peter 2:16)
- The problem is inside of you. **Sin is a matter of the heart.**
- Lust of the eyes, flesh, & pride of life, are the **Sins of the mind** and take over the mind, emotion, affection, and will, and eventually manifests itself through actions.
- **Sinful behavior starts in the MIND (heart)**-begins with Temptation.
- Sanctification, separation from sin, is a work in your thought life.
- Sin is very deceptive and makes us think we don't have it by trusting in our own righteousness. **This is the downfall of losing the battle of the mind.**
- **The Battle of the Mind is the Battle Against Sin!!**

The Bible Urges us to Think!

- 1 Peter 1:13 “Therefore **gird up the loins of your mind**”
- Isaiah 1:18 “¹⁸ Come now, and **let us reason together, saith the LORD...**”
- **The greatest issue in the world today is the battle for the minds of people.**
 - Evil forces today are currently brainwashing the entire world with new ideological thoughts and doctrine.
 - We have seen the power of brainwashing in WW2 and many other times in history.
 - Minds can be coerced by many ways – by force, subliminal advertising, propaganda, drugs, becoming slaves of the “experts” instead of thinking ourselves, etc.
- The only source of Right Thinking is the Bible. Anything that is contrary to the Word is a lie and will result in wrong thinking.

The Importance of the Mind

Proverbs 4:23

- “**Guard** your **heart (mind)** with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.”

We must be diligent in what we allow our minds to receive (TV, books, games, conversations, etc.)

Proverbs 23:7

- “**For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.**”

Your thoughts will determine your character

Isaiah 26: 3

- “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, whose **mind** is stayed on You, Because he **trusts in You.**”

We must keep our mind focused on **TRUSTING Jesus** and the Word.

The Importance of the Mind

- **2 Corinthians 11:3** “³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your **minds** may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

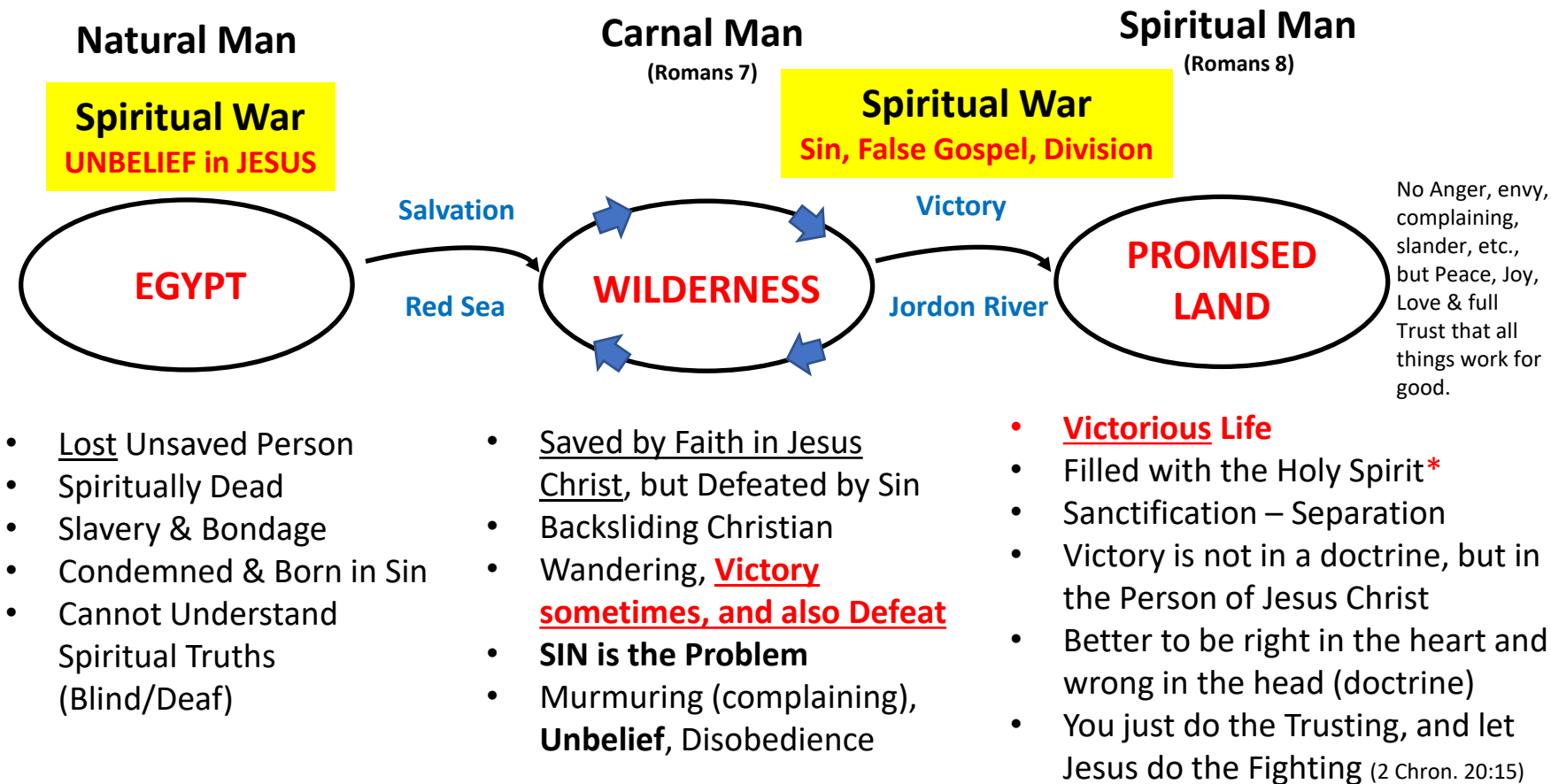
Satan tries to **corrupt** you mind (with false doctrine, error, lies)

- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** “³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose **minds** the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

Satan **blinds** the minds of unbelievers

The Spiritual Journey

Your **Thought Life** will reflect where you are Living



*** Requirements to be Filled with the Holy Spirit – to receive **POWER** over SIN & in SERVICE**

1. Confession & Renunciation of Sin (daily)
2. Obedience & Dedication (Bible, Prayer, Forgiveness, etc.)
3. Surrender (time, \$, self – “Deny Yourself”)
4. FAITH – TRUST IN JESUS like a child, Don’t Fear, just Believe

Natural, Carnal & Spiritual Man

- **Romans 8:5-11** – For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to 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
 - **Mind = Your thought life** - a person's basic orientation, affections & reasoning.
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• Natural Man

- Unsaved person, spiritually dead, mind is set on things of the world, selfish thoughts & desires, insensitive and **unable to understand the things of God**. **This person has no Conviction of Sin and no desire to repent.**

• Carnal Man

- Saved but sinning Christian living in the wilderness (**inward sins of the mind are the main problem**). The marks of a carnal man are **Envy, Strife & Division**. The Bible is a closed book or a book for intellectual pleasure only. A carnal man is useless to God. This person needs to confess & repent of their sin and nail that carnal sinner to the Cross (daily if necessary!)

• Spirit Filled

- Person is concerned about Godly things and deep longings for Holy Living to please God. **Discernment** is a main characteristic, the ability to know right from wrong. Even if they can't meet and combat apostasy and error, it's can recognizable so they can at least avoid it and be protected.

The War is Against Thoughts

The Battle is for Truth

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-6** “³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
- ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down **strongholds**, ⁵ casting down **arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**

The Spiritual Armour weapons are used against **THOUGHTS!**

Spiritual Strongholds are lies or false beliefs (THOUGHTS) from Satan. Sin is what creates Strongholds.

The only way to defeat falsehoods is by the “**Sword of the Spirit**” or the Truth of God’s Word. [John 17:17](#)

Any thought that is contrary to God’s Word must be taken captive

Strongholds = INCORRECT THINKING

- Literally speaking a Stronghold is a reference to a fortress to defend cities from invading armies.
- Satan establishes wrong ways of thinking in our minds and they become strongholds and keep us captive in sin. (i.e. Evolution; Philosophy; Feminism; Emotional damage from upbringing or relationships that create lies we believe).
- This state of mind, in particular, **takes the form of an argument, a false logic or speculation (that is contrary to the Word of God)**
- **When we sin, we give Satan an opportunity (Eph. 4:27) to build a stronghold in our minds.** It may be that we rationalize the sin and as a result feel no need to confess it.
- To destroy strongholds, we must first identify them and then replace the lies with the truth of the Bible.

Common Roots of Spiritual Strongholds

1. Sin

- If we don't acknowledge and confess our sin daily and ask for (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13) we break our fellowship with God and the Devil has an opportunity to establish a stronghold in unexposed sin in our lives.

2. Lies

- These are lies about God, about yourself and lies about how God sees you.

3. Occult

- Engaging in the occult is in an invitation for evil spirits to establish strongholds in your mind.

4. Un-forgiveness

- When we harbor bitterness against others the devil takes advantage by keeping us in bondage.
- We forgive because Jesus Christ forgave us for an even greater sin against God. Secondly, we forgive because it sets us free from bondage produced by bitterness.

The Christian Life is Warfare

1 Timothy 1:18 - ¹⁸ This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare**,

2 Timothy 2:3 - ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good **soldier of Jesus Christ**.

2 Timothy 2:4 - ⁴ No one engaged in **warfare** entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a **soldier**.

2 Timothy 4:7 - ⁷ **I have fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Ephesians 6:11-12¹¹ Put on the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood

Jesus Teaches on Sin & the Mind

- **Mark 7:14-23**
- **¹⁵ There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.** ¹⁶ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!" ...
- ²⁰ And He said, "**What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.** ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil **thoughts**, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

It is the "HEART" or the inner thought life (motives) that makes people unclean and is the source of sin.

This list of **Sins begins with EVIL THOUGHTS**, and implies that this first item leads to all the other specific sins. Combines Actions & Attitudes.

Summary of the Situation

1. We are in a war against Satan and Sin
 2. The Mind (or heart) is the Battlefield
 3. Satan tries to set up “strongholds” or incorrect ways of thinking in our minds.
 4. He does it though deliberate and crafty deceit and deception.
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- Example – You may be saved, pray and get Christian counsel for problems, but if you don’t recognize “strongholds” or pre-set ways of thinking which are contrary to scripture, you will remain in bondage (or living in the Wilderness).
- For every negative thought, confess it as sinful, and go to scripture and correct it.

Beware of Wrong Thinking

- Don't think you cannot be fooled by Satan into wrong thinking.
- Even Peter in the height of his spiritual mountain top was rebuked by Jesus for this very thing.

Matthew 16:23

But He turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for **you are not mindful of the things of God**, but the things of men.”

How You Win the Battle...The Word

The Truth Shall Make You Free – John 8:31-32

- 31 ... **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

The Principle of Measure – Mark 4:24-25

- 24 ... **“Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use (of thought and study of the Word), it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. 25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”**

How to Use the Word as a Weapon

- **Pray** – using the Word
- **Praise God** – using the Word
- **Meditate on the Word** – read the Word everyday
- **Speak the Word** - to rebuke the Devil like Jesus did in the Wilderness

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- **We need spiritual weapons to fight Satan and break strongholds. We need to know and trust the truth contained in the Bible to be set free from sinful thinking and defeat Satan.**

Society's Solution to Wrong Thinking

- **Counselling**
- **Prescription Drugs**
- **Institutional**

Proverbs 4:23

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with all diligence, For out of
it *spring* the issues of life.”

Satan, Pharmaceuticals & the State of Society

- The characteristics of the demoniac of Mark 5 is remarkably similar to drug addicts.
- The Bible indicates there is a relationship to sorcery, witchcraft and **MIND ALTERING** drugs.
- Drugs, Alcohol, sex and pornography obsession all have the ability to change the neural pathways in the brain (Neuroplasticity), thereby weakening one's ability to use their mind for spiritual warfare (i.e. capturing thoughts, renewing their mind, etc.).
- Mental illness, cutting, suicide, depression/isolation, extreme violence rates in society are increasing rapidly.
- **Rev. 18:23 & Gal. 5:19** contain the Greek word "**Pharmakeia**" meaning: sorcery, witchcraft, magic, potions, often involving medication and drugs.
- **Rev. 22:15** contains the Greek word "Pharmakeus" meaning: sorcerer, magician, pharmacist.
- The pharmacy industry is named after this Greek word Pharmakeia and in there are currently over **50%** of the population are on some form of Antidepressant or Opioid (mind altering drugs).
- **Vaccines now use "a radically new approach" using unethical ingredients** such as aborted fetal tissues and animal cells that contain introduce foreign DNA into patients. (see link)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db283.pdf> - **12.7% of people over 12 take Anti-Depressants**
 - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/more-than-one-third-americans-prescribed-opioids-in-2015/> - **38% of the Population took a prescribed Opioid in 2015!**
 - <https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news/antidepressants-associated-with-increased-risk-of-suicidal-thoughts-in-healthy-adults/20201834.article?firstPass=false>
 - <https://nationalpost.com/health/canadian-children-now-take-far-more-mood-altering-drugs> (253 antipsychotic prescriptions per 1,000 kids § 18)
 - <https://www.who.int/biologicals/areas/vaccines/dna/en/> - **Vaccines as described on WHO Website**

Solution

- **Philippians 4:8-9** “⁸ Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true**, whatever things *are noble*, whatever things *are just*, whatever things *are pure*, whatever things *are lovely*, whatever things *are of good report*, if *there is any virtue* and if *there is anything praiseworthy*—**meditate on these things**.
- **Romans 12:2**- ² And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- **Proverbs 3:5** “**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;**