

Judges 6:12 *When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

WE ARE AT WAR

1. If you're a believer whose desire is to walk after and serve Christ, **YOU ARE IN WARFARE (Ephesians 6:12). It's a spiritual battle unlike any conflict in life...** because the stakes are eternal.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, (our spiritual weapons) have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive EVERY THOUGHT to make it (willfully) obedient to Christ.*

2. Experienced and seasoned believers understand that one of **Satan's great tactics is to convince people that he does not exist!**

In Scripture he's spoken of as an accuser, adversary, enemy, father of lies, murderer, the power of darkness, the prince and god of this world, the power of the air, ruler of the darkness of this world, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience, tempter, unclean spirit, wicked one, etc.

Part of Paul's mission was to turn people from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. (Acts 26:18). In 1 John 5:19, John bluntly tells us that *the whole world is in the power of the evil one (Satan)*.

- Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- 1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, self-disciplined, and alert because that enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, fiercely hungry, and seeking someone to devour.* (John 10:10)

3. God has given you spiritual weapons to conquer demonic strongholds and mindsets that are against God and bring you defeat in life!

- Prayer and fasting | God's powerful Word | Praise and worship | The blood of Jesus, the cross, and the Resurrection. (More next week)

4. Thoughts are powerful and is the arena of great conflict

- Proverbs 4:23 *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*
- Proverbs 16:32 *He who is slow to anger is better and more honorable than the mighty soldier, and he who rules and controls his own spirit (mind), than he who captures a city.*
- **Question:** Who will control your mind? Will the news, Facebook or will God's Promises? Will my emotions or will it be God's Presence?
- Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is committed and focused on You with desire and character, because he/she trusts in You with hope and confident expectation.*
- our thinking is literally the starting point of defeat OR victory.
By allowing thought patterns of fear and defeat, they can develop, over time, into behavioral strongholds which are contrary to Biblical truth and the cause of much of our lack of victory.

5. The mind is at war against God. Romans 8:7 *...the mind of the flesh, with its sinful pursuits, is actively hostile to God. It does not (and cannot) submit itself to God's law,...*

- Vss. 5-6 gives us the answer: *...those who live according to the Spirit, (have set their minds on) the things of the Spirit. ...to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

6. Our minds can be blinded. 2 Corinthians 4:4 *The god of this age (satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel...*

- Vs. 6 gives us the answer: *Let His light shine in our hearts to give us the knowledge of God's glory.*

7. Our thoughts ruled by doubts cause us to be a double minded person (two spirited, vacillating in opinion and purpose) who attempts to live in two worlds but is unstable in every way. (James 1:6-8) The answer is choice.

VICTORY IN OUR MIND | 2 Timothy 1:7

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PSALM 23 | Communion

Even when my life takes me through the valley of deepest darkness, fear will never conquer me, **for You already have!** Your Presence takes away my fear. Your Promise, Your authority and power is my strength and my peace. Your Presence takes away my fear.



His Provision

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

His Protection

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

His Promise

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Fear will never conquer me, for you already have!