

Spiritual Warfare: It's All in Your Head

Agreement (Amos 3:3) = Faith

Choice: Agreement and Challenge (Experience vs Word)

Not just what we Say, but what we Believe. (Mind)

The Battlefield is our **Minds**!

Battle Devils (Eph 6:12) and Our Flesh (Gal 5:17)

often don't need to determine because weapons equally effective (sometimes authority)

(2Co 10:3-5) ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For 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,

1. Identify/Pull Down **Strongholds**: Confront Believed Lies (Truth Jn 8:32)

2. Cast Down **Arguments**: Reject Humanistic Reasoning

(2Co 11:3) ³But 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.

(Col 2:2-4, 8) ²and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ... ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

3. Cast Down whatever Competes with the **Knowledge of Him**: His Ways (Hos 4:6)

(Ho 6:3, 6) ³Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD... ⁶For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

(Pr 9:10) ¹⁰"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

(Isa 11:9) ⁹ the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

(Ep 1:17-19) ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

(Ep 4:13) ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

(Phl 3:8) ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

(2Pe 1:3-4) ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given

to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

4. Take Control of Your **Thoughts**: Mind (Obeying Christ)

(Ro 12:2) ²And 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.

Renewed Mind isn't just no bad thoughts, but thinking His Thoughts

(1Co 2:14-16) ¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

We Pursue the Knowledge of Him so we can Think Like Him!

Thoughts Determine Actions. (think like Him to act like Him)

(Jas 3:13-17) ¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶For where *envy* and *self-seeking* exist, *confusion* and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first *pure*, then *peaceable, gentle, willing to yield*, full of *mercy* and *good fruits, without partiality* and *without hypocrisy*.

We especially need His Thoughts toward Others (Higher - Phil 2:3)

He Thinks/Acts Differently than we do. (Isa 55:8-9)

example - Delights: doing God's will (Ps 40:8), men who deal truthfully (Prov 12:22),
prayer of the upright (Prov 15:8), fear of the Lord (Isa 11:3),
when someone knows and understands Him (Jer 9:24), mercy (Mic 7:18),
His people (Psa 16:3) - many believed lies are His thoughts toward us
He is the Happiest Man ever (Psa 45:7/Heb 1:9) - fear? worry? anger?

Emotions and Spiritual Warfare: we/God have them, they make poor guides (can lie)

Rachel's Dream: Faith/Feelings, Truth/Experience

Bible on Feelings (Prov 29:11)

Don't Validate Feelings, Rule them (Prov 25:28) - teach your children

Validate Truth - Identity, Intrinsic Value to God

Renewed Mind Determines Feelings (Isa 26:3) - not other way around