

STOP LIMITING

GOD

Winning The Battle Of The Intellect



“Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make. Become intimate with him in whatever you do, and he will lead you wherever you go. Don’t think for a moment that you know it all, for wisdom comes when you adore him with undivided devotion and avoid everything that’s wrong.” Proverbs 3:5-7 TPT

Humans are thinking beings, God created us with the capacity to reason, reflect, acquire knowledge, form opinions and influence or be influenced by the opinions of others. This is because He gave us intellect which is, “the power or faculty of the mind by which one knows or understands; the faculty of thinking and acquiring knowledge.” God doesn’t have a problem with us exercising our intellect, the problem arises when we rely solely on our intellect to make decisions, especially in defining who God is and what He can or will do.

Humans have an intrinsic need for control because it gives us the illusion that we’re in charge. So we devote significant time, energy and resources to acquire the knowledge we believe we need to gain control. It’s worth noting that both God and Satan are interested in our pursuit of acquisition of knowledge, experiences etc. The key difference is the objective of the acquisition.

- God’s objective is to advance His kingdom.
- Satan’s objective is to oppose God.

The knowledge acquired feeds our intellect and shapes our perspective of our circumstances, experiences and belief systems. This is why we need to train our intellect to function as God would have it. This series we take a look at how we can unknowingly limit God in our lives and the battles of the intellect we must win to take the limits off Him.

## Day 1 The Power of Thought

“The Lord has given me a strong warning not to think like everyone else does...” Isaiah 8:11

Someone once said, “Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you are right”. Our thoughts have more power to shape the outcome of our lives than even the circumstances of our lives. God is very interested in what we think and the way we think because of this. He knows that we can only go as far as we can think, so even though God is unlimited, our thoughts determine the threshold of our interaction with Him.

If we think of God as an angry being seeking to punish us, we will struggle to see Him as a loving Father who only wants the best for us (John 3:16). If we think this life is all there is then we won’t invest in things of eternal value (Matt 6:31-33). If we think God needs our help to get things done, then we won’t see Him as the all sufficient master orchestrator of the events of our lives and the one who rules in the affairs of men (Daniel 4:17). If we don’t know what Jesus achieved through His death on the cross and His resurrection (Col 2:14-15), we will think Satan has the right to consistently take advantage and short change us.

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

When God starts His work of transformation, His primary target is our mind. When we receive Jesus as saviour our spirits are transformed immediately but our thought processes will require a process of transformation. The extent to which we are transformed is the extent to which we submit to the processes of the Holy Spirit in our lives to change the way we think. This is why the enemy consistently, strategically and systematically attacks our thought processes, shaping them in a manner that always opposes God. Satan knows that if we don’t think the way God wants us to think, we will miss His plan for our lives. This is why Ephesians 6:10-18 highlights 4 key battles we must win to overcome these attacks:

1. Dismantling strongholds
2. Demolishing arguments, opinions, theories and philosophies
3. Taking captive every thought to insist it becomes obedient to the mind of Christ
4. Standing ready and willing to wage war and defeat the enemy

We will go into each one over the course of this series.

**Prayer:** Lord teach me how to renew my mind so I think the way You want me to think.

## Day 2 Dismantling Strongholds

“We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning...” 2 Corinthians 10:4

What’s a stronghold? In simplest terms it’s a fortress, a form of protection, anything on which you rely as a form of defence from opposition. When it comes to the intellect, strongholds are reasonings by which we defend our positions - the structures we have put around our minds to justify the way we reason. Strongholds aren’t necessarily bad in and of themselves, however when the strongholds we have built are in opposition to God then they become dangerous to us. Armed with this understanding, how then do we dismantle intellectual strongholds?

“And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes]...” Romans 12:2 AMP

Whatever we have developed our thought processes around took time to build and is consistently being informed by the family, social, national, educational environment we function in and much more. This is why intellectual strongholds must be dismantled by taking them apart piece by piece like children’s toy building blocks.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 2:5

Wherever our thought patterns conflict with the word of God, we dismantle by identifying whatever limitations such patterns in our minds present and using the word of God to take it apart. The first thing we must realise is that as believers we have the mind of Christ available to us and the power in the word of God can rebuild the right patterns in us. This requires work and consistency in study, meditation and speaking to the atmosphere and to yourself.

**Prayer:** Lord I bring my thought patterns before You, help me dismantle every mental stronghold that opposes You and help me develop the mindset and thought patterns of Christ.



### Day 3 Demolishing Arguments

“We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons... to destroy false arguments.” 2 Corinthians 10:4

In debates you have two sides, one arguing for a position and another arguing against that position. In the context of our mind, these arguments are created by words spoken in spiritual realms which create the philosophies that eventually become our thought patterns. There are words being spoken by the enemy over our life, destiny, family, territory, nation etc on a daily basis, all with the sole purpose of contesting what God has said.

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.” Colossians 2:8

“Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.” Psalms 19:2-3

Because we live in a fallen world, the facts of life will always be in opposition to the truth of God’s word. What we see and hear around us daily makes it easy for our minds to accept the enemy’s argument over God’s word. However, while circumstances will always change, God’s word will away be the unchanging truth. So the way to destroy false arguments is to counter them with the truth by speaking the word of God to the situation.

“So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority... He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” Colossians 2:10, 14-15

Jesus already won the battle to give us His authority so when we speak God’s word, it carries the same weight as though Jesus Himself was speaking. This requires a revelation of the fact that in Christ we have authority over all spiritual rulership. The enemy knows this even if we don’t. This is why he intentionally bombards us with facts that make us think we are subject to situations, rather than allow us walk in the truth of our power in Christ to change them.

**Prayer:** Lord grant me a revelation of the authority I carry as a result of what Jesus did for me through His death and resurrection. Let me understand the superiority of Your word over circumstances

## Day 4 Capturing Thoughts

“... We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.” 2 Corinthians 10:5 TPT

Thoughts are tangible elements that lead us to take action, they're the energy that powers an action. It's unlikely that we will ever do something we haven't thought about first. This means thoughts have a lot of power and this power is recognised both by God and the enemy. This is why a lot of what we believe are our thoughts are typically orchestrated by the spiritual realm.

“...But the servant said, “I've just thought of something! There is a man of God who lives here in this town... Let's go find him...” 1 Samuel 9:5-6

“Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.” I Chronicles 21:1

“And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too.” Acts of the Apostles 5:9 NLT

Let's look at a few examples. When it was time for Saul to meet Samuel, Saul's servant had a divinely inspired thought to look for Samuel and that encounter ushered Saul into his role as king. Conversely, when Satan wanted to create issues in Israel, he introduced a thought to David to take a census, which led to a plague on the land.

“Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” Romans 8:5-6

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8

When thoughts are introduced to the mind of a believer we have a choice to either accept or reject that thought. We have the power to subject our thoughts to specific tests and the authority to reject and replace any thoughts not passing the tests of alignment with the word of God, who Jesus is, and who He says we are in Him. Thoughts can be fixed. Don't let the devil deceive you that every thought that enters your mind must take up occupancy there. This means we are constantly and consciously taking charge of our thoughts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:** Lord teach me to fix my thoughts on You and the truth of Your word. Train me to take my thoughts captive and insist they become obedient to Christ.

## Day 5 Replanting Thoughts

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”  
Proverbs 18:21

We are designed as thinking beings as such when it comes to taking control of our thoughts, it's not enough to say we won't think negative thoughts. Rather what we have to do is essentially replace any negative thoughts with God's word. For us to succeed in this endeavour we must know what God's word says about a situation. The key here is to speak the word (no matter how quietly) and make it our primary focus. Today let's perform some replanting exercises by replacing some of the suggestions of the enemy.

✚ **The enemy suggests:** You can't make it in this economy. It is tough for everybody  
✚ **But God says:** “The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.” Haggai 2:8

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”  
Psalms 24:1

✚ **The enemy suggests:** No one in your family does well. Where you are now is the most you will ever be.  
✚ **But God says:** “I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you...” Jeremiah 1:5

“The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.” Proverbs 4:18

“They will not be disgraced in hard times; even in famine they will have more than enough.”  
Psalms 37:19

✚ **The enemy suggests:** You will never know how to solve this problem, or know how to proceed.  
✚ **But God says:** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

This is by no means exhaustive, but our desire is for us to understand in practical terms how to take thought captive and function with the mind of Christ. It will not be a one-off exercise so we ask God for grace to be consistent.

**Prayer:** Lord thank You for the awareness of how to replant suggestions that don't align with the truth of Your word. Help me to stand strong in Your word so I don't fall victim to the wiles of the enemy.

## Day 6 Standing Strong

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.... Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”  
Ephesians 6:10-12, 17

When we think of the strategies of the enemy against us we tend to focus on externals: our finances, family, business, etc. But these are all secondary - the primary strategy of the enemy is to attack our mind by shaping what and how we think to his advantage. This is why in the armour of God salvation is our helmet because it’s the truth of salvation that protects our mind like a helmet and God’s word both defends and keeps the enemy at bay.

“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18

“Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.” Romans 6:14

Salvation gives us the power to resist the enemy and all his wiles. This means we don’t have to think the way we used to and we now have the power to take thoughts captives, speak God’s truth first to ourselves and then to situations and they must respond because we are now operating from a position of understanding. And there’s nothing the enemy fights more than understanding as he knows how dangerous and powerful a believer with understanding is.

“Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven...But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way...”  
Daniel 10:12-13

God answered Daniel’s prayer for understanding, but the enemy resisted the delivery of the answer. Imagine what would have happened if Daniel had given up on day 20! Transformation is in phases and stages so it’s not a one-off event or exercise. When it comes to winning the battle of the intellect we must be prepared to keep at it as we will keep going from stage to stage as we become more like Jesus.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit strengthen me in my inner man, keep my thoughts fixed on who You are and who You say I am. Let the eyes of my understanding be filled with light and let that light continue to shine brighter in and through my life.



## Day 7

### Unlimited God

'Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.' 2 Corinthians 4:4

One of the greatest ploys of the enemy is to warp our minds so we minimize what we think of God and magnify the things around us. Our mind immediately focuses on the challenge ahead rather than the Holy Spirit we carry within. Sometimes we almost think that the devil is the opposite of God because the devil has intentionally blinded us to the truth that he's a created being just like us and that through the power of salvation we have authority over him. The consequence of these limiting beliefs is that we minimize the power of God in our lives.

'Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.' Ephesians 3:20

'God's power is unlimited. He needs no teachers' Job 36:22

'I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.' John 14:12

God is able to do infinitely more than we could ever ask or think, but what we see manifested in our lives is dependent on how we see Him and how we see ourselves. God's power is unlimited in and of itself but when it comes to the daily realities we walk in, we determine how much power we walk in. As it's clearly not in Satan's interest for us to be equipped with the truth of who we are, he does everything possible to minimize our focus on the truth of who God is, the reality of eternity and the fact that we are supernatural beings with unlimited power available to us through Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord let this mind which was in Jesus be in me. Help me have the full understanding of the truth that I have access to everything Jesus has access to, and I am seated with Him in heavenly places. Open my understanding to the reality of what the death and resurrection did for me and the authority and power I carry today as a result.



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