

The Runaway Mind
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Jerry French

We do battle daily in our mind. We are conquerors of our mind through spiritual warfare.

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.

Ephesians 6:12, "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 places."

Who are those principalities, powers, rulers of 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.

Two types of spiritual warfare:

Offensive and Defensive

Defensive

In defensive spiritual warfare, demonic spirits (under Satan's command) are launched what is known as fiery darts, as **Ephesians 6:16 tells us:**

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

These fiery darts come in one of three forms: temptations, deceptions and accusations.

Dart #1: Temptations

Satan couldn't freely play havoc on Eve's life because he had no rights to her, so what did he do? He went about trying to get her to give him those rights. He tempted her to sin because sin gives the devil a foothold in our lives. Ephesians 4 is telling us to put off our old sinful nature and in verse 27, it tells us that we can give the devil a foothold in our lives through sin:

"Neither give place to the devil"

The devil tempted Eve in the garden because he had no "place" in Eve's life, but he wanted one! If Satan wants more legal grounds in our lives, you can expect some temptations to come your way. That's his way of getting you to fall and give him a place to operate. The moment we fail and sin, it is important to quickly turn from those sins and repent so that we can be forgiven and the legal ground removed.

Dart #2: Deception

The enemy has deceived them and caused them to believe and live a lie. If we allow deception to take hold, strongholds can then be formed in our minds. Strongholds are incorrect thinking

patterns based on falsehood. Demonic spirits love to use these strongholds to their advantage against a child of God. Strongholds have tremendous power to affect our feelings and emotions. Many blood-bought children of God Almighty feel guilt-ridden and worthless because they don't see themselves the way they ought to. Christians feel unloved and not good enough to be accepted by God because they see Him wrongly. Their perception of Him has been damaged and causes them to see Him as a distant and cruel taskmaster instead of a close loving Father who longs (deeply desires) to have an intimate loving relationship with them.

2 Corinthians 11:3: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled (deceived) Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Dart #3: Accusations

Satan is known to be the accuser of the brethren. Not the accuser of the sinners or the world, but the children of God. He could care less about badgering those who are in his kingdom, but he loves to pick on the children of God.

Revelations 12:10, "...the accuser of the brethren..."

He accuses us by reminding us of our past sins and failures. If we listen to his accusations against us, we will begin to feel guilt-ridden and see ourselves as failures. Both of which has been dealt with on the cross! Has not the blood of Jesus washed away our sin? Then we ought not to be thinking about it anymore.

Satan loves to take a child of the Almighty God, who's been washed clean in the blood of Jesus and is without spot or blemish, and make them feel dirty, worthless and see them self as a failure. If we pay attention to the devil's accusations, they too can form strongholds in our minds that need to be torn back down before we can experience freedom.

Offensive Spiritual Warfare

Then we have offensive spiritual warfare, which usually consists of tearing down strongholds that have been formed in our minds. Since strongholds are incorrect thinking patterns based on error, the correct weapon we are supposed to use to tear down such strongholds is through meditating on and applying the truth, which is found in the Word of God.

Ephesians 6 speaks of the weapons that we are to use in spiritual warfare, and in verse 17 we are told to take up the sword of the Spirit, the offensive piece of weaponry:

"...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

A sword is an offensive weapon meant to tear down and destroy the enemy. This is exactly what meditating on the truth in God's Word does to strongholds, it tears them down! Strongholds are built on error, and torn down through truth.

The devil tells you: "You're a failure! Look at your past!"

God's Word tells you: "What past? The blood of Jesus has washed it away!"

If you meditate on the error, you will begin to feel guilty and see yourself as a failure, but if you meditate on God's Word, you begin to feel clean and victorious!

Spiritual warfare is a battle that goes on in our minds between error and truth. If we can know the truth and focus on it, while at the same time ignoring the error, we will be successful in spiritual warfare.

The pattern of "this world", this age, the times in which we live, comes to us through the 5 senses. However the Word is clear: "Do not conform..." The positive action we must take is to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Watchman Nee wisely observed: "How many of God's children, although hitherto saved and possessed of a new life, still carry about them an old head. The command of the Word is to renew the mind, to bring it back to the state of newness that God intended.

In **Ephesians 4:22-23** it says "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds."

Here the Greek text employs a different word for "renewed" (KJV), "new" (NIV) -- a word meaning "rejuvenate". Get some life, a new zest into your mind. Notice also the words "put off" (verse 22) and "put on" (vs 24). The old deceitful desires which are corrupt have to be put off; the new attitudes of your mind which are "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (vs 24) have to be put on. Both actions imply work.

Colossians 3:1-3: Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

Notice in verse 10: "And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." Here the renewal of our minds is to revelation knowledge from God, not to sense knowledge or the reason of man.

Verse 16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..." The renewing of the mind is to fill it with what God says in His Word, so that the Word does "dwell richly" in you. Now you can walk and act upon it, and live the great life that God has made available for you.

Renewing the mind is the replacement of our old values with the attitudes, beliefs, and concepts of God as revealed in His word.

Satan's primary attack will be against the mind of the believer. The mind is the only territory over which you have complete control. **You** determine what you think about; **you** determine what you do.

7 Scriptures to Transform Our Minds

1. "By Taking our Thoughts Captive and Subject them to Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:5: We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

2. Develop a Biblical Worldview

Colossians 3:16-17: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

3. By Guarding Our Minds With Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

4. By Drawing Near to God in Praise

James 4:8: "Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

5. By Choosing Our Focus

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

6. By Engaging in Godly Fellowship

Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

7. Focus on Trust

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight."