

“Our Mind, the Battleground”

Our mind reasons, imagines, remembers, comprehends and exhibits emotion. It's the center of intellectual activity and defines who we are. Biblically speaking, the mind can be evil (Romans 1:28), fleshly (Col. 2:18 KJV), vain (Eph. 4:17), corrupt (I Timothy 7:5; II Timothy 2:18) or religious (Matthew 23). It can, on the other hand, assist us in loving the Lord with our whole mind (Matt. 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27). It can also be renewed, revived or empowered by the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:2).

Our mind is continually affected by what is put into it. If you permit rubbish (trash) from your sinful nature to partner with demonic influence allowing it to invade your mind, then the result will be, trash in/ trash out! This is why our ungodly thoughts blind us. Paul recognized that Satan blinds (which is his method to manipulate) the mind of the unbeliever as well as deceives the believer.

II Corinthians 11:3 says: “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

It's important to note that at the point of the salvation experience, **we were completely redeemed**. Christians, although saved, may not fully comprehend this truth. As a result of not understanding that we are new creatures in Christ Jesus, our mind becomes a battleground between the Lord, Satan and our desires. Many times, because of our weakened spiritual condition, we succumb to our flesh. However, as we become aware of this internal conflict and surrender our minds to the Holy Spirit, He will give us total victory.

How can we determine whether our thoughts are motivated by the Holy Spirit or something else? First, we must decide whether the thoughts that we're having are satanically induced or we're operating in our natural mindedness. For example, in the midst of an event are you peaceful or composed? Are you operating at normal mental and spiritual levels? If the answer to this is “yes” and suddenly a thought flashes across your mind, accentuating extreme demonic overtones, more than likely demons just spoke to you. Another way to examine whether what you have experienced is demonic might be through asking yourself the following questions:

1. **Do I think this way?**
2. **Are these thoughts my thoughts?**
3. **Do I want to think this way?**
4. **Has this thought come from left field?**

If the answer to the first three questions is “no” and the answer to the last question is “yes” then you can be sure demonic forces are trying to influence you. The reason I can make such a statement is because; every ungodly thought comes either from an evil spirit, an unregenerate mind or from a blinded mind. The Lord would never violate your will and does not place evil thoughts in your mind. The Lord illuminates and guides, He will never infringe.

If we allow them, demonic spirits will plant evil thoughts in us overtly (not secret) or covertly (secret). They may also block or filter our spiritual thoughts. The Bible distinctly conveys that the powers of darkness are capable of imparting ideas or stealing them from us.

John 13:2 says: (imparting)

"The devil had already put it (the thought) into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him (Jesus).

Matthew 13:9 says: (stealing)

"When anyone hears the message about the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one (Satan) comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart."

So why are the minds of Christians so beset by evil spirits? It's because we either allow the demons access to our minds or we don't understand spiritual things. If we will go to the Lord for illumination of God's Word and surrender our minds to the Holy Spirit, we will operate according to Kingdom principles and be victorious over Satan's onslaughts. Further, our minds belong to us and without our permission Satan and his minions are powerless to control or use it. Unless we voluntarily surrender our minds to the demonic, they have no right to encroach upon it!

There are many ways Satan manipulates you to believe his lies, and one way he can influence you is through your emotions. The enemy will infiltrate your mind causing you to feel emotionally disconnected (isolated and independent), rejected (embarrassed), abandoned (pride touched) or betrayed (hurt). That's why it's important not to allow your emotions to control your thoughts. You must learn to walk in the Holy Spirit and to trust the Lord, even after we have made a mistake and are learning from it. Our tendency is to think that God, through His mercy, will rectify our mess and put everything into right order. This is true if we repent of our actions and ask the Lord to forgive us. Nevertheless, you can be assured the Lord will allow whatever issue occurred from your unwise choices to become a training tool that brings deliverance and healing. He does this in order to teach us that there's a better way.

As I stated previously, at the point of salvation the whole man is saved. This statement is true, except I don't think we believe it. If we did, our circumstances would be drastically different. Therefore we must repent for not believing the fullness of our salvation. We should ask the Lord to reveal to us that our minds have been renewed and then ask Him to forgive us for rebelling against that truth. Once we understand and accept the fullness of our redemption, it'll change our lives. We must partner with the Lord to hold captive every thought, demonic or natural, so they will not control us ever again. I have constructed a list of things that may help you have a Spirit led mind.

They are:

- First and foremost we must put on the whole armor of Christ (Ephesians 6).
 - We must ask the Lord to show us that our minds are redeemed.
 - We must ask the Lord to cleanse our minds with His precious Blood.
 - When unclean, unredeemed thoughts flash across our minds we must command them to leave, in Jesus name!
 - Jot down some scriptures that you can use against demonic powers as they try to invade your space.
 - Learn to submit to the delegated authority in this church, including the Elders.
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- As the enemy tries to invade your mind, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with His presence. Read God's word and use praise music as a tool against the enemy. This will push back Satan's onslaught causing him to retreat!
- Capture every demonic laden thought and make it obedient to Christ!
- Be led of the Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 10:4-6 says:

*"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension (deception) that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we (action) take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**"*

Conclusion

- Jeremiah 4:14 says, "How long will you harbor evil thoughts?"
- Deuteronomy 15:9 says, "Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought."

Job talks about those who harbor resentment in their hearts and the Psalmist talks about those who harbor malice in their minds. James converses about those who allow bitter envy and selfish ambitions to harbor within them. Jesus conveyed the same basic idea when asking, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your minds?" In conclusion, Paul said in Romans 13:14, "Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." With such a deposit of truth we must not give into our carnal desires or demonic influence, rather we must disallow any of these sinful acts to permeate our hearts.

The Bible describes our minds as a ship looking for a harbor. Though you may be unable to keep disease-ridden ships from sailing back and forth on the ocean, you can refuse them docking privileges in the harbor of your mind.

Pray

Lord, today I ask you to give me strength to say "no" to my sinful nature and demonic influence. I stand in agreement with you that anything that is contrary to what you have said about me is cancelled. Thank you Lord that you have given me the power to overcome every obstacle. I declare and decree that my partnership with the enemy is over today! I further ask that you would repair any damage that I have caused to others or myself because of my poor choices. I ask that you would redeem the time and cause your precious Blood to make everything brand new that I have made a mess of in my life, in Jesus name, amen!

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