

Living Life VICTORIOUSLY

Christian Life Center Discipleship Institute | Spiritual Warfare

DEVELOPING A VICTORIOUS MINDSET

A “mind set” is a fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person’s responses to and interpretations of situations. A mindset can also be seen as a person’s world view or philosophy of life.

Romans 8:5-14 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace...

The five commands from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 are actually “mind sets” or steps that every Christian can follow in order to live in victory.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1. **BE ON YOUR GUARD** — Be alert, attentive, observant, watchful, wide-awake.
 - A. To be on your guard requires us to develop our spiritual discernment.
 - B. The negative example of Samson. Although he was given supernatural strength, he was conquered by a woman, blinded by his enemies and forced to grind wheat in a prison (Judges 13-16).
 - C. The positive example from the MEN OF ISSACHAR — 1 Chronicles 12:32 *...from the tribe of Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...*
 - Recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
 - Recognize deceptive reasoning and thinking
 - Determine unwise and destructive relationships.
 - Foresee conflicts and problems before they happen.
 - D. It is absolutely critical that we develop discernment in the last days! Matthew 24:23-25 *Then if anyone says to you, “Look, here is the Christ!” or “There!” do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.*
2. **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH** — Be true to God’s standards, persevere in the face of opposition, be immovable and unshaken.
 - A. The only way we can stand firm in the faith is by exercising Biblically based convictions. Godly convictions are Biblical principles we determine to follow, no matter what. (Job 13:15; Joshua 24:15, 25-28) A preference, on the other hand, changes with the circumstance or when it is not convenient. Many of our weaknesses are the absence of Godly convictions.

- B. On two separate occasions, DANIEL was commanded to do things which violated the teaching of Scripture. Because of his strong convictions, Daniel became mightily used by God in the land of captivity.
- His response to the first situation was to explain his convictions to the one in charge and respectfully ask for permission to use a creative alternative (Daniel 1:8-15).
 - His second response was to obey God and submit to the consequences for disobedience (Daniel 6:7-12).
3. **BE COURAGEOUS** — To act “manly,” meaning to be bold, valiant, fearless, daring, resolute, determined, etc.
- A. Act with confidence and faith in God’s ability. Ephesians 6:10-11 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.*
- B. God promised JOSHUA great success if he would faithfully meditate on God’s Word day and night (Joshua 1). When God’s Word is applied to our everyday life we, too, become successful and courageous in the face of opposition.
- Be able to place God’s principles upon a Scriptural base.
 - Research the actual meaning of Scripture and see reality through the “eyes” of Scripture.
 - Meditate on God’s Word so that it becomes a part of our thought processes.
 - Correctly apply Scripture to real-life situations.
4. **BE STRONG** — To empower and increase in strength and might.
- A. When ELIJAH brought the people to a point of decision with great supernatural signs following (1 Kings 18-19), he succumbed to demonic pressure through Queen Jezebel. God’s intent was to increase Elijah’s own strength through the trial.
- Elijah brought the people to a point of decision. (1 Kings 18:21)
 - He revealed the futility of the gods of Baal and demonstrated the power of God. (1 Kings 18:22-40)
 - Establish convictions in your own life and teach others to have Biblical convictions and be prepared to stand alone for your convictions!
5. **DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE** — To respond with God’s supernatural love.
- A. When STEPHEN was called before the Jewish Council, his face became like the “face of an angel” (Acts 6:15). He was able to face his persecutors with genuine love because he was filled with God’s Word and was mighty in Spirit.
- Demonstrate a servant’s heart and commit to the success of others.
 - Learn to see situations from the other person’s perspective.
 - Always watch for pride and conquer it.
 - Refuse to be angry when others fail you.
 - Overcome evil by an opposite action (Roman 12:17-21)

BREAKING FREE FROM STRONGHOLDS IN OUR LIVES

Luke 11:21-22 *When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.*

Through God's power, we can we take captive every thought and break every stronghold in our life. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

1. **A stronghold** is an entrenched pattern of thought, an ideology, value or behavior that is contrary to revealed, Biblical truth, emanating from the human, carnal nature, and exploited by satanic forces. Through a Biblical approach we can demolish every stronghold we may have.
2. **Agree with God's Word and own the spiritual stronghold in your life.** This is repentance as defined in 2 Corinthians 7:10. Without this, no victory is possible.
 - 1 John 1:9 *If we confess (agree with God about) our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
3. **Believe that Jesus has *already* won the battle against the enemy and over the stronghold of sin.** Exchange (cancel out) the devil's accusations with appropriate Bible scriptures as Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness in Matthew 4:1-11.
 - Fight from a position of victory — John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*
4. **Make our heart and words *agree* with the words we read in the Bible.** Although it may not yet be a visible reality, walk out (live as if) what you believe to be true.

- Romans 10:9-10 *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

5. **Believe that God's promises of victory are personally yours.**
 - 2 Peter 1:3-4 *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.* (Also Ephesians 1:3-14)
6. **Through prayer and speaking God's Word, allow His Word to *transform* our thinking and our actions.**
 - Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, ... to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*
7. **Help others in their freedom from strongholds.** Notice what Jesus told the man delivered from the grip of the demonic in Mark 5:1-20.
 - Mark 5:18-20 *As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, ..."*

