



## 2.17 - The Battlefields of the Mind and the Flesh.

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(Scriptures from KJV)

### Foundation Scriptures:

#### Gal 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* <sup>17</sup> **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would.** <sup>18</sup> *But if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law.* (KJV)

#### Gal 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> *But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).* <sup>17</sup> **For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.** <sup>18</sup> *But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law.* (AMPC)

#### Rom. 8:37

<sup>37</sup> *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* (KJV)

### 1. The Continuous Battle in the Spirit Realm and the Natural Realms.

The Word of God says that we are “more than Conquerors” so **why do we continue to have problems** and defeats in our daily lives and ministries if we are born again. **It is because we do not understand the spiritual warfare** that Satan carries out that manifests in the natural/physical realm here on the earth against us.

**It is important for every Christian to understand Satan**, our invisible enemy, to know his tactics, plans and methods of operation of battle **so that we can defeat him in his attempts and also to enforce our victory over him** that was obtained and given to us through and by the blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

God has defeated Satan through His Son Jesus, removed any power that Satan had, and then given to every “born again believer” every weapon possible to enforce that defeat and victory over him. **We have to understand the continuous battle the rages between the spirit realm and the natural realm** if we are to have a victorious living, obtain all that God has for us here while we are on to earth and to be the “Triumphant church” of Christ Jesus.

When you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you were “born again”, your heart or spirit man was recreated or renewed by the Holy Spirit instantly but your mind and your body were not. God says to us that we are to renew our minds (Thinking processes) by His Word and then bring our flesh (body) under the control of our spirits.

### 2. The Main and 1<sup>st</sup> Battlefield - the Mind.

#### Hebrews 12: 1-3

<sup>1</sup> *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,* <sup>2</sup> **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.** <sup>3</sup> *For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in **your minds**.* (KJV)



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- The Soul is the doorway between the Spirit realm and the Natural realm – **it is the area of decision making for human beings**. To decide for the things of the Spirit or to decide to go with the things of the flesh, the world.
- The **Soul is made up of the mind, will and emotions** and this is where the Word of God warns us that the main “Battle” will be, particularly in the area of the “mind” and this is why the mind must be renewed to the Word of God to know His ways and His Thoughts.
- As long as we live in a mortal body, **the mind is the place** where the fight with Satan will be won or lost – **your mind is the battlefield**. People have made the **mistake of thinking** Satan's attacks come in the realm of the spirit but Jesus defeated Satan once and for all where the spirit realm.
- The **true order of a Human being should be – spirit / soul / body** where the spirit of man is in control or leadership. When you are operating in the realm of the spirit as a believer, your mind, which is in the realm of the soul, is not in charge.
- Satan has **lost his authority in the spirit realm** – he cannot fight you there but he fights you in the natural, soulish realm where he still has access but no authority.

### 3. Deception – Satan`s Main Weapon of Attack.

#### 1 Cor. 10:13

<sup>13</sup> **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (KJV)**

#### James 1:13-15 (Steps to commit sin)

<sup>13</sup> **Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: <sup>14</sup> But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (KJV)**

#### Mark 4:1-34 (The Sower Sows the Seed)

**And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, <sup>3</sup> Hearken; **Behold, there went out a sower to sow: (KJV)****

The steps of a person committing sin are explained in (James 1:14-15). **1<sup>st</sup> – Temptation / 2<sup>nd</sup> – Desire** conceived gives birth to sin / **3<sup>rd</sup> sin matured** gives birth to death.

- Satan understands the principle of “The Sower Sows the Seed” for this is a basic principle in the Kingdom of God and particularly in the thought life of a person.
- Even in this realm he has no authority but **he uses a weapon called “Deception”** to get you to use your God given authority against yourself to defeat yourself.
- He will try to do it by **gaining control of your mind** by bombarding you **with destructive thoughts** and put **pressure on your emotions!**
- He starts by **planting a little seed** in your mind for he knows if the seed stays it will grow and become an action. (Mark 4:3-8; 13-20; 26-29; 30-32)
- **Satan will try to control the believer through the “FLESH” – our ungodly natural, human appetites and desires.**



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### 4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battlefield – The Flesh.

**Definition: The Flesh** – *The gratifying, cravings, appetites and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature).*

To help you begin to understand how Satan`s plan works we must look at a word found in the New Testament. The word is “**Lewdness**” or “**lasciviousness.**” scripturally speaking, it keeps very bad company.

#### Mark 7:20-23

<sup>20</sup> *And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defiles the man. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, **lasciviousness**, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (KJV)*

#### Gal 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup> *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would. <sup>18</sup> But if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> **Now the works of the flesh are manifest**, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, **lasciviousness**, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (KJV)*

The actual meaning of Lewdness (lasciviousness) is “**no restraint or un-restrained**”

- This is Satan`s **+first and most important point of attack** on the life of a believer (as well people who are not believers).
- He knows that if you're going to live a godly lifestyle you need **to control the desires of the flesh** by bringing the flesh in submission to your spirit.
- Through “**Lewdness or Lasciviousness**” he starts to **apply pressure to your flesh**, causing **its appetites to grow stronger** so you will let go of restraint.
- He finds the weaknesses of your flesh and applies pressure **a little at a time** until he has control.
- The signs of “Lasciviousness” are always the same, **little by little**, you find yourself losing control.

Just as all sins have a common beginning, they also have a common end.

#### Eph.4:17-19

<sup>17</sup> *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk not as other Gentiles walk**, in the vanity of their mind, <sup>18</sup> Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: <sup>19</sup> **Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.** (KJV)*

- Satan`s plan through “Lewdness” is once again to bring the “believer” back under his total control and back into sin. As a person slowly submits to “Lewdness” and yields to the weaknesses of the flesh they then **become a dominated and controlled by those weaknesses once again.**



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### 5. The Plan Begins with a Thought (Seed) Planted by Satan.

Satan's strategy **begins by planting a thought in your mind** where he has access to, it **may seem simple and harmless** but it is a seed that will grow and produce a harvest. (Mark 4:3-8; 13-20; 26-29; 30-32)

#### Joshua 1:8

<sup>8</sup> *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; **but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.** (KJV)*

- Satan wants us to **entertain it – meditate on it**. The bible says in Joshua 1:8, **God told Joshua to meditate the word of God** day and night and he would be **prosperous and have success**. The opposite is also true if we meditate on the word of the world or the thoughts that Satan would want us to meditate on.
- We should always compare the thought that we receive to the Word of God.

The Book of **James 3:1-12** tells us clearly that if any man can control his tongue, he can control his whole body.

- **Your tongue is the rudder of your life**. It determines your course; and no matter how hard you try to stop it, **it's eventually going to start repeating those thoughts** you've been entertaining in your mind.
- One of the most deadly **results of unrestrained**; thinking is doubt. **Doubt is a direct result** of Lewdness / lasciviousness.
- Doubt comes when you allow yourself to meditate on **thoughts that are opposite** to the Word of God.

It's a deadly sequence and **it works the same** way every time. Satan **plants the thought**—which **gives birth to the words** —which **gives birth to the actions and events** around you.

- **Unrestrained thoughts** >> give **unrestrained words** >> give **an unrestrained life** >> and **unrestrained life is headed** to destruction.

### 6. Stopping and Controlling the Attack.

**Step 1.** To stop and control the attack to our minds we find the answer in God`s Word against **“Lewdness / Lasciviousness in 2 Cor.10:3-6**

#### 2 Cor. 10:3-6

<sup>3</sup> *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* <sup>4</sup> *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* <sup>5</sup> **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;** <sup>6</sup> *And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.* (KJV)

- Take **charge of your thoughts** and bringing them in line with what the Word of God says to do.
- Take **authority and bind those thoughts** and cast or throw them out by the words of our mouth.



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### Mat 6:31

31 Therefore **take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?** (KJV)

- **Don't take the thought by "Saying it"** – it then goes into our spirit by saying it (Mark 4 - The Sower Sows the Seed).

### Step 2. Replace those wrong thoughts with God's Word.

### Phil 4:8

<sup>8</sup> 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. (KJV)

**meditate on these things.**

- **Replace the wrong thoughts with** what God says in His word.
- If you want to be victorious on the battlefield of our mind, you must literally **reprogram your mind** with the Word of God.
- When you became born again your spirit became a new creation **but the mind was not, and it must be renewed** by the Word of God on a daily basis.

### Gal 5:16-17

<sup>16</sup> This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, **and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.** <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: **so that you cannot do the things that you would.** (KJV)

- There is a battle in the early days of our conversion as our spirit is renewed and wants the things of God while the mind is still as it was – carnal and here is the battlefield of the flesh.

### Rom 12:2

<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but **be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** (KJV)

- The Word of God has power in it and when put into the mind, **has the power to change** old patterns and thoughts.
- Lewdness / Lasciviousness **works in two ways**, it causes the flesh to be unrestrained and at the same time causes you to restrain the godly promptings of our spirit.
- Lewdness / Lasciviousness **allows your flesh to run wild** while at the same time **puts your spirit into bondage.**

### 7. A Final Word

**To have victory in the "battlefield" on the mind – you must decide with the Holy Spirit to bring all of your thoughts into obedience to Jesus and the Word of God.**

**Jesus is Lord!**