

Battlefield of the Mind Taking Thoughts Captive - Summary

We know that having to endure a tormenting thought-life is a big deal. Many, many people are just managing to get by despite their outward appearance. We all know people who have become addicted to all sorts of coping mechanisms, trying to soothe the pain. This downward spiral of defeat is a result of entertaining errant thoughts, vain imaginations, believing Satan’s lies and living pridefully. To win this battle of the mind we must choose to take captive every thought that does not agree with God’s Word and cast down every vain imagination that does not honor God no matter its origin. As you fill your mind with God’s Word, you will be renewed and given mighty weapons for pulling down the errant thoughts that produce strongholds in the mind.

When the Apostle Paul wrote about weapons of warfare, he was specifically referring to God’s Word. Using His Word as the weapon of warfare will defeat Satan’s lies and pull down the strongholds he has constructed in a person’s mind. Remember, a stronghold is a house of thoughts, so you must dismantle a stronghold thought by thought. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 says it like this,

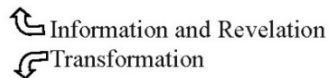
“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...” NKJV

Filling your mind with God’s Word produces the faith to stop the fiery darts of the enemy. How? With faith as your shield, which comes by hearing *and obeying* God’s Word—it is the Word that we use to defend ourselves from Satan’s attacks. The Bible also tells us that the sound of Jesus’ name scatters demons—*“even the demons believe (in Jesus) — and tremble!”*

“In every battle, you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan.”
Ephesians 6:16

Here, we see that faith is a shield we use to protect us from Satan’s fiery darts of errant thoughts, vain imaginations and his lies, the origin of tormenting thoughts. Knowing God’s Word is the source of faith, but we must also submit to His Word. Therefore, when we submit to God, the defensive position mentioned in Ephesians 6:16 (above) is manifested. This is because James 4:7-8 tells us, *“Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*

Lastly, we are afforded His protected rest by being hidden in Him—safe from Satan’s deceptions. Psalms 91 describes God’s protective presence that defends us from the wiles of the enemy. We receive our shelter by abiding, as well as through declarations, knowing that ours is not a physical shelter. The Psalmist says in Psalms 91:2, *“I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him.”* Abiding and meditating and declaring God and His goodness elevates Him to the highest place. God says, *“...be still and know that I am God your Deliverer.”* —Ω



Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me from before the foundations of the world. Thank You for a sound mind that is free of fear and torment. What a blessing it is to know the Creator of the universe and to live in peace as His beloved child. Thank You for Jesus whom I love, and live, and have my being in Him. LORD, help me to press-in ever closer to You and to meditate on Your Word. Help me to submit to You by obeying Your Word, knowing that Satan must flee when I resist his temptations and lies. I declare that You alone are my refuge and my place of safety. LORD, through my praises and obedience, I place You in the highest place and rest in Your protective presence, safe from the wiles of Satan. I proclaim these promises and my love for You in Jesus’ precious name. Amen.