

Battlefield of the Mind Taking Thoughts Captive Part-III

We previously learned how to deal with other people's words that can create vain imaginations in our mind. The remedy was to take those thoughts captive and, through grace, believe the best and seek the truth. Today we deal with our words spoken to others. The lesson for today is that our words affect people and bring life or death to our relationships. Proverbs 18:21 tells us, "*The tongue can bring death or life...*" Said differently, what we say to others can destroy a relationship or, we can bring God's Life by speaking His words of grace.

The point that I want to make is this: in essence, by not choosing words that honor God, we often give Satan permission to bring to us, or "stir-up," unnecessary troubles. Many of the trials and tribulations we endure are of our own making because we allow Satan permission by agreeing with him through our spoken words and actions. This is the essence of Proverbs 18:21 when it says that our words can bring death—*Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy*. Speaking our errant thoughts can give Satan permission to harass us and our relationships. Moreover, with access, he can use you like a puppet to achieve his goals to diminish you or someone through you.

To help illustrate how we enable Satan when we agree with him, I would like to share a "vision" that God gave to me. Your life will be radically changed if I can get you to grasp what He showed me in the following word picture.

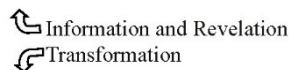
Envision a real battlefield with combatants filling two sets of opposing trenches. The encamped forces are only a few hundred yards apart. I saw the human race in one trench, representing all of God's people, saved and unsaved. Satan was in the opposing trench with all of his hordes of demons. There is a battle raging that is beyond any human comprehension. Satan is inflicting casualties of every kind through broken marriages, murder, suicide, slander, poverty, shame, backbiting, gossip, ruin and separation from God.

The following visual images will change you forever: You are shocked at the carnage. Then God opens your spiritual eyes and you're surprised by what you see. You notice that every few moments, someone from the human trench runs over to the demonic side carrying boxes of ammunition and then returns. You can't believe what you are seeing. Over and over again, you see your family members, friends and co-workers jump out of the human-race trench and run over to enable Satan's hordes.

All at once, you realize that without the constant supply from the human side, the enemy (Satan) would run out of ammunition and be unable to mount attacks on the human race. In desperation, you stand up and yell, "Stop! Treason! This can't be happening!" Then the Holy Spirit shines His light on your heart and shows you that through your words, you have been enabling and giving power to the enemy as well. End of Story

Satan will feed you thoughts as long as you will voice them aloud or act on them. Your spoken words are "audibles" providing the authorization (ammunition) needed for Satan to carry out his assignments for demonic attacks in your life and the lives of others. Remember, our words carry the power to give life or bring death and destruction. Satan has no power unless you give him authority to act. The thoughts that Satan gives you will bring about his plans for you if you give them voice, and/or walk in agreement with them.

I have often stated, "*Yes, life **can** be difficult, but we often have the option of not making it difficult—life doesn't **have to be** difficult.*" Please envision with me what would happen if each of us only spoke and acted according to God's Word. Satan's supply of ammunition would soon run out, rendering him powerless and defeated. The truth is that it is possible to limit Satan's attacks on your life—simply don't empower him by giving him permission. Wisely choosing to fill your mind with God's thoughts will empower you to choose life over death. Doing so will change your destiny *and your posterity*.



Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word that has set me free. Through Your Word I am liberated to walk in my destiny with You, and receive the fullness You have reserved for me. Thank You for the wisdom to know that Your Word has Life. Thank You for giving me the desire, ability and courage to speak Life into my relationships. LORD, I so much desire that You be glorified in my life. So, I ask You to create in me a humble heart that seeks to honor You with my words, and therefore bring Your Life into my sphere of influence for Your glory. Help me to wisely fill my mind with Your thoughts that will empower me to choose life over death. LORD, Your Word says that You are a generational God, so You care about my posterity—help me pass on Your treasures of wisdom and knowledge to my children and their children. I proclaim Your glory and ask these requests in Jesus' name. Amen.