

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

the battle



for your mind

The Battle for Your Mind

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

—*Romans 12:2*

The apostle Paul wrote these God-breathed words to the church in Rome.

The world Paul refers to is the attitude, values, and thinking of those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior. In his second letter to the Corinthian church he phrased it this way: “. . .the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Who is this “god of this world?” He is “the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:2)

The battle is for your mind. It’s a spiritual battle, spiritual warfare, in which the enemy knows that if he can influence your mind he can affect your actions. He can get your focus off truth, off God, and sidetrack your life from what is good and acceptable and perfect.

So what do you need to know in order to win in this arena of spiritual warfare?

1. Recognize the enemy’s spiritual goals:

- to keep non-Christians from the truth of Jesus Christ.
- to render Christians ineffective.
- to keep all of us doubting the love of God, the deity of Christ, and the sufficiency of the atonement of Jesus for our sin.

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2. He never gives up.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

The verb “prowls” here in the Greek is in the present tense, which means a continuous action. He is always prowling, always.

3. He seeks to bring dishonor to the name of God and to use us to do it.

We know that it is by love for each other the world will know we are His disciples (John 13:35). But by division, infighting, and separation, the enemy makes us look like the world.

He brings division, and then he will be the first one to accuse us before the Father.

Revelation 12:10

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

4. Your protection is the armor of God.

Everything about the armor is identified with God. The battle is God’s, the armor is God’s. The result is God’s.

Do you know who you are?

- You are a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- You are a minister of righteousness of the King of all Kings!
- You have the authority to enter the throne room of heaven!

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Therefore, stand firm.....

Ephesians 6:10-11

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Notice; be strong in His strength, not your own. The verb “*endynamoo*” or “be strong” is in the passive voice which means that we receive the action; we do not accomplish the action. Literally this means God strengthens us, we don’t strengthen ourselves. The action is the Lord’s, not ours. Our only response is to wear God’s armor.

5. Battle is for the mind.

Look at Paul’s comments in 2 Corinthians written in the context of his response to a personal attack.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

5 *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,...

How did Paul wage war?

- not according to the flesh (vs.3)
- by using spiritual weapons (vs. 4)
- by taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (vs. 5)

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How do we fight? By taking every thought captive!

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

Notice what Paul tells us to allow ourselves to think about:

- whatever is true, viable, reliable, honest
- whatever is honorable, dignified
- whatever is right, upright, just, conforms to God’s standards
- whatever is pure, moral purity
- whatever is lovely, pleasing, agreeable
- whatever is of good repute, praise worthy, rings true to the highest standards
- if there is any excellence
- if anything worthy of praise
- dwell on these things. meditate, ponder, think about on these things

Every thought hanging around your mind needs to be compared to Philippians 4:8. When you find yourself meditating on or thinking about something “stop and frisk” that thought.

- Is it true?
- Is it honorable?
- Is it pure?

No? Then throw it out. What if it comes back? Throw it out again! And again, and again...

At this point you may be thinking “Impossible! No one can control every single thought in their mind. Some things you just can’t keep from thinking about.”

And that’s true, to a point. But, there are two things to remember. First, this is God’s fight, in God’s strength, with God’s armor. So, we stand firm and we rest in the Lord.

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Second, we really can only think of one thing at a time. Change what you are thinking about right now. Frisk that thought with Philippians 4:8. Fill your mind with Scripture.

6. Memorize Scripture

How?

There are many techniques for Scripture memory. One is to use 3 x 5 cards with the verses written.

Some like to read a verse three times, three times a day until it's memorized. Others like read it through one time for each word in the verse, emphasizing one word at a time.

Visually, using Romans 6:2, it would like this.

“**May** it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

“May **it** never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

“May it **never** be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

“May it never **be!** How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

“May it never be! **How** shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

“May it never be! How **shall** we who died to sin still live in it?”

And so on.

Then every time you find yourself in a battle with a thought you know is wrong, recite the verse(s) you're memorizing, regardless of how long it takes to gain control of your thought life.

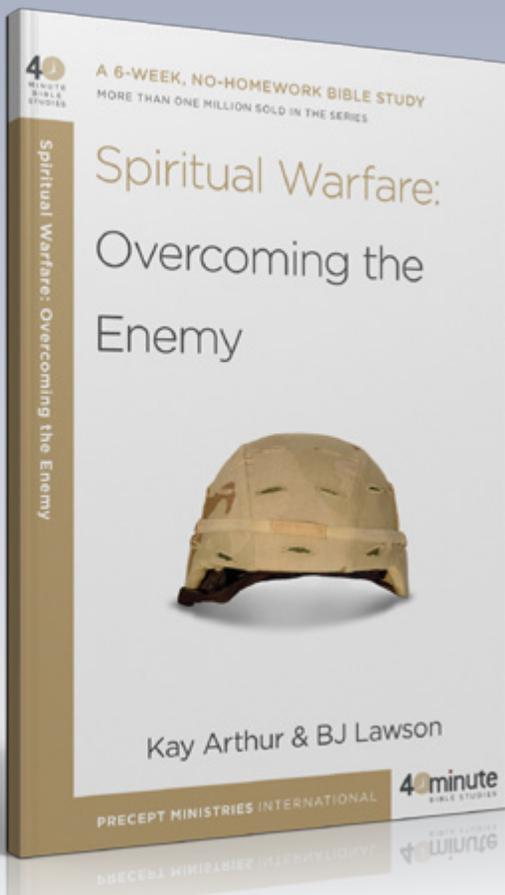
Conclusion

As thoughts of fear, anxiety, or worry creep into your consciousness go straight to the Lord in prayer. And then go to His Word, taking every thought captive and replacing it with Scripture. You will be amazed at the freedom which is your right as a child of the King. And watch the Lord do battle on your behalf.

The Battle for Your Mind

Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming the Enemy

by Kay Arthur & BJ Lawson



Are You Prepared For Battle?

Whether you realize it or not, you live in the midst of spiritual combat. Your enemy, the devil, is dangerous, destructive, and determined to keep you from effectively serving God. In order to defend yourself against his attacks, you need to know how the enemy operates.

Through this six-week study you will gain a thorough knowledge of the enemy's tactics and schemes. As you discover the truth about Satan—including the limits of his power—you will be equipped to stand firm against his attacks and to develop a strategy for living daily in victory.

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