

Satan's Strongholds are Thoughts

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 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; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Satan's strongholds are thoughts. If the devil can get you to entertain his thoughts; fear, anxiety, doubt, apprehension, and so on, he can have a doorway to controlling your mind. He will put a ring in your nose and lead you around if you let him, but we don't have to let him. The Word of God tells us how to be victorious. It shows us how to be more than conquerors in Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

To simply try and resist the devil without doing the rest of what this Word says is to be taking it out of context. Vs. 8 says Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Double mindedness is another way of saying you are wishy washy when it comes to what you believe, or that you are not settled in your spirit that the Word of God is true. There is a cure for that. Find out what God's Word has to say, and then hear it, meditate on it, let it take root in your spirit. Let faith arise in your heart.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Double-mindedness is quoting the Word of God with your mouth and not really expecting it to come to pass; your allowing doubt and unbelief to be your ruler.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

If you really don't believe God's Word concerning a thing, and just think that if you have a good confession concerning what ever you desire, that it will come to pass, you're amiss.

Fear, doubt, anxiety, and other such tools of the devil come to us through our mind. To try to stand against such things without first having our minds renewed with the Word of God is going to cause failure and a defeated attitude. In order for us to appropriate the victory purchased for us by the Lord Jesus Christ, we must first renew our minds with the Word of God, and begin to look at ourselves as God looks at us.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

THEN, we can confess the Word of God and be steadfast in it, and not be double-minded and we will see the end result of it. Many times we know what the Word of God says about different areas of life and we may see some victories, but if the outward circumstances do not always agree with the Word of God, we think our faith has failed and we get discouraged and allow condemnation to come in from the enemy. This is truly the trial of our faith, we must make a choice to stand up for what we believe: The circumstances of life or the Word of God.

I know that it is not always easy to bring your thought life into captivity to the obedience of Christ, but God's Word tells us to do it, therefore we can.

We cannot do it by our own power or by the strength of our own intellect. A Christian cannot lead a victorious life except by the anointing of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. We have to go to the Word of God first, and then lean on the Spirit of God for our strength.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

We must allow God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit to charge our spirits until our spirit is dominating our mind and flesh, or the world and the devil will join forces and defeat us. By allowing our born again spirits empowered by the Word of God to dominate our mind, we can bring it into subjection to God's Word and stand victorious when all Hell is coming against us. Then the devil cannot toss us around with doubtful thoughts, or discouragement, and gain supremacy over us.

When a Christian learns that the circumstances of life does not at all show where he or she is spiritually, he or she will rejoice, for when we learn that our recreated human spirit can be masters of our intellect and senses, we can have a strong and constant faith life.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Spiritual mindedness is more than just thinking about Heaven, it is not allowing your mind to be swayed by circumstances or doubtful thoughts, and is putting your mind under submission to the Word of God.

By constantly dwelling on God's Word and meditating on His precepts we bring our mind into submission to God's will. God's Word is God's will.

When we renew our mind to the point where doubt has no more room, the power of faith can be released and results obtained. Satan loves to attack the thought lives of Christians. He batters Christians with thoughts of fear, anxiety, worry, sickness, defeat, and death. But we can be victorious in Jesus Christ for He has shown us how to be.

We opened up with 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 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;

We have a part to play in victory, these are our weapons, we have to use them. God will not use them for us. Renewing our mind is an ongoing experience, we must die to self daily, we must continually keep our mind under subjection to what God's Word is saying. This means we have to feed on God's Word continually to be made strong. When negative thoughts come, and they will, we have been given the tools to deal with them.

Php 4:

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Attitude Check

Today will be a good day because:

- 1. God is with me as He promised*
- 2. He will meet my every genuine need*
- 3. I can fellowship with Him at a moment's notice*
- 4. He will show His love and grace*
- 5. He will be more than enough for me today*

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Spurgeon: Where God's command is our authority we can afford to be bold. Who shall gainsay us when the Lord of Hosts gives us leave? Fear, in such a case, is dishonor to our Invincible Commander. When the Lord is on his side, confidence is but the reasonable condition of a believing man.