

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 10 – The Battle of the Mind

### Lesson 40 - The Battle of the Mind Part 4

Our battle is not in the natural; our battle is in the spirit realm. There are two fronts in this battle. There is the front of the battle of the mind, and there is the front of the battle in the spirit realm, or the atmosphere. The reason they are connected together is because the Bible says we are to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. (Ephesians 4:23) Your mind is not just natural; your mind is part spirit.

#### Where is the spiritual battle fought?

The spiritual battle is fought in the Spirit of your mind.

This is where the devil influences us because he is a spirit. God is a spirit. That is why psychology and simply natural things will never win this battle. This battle is a spiritual battle. We are dealing with demon powers. Our battle is not with people. Our battle is in the spirit realm. We need to pick up the weapons of our warfare and begin to fight in the spirit realm.

There are two battle fronts: the realm of the spiritual atmosphere and the battle of our minds, our hearts. We are going to deal with this as we deal with the pieces of the armor. When the Bible speaks of the heart it talks about the mind, the will, the emotions, and the imaginations. There is a battle for our hearts. This battlefield is in the mind. In your mind is where thoughts are conceived; in the imagination.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 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.*

We have supernatural power to bring captive every thought because it's in the mind that the thoughts are conceived. A thought meditated upon long enough, given the right opportunity, will become an action. An action done over and over again forms a habit. A habit repeated over a long enough time develops a lifestyle. And a lifestyle determines your destiny.

That's why the battle has to be won here; in the battle for our thoughts. Everything begins in your mind with a thought, and where you end up is going to be a total summation of your thought life. We have to fight this from a spiritual dynamic, from a spiritual realm.

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The heart of man is where man's soul is: it's his will, his mind, his intellect, his emotions, and his imaginations.

**Philippians 2:5** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*

Each of us is a triune being. We are spirit, we are soul, and we are body. And in this soulish realm is this interconnection between the spirit realm and the natural realm. The two merge together in the soulish realm, and this is one of the great fronts of the battle.

There are two great fronts. There is the spiritual atmosphere front, and there is the mind front; the soul. The soul is not just natural; it's natural and spirit. This is why some people get confused. They ask if a Christian can be demon possessed. Yes, and no. I do not believe they can be spirit possessed. I believe when a person is born again and the spirit is born alive unto God, Christ dwells in their spirit. The devil and Christ cannot dwell in the same place. A Christian cannot be spirit possessed, but what many people don't understand is that the soul is not just natural but it's also spirit. A Christian may not be spirit possessed, but I have seen many Christians soul possessed. I have seen them allow the influence of the enemy so that demons actually take up residence inside, in the spirit of their mind.

I see this particularly in the area of unforgiveness. In fact in my experiences every last time when I start dealing with a Christian who starts manifesting demons, and I've had much experience in this, it is because they have bitterness and unforgiveness. The bitterness and unforgiveness opened the door for demon spirits to come in.

**Matthew 18:21-23** *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*

*22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

This king wanted to settle his accounts. A servant owed the king a huge debt. He said he would pay it all. The king not only had mercy upon him, but the king forgave his huge debt. Then that very servant went out and came up against another servant. This man owed him a very small amount of debt. In comparison to the huge debt the first servant was forgiven it was minuscule. The servant who had been forgiven this huge debt refused to forgive this other man the small debt. He had him arrested and thrown into prison. That is what they did back then to debtors; threw them into prison until he should pay it all. Which means you're going to spend time in jail for the rest of your life because in prison you can't earn money to pay off your debt.

The other servants heard about it and they reported it to the king. The king was upset and summoned this man back in and said, "I forgave you this huge debt and yet you did not forgive

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and have mercy upon your fellow servant. You should have showed him the same mercy I showed you.”

**Matthew 18:33-34** *Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.*

The king delivered this man to the torturers. That word torturers is the strongest word used in the Greek language to describe demonic oppression. He said the servant should have forgiven his fellow servant, but instead he was turned over to demonic oppression.

**Matthew 18:35** *So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.*

He's talking to Jews here; he's talking to believers here. Jesus said if you don't forgive your brother his sin when the Father has already forgiven your great sin, the Father will turn you over to demons to be tormented. God turned Saul over. Paul turned a rebellious one over to the devil for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit might be saved. Don't tell me it doesn't happen. I have seen it.

Demons spirits come in and begin to oppress and even possess the spirit of the man. So there's a control factor in the spirit of the mind. You are never going to get that thing out with psychology. You are not going to get that thing out through feel good preaching. You are going to get that thing out through the power and authority and might of God using the armor and weaponry of God to break that thing in Jesus Name.

Jesus came to deliver us in our minds. God is going to break people free in their minds from torment and strongholds. In your mind you are dealing with the thoughts that are already there that have to be renewed and transformed. They have to be changed by the Word coming forth and renewing your mind, but we also have demonic strongholds. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; the demonic connections that are in people's mind.

I think the best pictures I ever saw of this, as far as describing it out, was in the book *This Present Darkness*. I remember a scene where one of the guys was being controlled and influenced by demons. The demon spirit actually had his claws stuck into the man's head and he would stick it deeper into his head. The man would speak out according to what that demon spirit was influencing him to say. It was a great imagery of what really goes on when the enemy comes and influences.

There are four main levels of demonic influence in this battle.

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#### **What is the first level of demonic activity in our spiritual battle?**

The first one is where they have an external influence or affect on us.

The demon spirit is not in us or on us; not oppressing us. It's just around us. The story in the last lesson of the demon spirit of deep hurt that was in my bathroom that was trying to influence me is an example of this. It was just around me and it was trying to affect me. This is what happens when you are walking down the street minding your own business. Your mind is not going on anything particular and all of a sudden these thoughts pop in your mind. They are unholy and not of God. That's the influence of some demon power. Where did that vile thought come from? It came from a demon spirit that's out there and is trying to affect you in your mind. You are going to have to pick up your weapons of warfare and fight on two fronts. You are going to have to fight that thought that came in, and you need to drive that demon away. If all you do is deal with that thought but you don't cast out that demon, then it will keep throwing thoughts.

If I would have let that spirit of deep heart continue, and I would have embraced it and agreed with it, and I would have started confessing with it, I would have opened my heart and allowed it to influence me. That deep hurt was trying to bring bitterness and unforgiveness. If I would have allowed bitterness and unforgiveness to come in, that thing would have no longer been out there. It then would have become oppressive. It would then have had a connection to me. It then would have been able to begin to oppress me. And if that happened, I would start reading everything that people did through the filter of oppression. Even when people are trying to be nice to me I would have read it through the filter of deep hurt.

Many of you know of people like that, or are that way yourself. No matter what anybody does, you are always feeling like the victim. You are always the one getting hurt. You are under the influence of the spirit of deep hurt. You wonder why bad things seem to always happen to you. It's not that bad things always happen to you, but it is that you perceive that bad things always happen to you. That spirit of deep hurt keeps coming on you and keeps you feeling wounded. It's trying to get you to be bitter. It is trying to get you to have unforgiveness. The wider that door of bitterness is open, the wider that door of unforgiveness is open, the more that demon spirit can move from just being an influencer and just oppressing you, to actually entering the spirit of your mind. It wants to bring you into demonic possession where the devil has control. This is what I call soul possession; where the demon actually possesses your mind. You can't take control of your thoughts anymore. You are under this thing.

There are so many people that are in depression and suicidal. It is a demon spirit that has actually imprinted into their mind; driving them insane. It is soul possession. For the non-Christian after soul possession, if they continue to venture down this path and open their hearts to the fruits of wickedness, bitterness, unforgiveness, and all the different vileness, that demon can actually enter into their spirit and take total spirit possession.

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When I say total spirit possession, I want to clarify something. No matter how demon possessed a person is, there is still a small area in their heart that God always reserves that keeps the demonic forces from controlling that one part, so they can always in one moment choose to surrender to Jesus. No matter how possessed they are there is always that part.

**In the battlefield of the mind, what are the levels where we have to deal with the demon spirits?**

[In the battlefield of the mind, we have to deal with demonic influence, oppression or soul possession.](#)

We have to deal with the demon spirits, and we have to deal with the filthy thoughts.

**Romans 12:2** *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

That word renewing literally means to renovate. It means to tear down the old and rebuild the new. It means to tear down all the old thinking and be totally renewed.

I remember my great-grandmother lived in this old Victorian home and when she finally passed away; the home was sold and they wanted to turn it into a bed and breakfast. They had to renovate the home. They went and tore out every old and rotten piece of wood. They stripped all the outside off and replaced all the siding, all the roofing, and even some of the initial framing of the house. They looked at every single piece of wood. Any that had rot, any that had termites, and any that was weak, they pulled it out and replaced it with brand new pieces.

God says to not be conformed to this world but instead be transformed by the total complete renovation of your mind. Let every rotten and junky piece be torn out. Everything that is not of God, everything that has the root of the world, everything that has the root of the enemy, everything that has the root of sin in it, God is going to tear it down and replace it with a brand new mind. He will replace it with His thoughts.

**Matthew 12:34b** *For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

**Proverbs 23:7a** *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*

However you're thinking, the thoughts that dominating your heart, that's what you will be. That's why God has given us supernatural weapons to fight on this battlefield of the mind. He's given us supernatural armament to fight on this battlefield of the mind so we can tear down the strongholds of the enemy. He will tear down the rotten wood and replace it with holy wood;

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### What happens as we get right thinking?

With right thinking and right thoughts, then we will have right actions.

**Acts 5:1-3** *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"*

Ananias had open himself up to demonic forces. This was no longer just influence. The demonic forces had actually filled his mind. Ananias let them fill him. He surrendered to them. He opened himself up to this demon influence. He suffered judgment because he allowed the devil to so influence his heart and his mind.

There are many people right now who are struggling in their minds, but God has given us weapons of warfare to fight. He said to be strong in the Lord, be empowered through our union with Him, and to take up the whole armor of God that we would be able to fight against the wiles of the devil; and having done all, to stand that you will be able to quench his fire darts and break through the strongholds.

There are many people that are struggling in their minds more than just the influence of a demon spirit. They have actually come under oppression; some have actually come under soul possession. But the Spirit of the Lord God and the power of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus is sufficient to set you free. Some of your minds are running so wild you can't keep control of your thoughts. They are filled with the most ungodly things. They are filled with the most vile thoughts. They are filled with sexual thoughts, rage and anger, uncontrollable desires, the things of the world, self-doubt, self-condemnation, depression, and there are even those that are contemplating suicide.

In the name of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, I come against that suicidal spirit, in the name of Jesus. I come against every spirit of oppression on your minds in the name of Jesus. The Spirit of God is here right now in the name of Jesus. Whoever you are, you need a deliverance in your mind, put your hand on your mind right now, put your hand on your head right now. There is a power of God here right now, to set you free in your mind, to break the strongholds of the enemy.

In the name of Jesus, Satan you will obey the Word of the resurrected Lord, for it is written that for this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, that He might destroy the strongholds of the devil. You will obey the Word of the resurrected Lord. In the name of Jesus I bind every spirit of lust, I bind every tormenting spirit of suicide, I bind every spirit of depression. I take authority over every spirit of anger and rage. I take authority over every spirit of bitterness and

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unforgiveness, every spirit of alcohol, every spirit of drugs, in the name of Jesus. I command you right now under the authority of Jesus name, loose your hold upon this people, loose your hold upon their minds. I command you to let them go right now – Come out! Loose them now.

The spirit of God is in you. Some of you are trembling under the power of God right now. It is the Spirit of the Lord God setting you free. He who the Son sets free is free indeed. I command the stronghold in your mind to break. Lift your hands up to God. Begin to thank God right now. The power of the Lord God is upon you right now.

We are in a spiritual battle, and God has given us supernatural weapons, to break the strongholds of the enemy off of the spirit of your mind. Be free in the name of Jesus. The Bible says where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17) The Word of God declares, “He who the sons set free, is free indeed.” (John 8:36)

If you have unforgiveness in your heart, right now in the name of Jesus, you need to release that to God. You need to open your mouth and say, “Lord I choose to forgive.” I don’t care who they were. I don’t care what they have done. It doesn’t mean you are agreeing with them. It doesn’t mean you are saying what they did was right. But you are simply saying before God, “God, I choose to no longer hold it against them. I release them into Your hands. I choose to no longer hold judgment against them.” You begin to forgive right now. I know you say it is hard, but you must do it because that unforgiveness opens the door for demonic oppression. Just say right now, “Father, I choose to forgive.”

Satan, as they forgive the blood of Jesus is being applied to them right now. The Father is forgiving them right now. Your legal claim on them is being broken right now. I command you to lose them.

God has come to set you free in your mind. The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God. They are powerful supernatural weapons to the pulling down of strongholds. In the name of Jesus, be free in your mind, in the spirit of your mind!

#### **For Further Study:**

**Isaiah 26:3:** *You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

**Mark 12:30:** *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.*

**Romans 8:7:** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*