

## Battleground of the Mind Taking Thoughts Captive - Part II

“The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe.” Proverbs 18:10

The battleground for your soul takes place between your temples—it is in your mind. But in this war, God provides a place of safety and refuge. On the other hand, Satan wants to build us a house of horrors. *It is our decision where we will dwell.* When we put our trust in God by obeying Him and walking in agreement with His Word, He becomes our strong fortress. However, just as we can rest securely in a place of refuge and safety, we also can build a stronghold of lies. In either case, we get to choose our future—the thoughts we entertain determine our speech and actions, which ultimately determine our destiny.

The Bible tells us that we build our faith using God’s Word, “*line upon line, precept upon precept.*” Interestingly, the inverse is also true; we can build a stronghold in our minds by believing Satan’s lies—fitting one lie upon the other. The end result of “constructing” one thought upon another is commonly referred to as a “*a house of thoughts.*” As we continue to agree with the vain imaginations that Satan gives us, we create a firmly held system of beliefs based on lies—a house of thoughts. Consider how a lawyer “builds a case for his client;” he or she presents a linear argument by connecting one thought to another. Satan also presents thoughts, arguments, deceptive scenarios, twisted truths and vain imaginations to you to convince you of his deceptions. Through your mind, Satan wants to build a case (house of thoughts) against you or someone he is trying to reach through you. If you “buy” into these untruths, you become his accomplice.

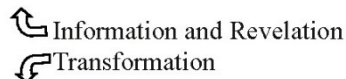
Consider this scenario: a wife overhears her husband’s phone conversation and jumps to a wrong conclusion because of something he said. She has only heard one side of the conversation, but she allows her imagination to speculate on the conversation’s content. Satan takes what she heard and presents her with a plausible scenario that seems to make sense. As a Christian, she knows God’s Word tells her to “believe the best and seek the truth,” but her emotions eclipse what she knows to do. Because these thoughts are based on lies and not the truth, the Bible calls them vain imaginations. Revelation 12:10 tells us that *Satan is the accuser of the brethren.* We must be careful and seek the truth and not give life to Satan’s false accusations.

The wife in my illustration has a choice, and here is where it gets dicey. She has a few moments to decide how to react. Satan will know if she has believed his lie and agrees with it. When the wife “buys Satan’s lie,” he then offers her the next lie as a “logical assumption,” and she buys into it as well. Satan will continue to feed her destructive lies as long as she will agree with them. Before long, the wife has an ironclad case in her mind against her husband. Even if she later discovers she was wrong, it’s too late; her incorrect response has created an emotional wound.

The correct response would be to use God’s Word to take Satan’s lies captive and then respond in love instead. According to 1 Corinthians 13:5-7, “*...love...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, (love) is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*” Conversely, by choosing to believe (agree with) the thoughts Satan gives you (as presented to this wife) can eventually bring destruction on any number of levels—in this case, a marriage relationship.

*If Satan can build a stronghold in your life, he can use you like a puppet.*

Please remember that Satan has only one purpose, to bring destruction to you any way he can. That is why we must not cooperate with him by agreeing with his deceptions. In the husband-wife example above, the wife chose to believe the lies presented to her. Without seeking the truth, she was on her way to building a “house of thoughts.” An extensively built house of thoughts built on Satan’s lies becomes a stronghold, the “house of horrors” I mentioned earlier.—Ω



*Heavenly Father, thank You that You provide a place of refuge for my mind—a place of safety from Satan’s lies, tormenting thoughts and vain imaginations. The peace of mind You offer is Life-giving. LORD, I confess that I trust You and desire to fill my mind with the truth of Your Word. Help me renew my mind through the washing of the Word, so that I can have a mind set free. Help me to believe the best when I am presented with an accusing thought. Help me to instantly cast down thoughts that do not agree with Your Word, and instead, believe the best and seek the truth. LORD, especially help me recognize when I have constructed a house of thoughts and help me dismantle it thought by thought. I do not want to be used by Satan as if I am his puppet. I am Yours and You are mine and I seek to dwell in Your house forever. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.*