

SPIRITUAL WARFARE – 3 DECEMBER 12, 2018

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

Last week we discussed being clothed with the Armor of God so we would be able to withstand the strategies of our enemy. Tonight, our focus is on executing our game plan.

- Notice Paul's words, (war, weapons, warfare, strongholds, casting down), it's as if he takes us to the frontlines of a battlefield.
- Notice the battlefield – The mind. Paul compares the mind to a fortress or castle under siege.
- There's a battle raging in the mind of every person, and the only prisoner that can be taken is me or you.
- The devil wants to make our mind his spiritual headquarters because he knows if he can control our mind, he can control us.
- In football, coaches know the team that controls the line of scrimmage usually wins the game.
- In spiritual warfare, whoever controls the mind, controls the life. Remember **PROVERBS 23:7** "As a man thinketh...so is he..." The mind is the control center of who we are.
- We are responsible to guard our minds and cast down or keep out thoughts and imaginations that contradict God's Word.

GALATIANS 6:7-8

The law of sowing and reaping is simple. Sow corn, reap corn. We get what we plant. We don't expect to reap watermelon if we plant cantaloupe. Likewise, we can't expect to reap spiritual power by sowing to the flesh.

- **ROMANS 8:5-8 (NKJV)** – If we are experiencing defeat over sin, if we lack power, if we're not walking in the fullness of God, we need to examine our thought life. God has created us in such a way that our actions follow our thoughts.
- Before Christ, our mind was enemy – held territory. **EPHESIANS 2:1-3 (ESV)**, **COLOSSIANS 1:21-22 (ESV)** When we think wrong, we behave wrong. "Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit, sow a habit, reap a character, sow a character, reap a destiny."

EPHESIANS 4:27

Satan has many tools he uses to infiltrate the mind.

- Darkness – **2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4**; A veil **2 CORINTHIANS 3:14-15**; Corruption, **2 CORINTHIANS 11:3** – Corrupt means to infect, decay, or contaminate.
- Magazines, music, media, movies: A film makers study reports that 55% say they have no religion; 96% never or seldom attend church; 96% pro-abortion; 93% homosexuality is ok; 87% adultery is ok; 99% feel TV isn't critical of traditional values; **1 TIMOTHY 4:1-3**, seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

LUKE 4:13 (ESV)

Satan won't let go without a fight. Not with Jesus, not with us.

THE GAME PLAN – JAMES 1:21

1. Recognize the enemy: North and south Vietnamese looked, talked and dressed the same. It was hard to recognize the enemy.
2. Prepare the mind for action. **1 PETER 1:13 (ESV)**
3. Renew the mind. **ROMANS 12:2, ACTS 17:11**
4. Change how we think. **EPHESIANS 4:23 (TLB)**
5. Practice thought replacement. **ISAIAH 55:8, PHILIPPIANS 4:7-8**
6. Keep the mind stayed on God. **ISAIAH 26:3**
7. Use our spiritual weapons. **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5**