

WE'RE IN THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

“The Battle for Your Mind”

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high place” Eph. 6:12.

“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.” Rom. 12:2

“The Interpretation of God’s Word without its Application is Abortion.”

By Pastor Del Wray

The battlefield or realm in which our spiritual warfare takes place is in the mind of every believer in Christ. We wrestle, or strive and struggle in our minds against world systems, the flesh or the carnal nature, and the devil. The mind encompasses our thoughts; imagination, reasoning, and intellect, as well as our emotions and will. In all of these aspects lies the very heart of an individual. By our thoughts and feelings we determine our will and purpose for our lives. As Christians, we seek to live by the truth and power of God because they are our assurance of God's promised victory in each and every situation in life, and we are not ignorant of the reality of evil, and the destruction that surrounds our world on a daily basis. It is in this process that we will encounter a very real spiritual struggle in our thoughts, emotions and will because the adversary knows that these areas are directly related to the power of our faith, and means to receiving the promises of God. “The adversary's goal is to weaken the faith of every Christian.” Thus, when you find one weakening the faith of other believers you can be sure it is the work of the devil. And the devil uses other Christians. It is my purpose in this document to both warn and uplift God’s people.

Spiritual warfare consists of struggling against evil forces in our minds. The Bible is clear that this is not a battle which is fought on a physical plane at all, but rather a spiritual one:

Who are those principalities, powers, rulers or darkness and such? They all stem from Satan's kingdom, but since Satan is not omnipresent, can be everywhere at once, he works through a network or an army of demon spirits. When a person says, “The devil is on my trail!” it is highly unlikely that Satan himself is assigned to the job, but rather one of the troops in his army, which would be a demonic spirit.

It’s been said that the “mind is the devil’s work shop.” In 1965, “The Invisible War” was written, a book detailing the war that goes on in the mind of every human being, especially the believer. A violent battle is raging around us 24 hours a day. It is the battle for your mind, and that battle is vicious. It is intense. It is unrelenting, and it is unfair because the Devil never plays fair. If the believer only could accept how severe that war is there would be a lot more “fear of God” in our churches. And the reason why the battle is so intense is that your greatest asset is your mind. It is our duty to never cease in warning Christians of this war and to compel them to safeguard their minds. “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what the nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires” Romans 8:5-6. This war is great and its magnitude unthinkable, the balance between life and death.

“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” Rom 8:5-6.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” Rom. 8:6.

Even following the new birth, even after a man is saved the believer’s mind is still not free from the wiles of the Devil. As the enemy worked through the mind in former days, so today will he work in the same manner? Paul, in writing to the Corinthian believers, confided that he was afraid.

“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” 2 Cor. 11: 3.

The Apostle well recognizes that as the god of this world blinds the mind of unbelievers so will he deceive the mind of the believers. Even though they are saved their life of thought is as yet unrenewed; consequently it remains the most strategic battleground. The mind suffers the onslaughts of the powers of darkness more than any other area of the whole man. We should realize that satanic spirits are directing special attention to our minds and are attacking them unrelentingly, *“as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning.”* The Devil did not assail Eve’s heart first but rather her head. Similarly today, the evil spirits first attack our head, not our heart, in order to have us corrupted from the simplicity and purity which is towards Christ. They fully understand how it is the weakest point in our entire being, for it had served as their fortress before we believed and even now is not yet entirely overthrown. Attacking the mind is the easiest avenue for them to accomplish their purpose. Eve’s heart was sinless and yet she received the Devil’s suggested thoughts. She was thus beguiled through his deception into forfeiting her reasoning and tumbling into the snare of the enemy. Let a believer accordingly be careful in his boast of possessing an honest and sincere heart, for unless he learns how to repulse the evil spirits in his mind he will continue to be tempted and deceived into losing the sovereignty of his will. The mind must be totally captivated by God’s Word saturated noon the less.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD” Isa. 55:8.

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed EVIL THOUGHTS, adulteries, fornications, murders...” Mark 7:21.

Paul continues by telling us from whence this danger comes:

“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him” 2 Cor. 11:4.

The peril for the Christian is to have false teaching injected into his thought life so as to lead him astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. These are the works the “serpent” is perpetrating today. Satan has disguised himself as an angel of light to lead saints to worship with their intellect a Jesus other than the Lord, to receive a spirit other than the Holy Spirit, and by these to propagate a gospel other than the gospel of the grace of God. Paul pronounces these to be nothing else than the deeds of Satan in the Christian’s mind. The adversary translates these “doctrines” into thoughts and then imposes them upon the mind of the Christian. How tragic that few appreciate the reality of these activities! Few, indeed, who would ever think that the devil could give such evil thoughts to God’s vessels, we cannot trust our minds, we cannot trust our thoughts, the fall has affected the entire man even the thought life, it has even tainted our sight, our hearing, our feelings the complete man. That’s why you hear the phrase “Total Depravity” all of man lies in ruin from the fall. Man cannot be trusted!

It is possible for a child of God to have a new life and a new heart but be without a new head. With too many saints, the mind, though their heart is new, is still quite old. Their heart is full of love whereas their head is totally lacking in perception. How often the intents of the heart are utterly pure and yet the thoughts in the head are confused. Having become saturated with a mishmash of everything, the mind lacks the most single element of all, which is spiritual insight. Countless saints genuinely love all children of God, but unfortunately their brain is stuffed with a hodgepodge of theories, opinions and objectives. Quite a number of God's best and most faithful children are the most narrow-minded and prejudice-filled. Already have they decided what the truth is and what truth they shall accept? They reject every other truth because these do not blend in with their preconceived notions. Their head is not as expansive as their heart. Moreover, there are other children of God whose mind can conceive no thought whatever. No matter how many truths have been heard they can neither remember nor practice nor communicate them to others. These have certainly heard a lot, yet they possess no ability to express any of it. For many years they have received truths, but not even a little can they supply for the needs of others. Perhaps they may even brag how full they are of the Holy Spirit! What creates such symptoms is an unrenewed mind.

Man's head damages people more than man's heart! Were believers to learn how to distinguish the renewal of heart from the renewal of head, they would not commit the mistake of believing in man. Christians ought to realize that even one who maintains a most intimate fellowship with God may nevertheless unknowingly have accepted Satan's suggestions in his mind, which consequently precipitate errors in his conduct, words and viewpoints! Aside from the plain teaching of the Bible no man's words are entirely trustworthy. We must not live by a man's words just because we admire or respect that man. His utterance and conduct may be most holy but his thought may not be spiritual. What we therefore observe is not his speech and behavior but his mind. Were we to believe, because of one's life conduct, that what a worker says is God's truth, we would then be making man's word and demeanor our standard of truth instead of the Bible. History is strewn with innumerable cases of sanctified saints who propagated heresies! The simple explanation is that their hearts were renewed but their minds remained old. We will undeniably acknowledge that life is more important than knowledge. Indeed, the former is a thousand times more consequential than the latter. Nonetheless, after some growth in life it is essential to seek the knowledge which proceeds from a renewed mind. We should see how urgent it is for both heart and head to be renewed.

As human beings we are blessed to have great minds and bodies given to us by God. And he wants to bless us and enable us to use them for His greatest glory and our utmost potential. This can be achieved as we keep our focus on him. Proverbs 19:21 says, "*Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*" So as we align our hearts and minds with the Lord, then our purpose on earth will not only be clear but successful.

THE THREE KINDS OF MINDS: There are three types of minds mentioned in Scripture. You have one of them. There is the natural mind, the carnal mind, and the spiritual mind.

Natural Mind — Unsaved

1 Corinthians 2:14, "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*"

This is a non-Christian. He has no spiritual appetite for the things of God. He cannot comprehend spiritual truth. He is dead in trespasses and sin Ephesians 2:1. He may be outwardly religious and morally clean but cannot comprehend the Christian life. His thoughts will be what are right in his own eyes, situation ethics, humanism. The natural mind thinks whatever comes natural to a lost person.

Carnal Mind — Worldly Christian

Romans 8:7, *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*

Carnal means “of the flesh.” The carnal mind is a saved person who lives for the flesh. The church at Corinth was full of carnal Christians. Paul called them babies. He said they could only swallow the milk of the Word. They had to be taught when they should have been teaching. They were cliquish, immature, divisive, and easily offended.

The Christian with a carnal mind is not satisfied in Christ alone. He chases after things, amusements, and delights rather than in the things of God. He is quarrelsome, touchy, and often is the source of church problems. He has feeble digestion and cannot get his own food spiritually. Deep Scriptures do not interest him. There is very little difference, if any, between the natural man and the carnal minded man.

The lost see no difference and have no conviction when around a carnally minded Christian. The carnal mind needs to get right with God, be serious, and fill itself with scriptures! 1 Corinthians 3:1- 4; Romans 7:14-15; James 4:4.

Spiritual Mind-Spiritual Christian

1 Corinthians 2:15, *“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”*

This is the Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit and has a mind full of Scriptures. He is mature, has understanding of spiritual things, has the ability to teach other Bible truths, and is fruitful. He has the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”*

If you think the thoughts Jesus did, you will live the way Jesus did. To do that we must think Scriptures, meditate upon them. Because of that, our minds will be going forward, will not be in neutral and will not have a chance to go backward, backslide. The spiritual minded man needs to make sure he does not get satisfied. Hebrews 5:12, 14; 1 Corinthians 3:3; Galatians 5:22-23. The Bible believer’s greatest danger is being satisfied with his Christian life. **LET US NOT BECOME SATISFIED!**

Partial List of Demons to Cast Out, In The Name Of Jesus:

Rebellion, Passive Mind, Fleshly Mind, Immorality, Impurity, Indecency, Sorcery, Mind Control Drugs, Enmity, Strife, Jealousy, Anger, Ill Temper, Party Spirit, Peculiar Opinions, Moral Stagnation, Stoicism, Filthy Minded, Glutton, Weak Willed, Unlawful, Lack of Concentration, Retrogression, Listlessness, Lethargy, Skepticism, Indecision, Drugs, Mental Stagnation, Incoherence, Hesitation, Tortured Mind, Backsliding, Unsettled Mind/Emotions, Idiosyncrasies, Futile Mind, Evil Plotting/Planning, Intimidation, Doubt, Unbelief, Indecision, Worry, Forgetfulness, Heresies, Envy, Drunkenness, Carousing, Depressing, Despondency, Defeatism, Doubt, Dejection, Despair, Discouragement, Gloom, Burden, Disgust, Withdrawal, Daydreaming, Pouting, Fantasy, Pretension, Unenthusiastic, Unreality, Escape, Deceit, Importance, Believing Lies, Demonic Manipulation, Restless, Darkened Mind, Spiritism Spirits, Excessive Talking, Pushing to Extremes, Uncontrolled Will, Attitude of Infallibility, Inability to Reason, Lazy, Unteachableness, Spirit of Division, Antagonism to Truth About Evil Spirits, Lack of Moral Vision or Judicial Balance, Oppression of Self and others, Believing Teachings of Demons, Exaggerated View of Self, Good or Bad, Unqualified Obedience to Demons, Counterfeiting God, Presence of God, Divine, Human, Angelic and Satanic Things, Supernatural Visions and Voices, Dread, Compromise,

Hopelessness, Self-seduction, heaviness, fear of failure, nervousness, unbelief, tension, mental illness, madness, senility, schizophrenia, paranoia, carelessness, suspicion, false love, fear of women, fear of men, distrust, automatic failure, confusion, frustration, self-righteousness, arrogance, lying, recriminating, unrepentant, blinded mind, mind control, excuses, dissension, not making decisions, pride, inability to listen, nerve irritation, evil positiveness, prejudice, procrastination, insomnia, roving, morbidity, maniac, apprehension, self-deception, unfounded fears, self-delusion, pride, occult spirits, Spiritism spirits, mind idolatry, intellectualism, rationalization, unholy laughter, ego, vanity, hate of men/women, hysteria, mockery, haughtiness, unresisting to evil, unresponsive to God, unproductive behavior, reprobate mind, cult spirits, excessive weeping, shame, embarrassment, emotionalism, rage, unrelaxd mind, vain imaginations.

“The Battle for Your Mind Is On”