

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY **(part 6)**
The battlefield of the mind

The activities of evil spirits exist in the mind of a believer because he has given them the space. This organ of thought becomes the territory for evil spirits because even though born again, the Christian has not submitted his soul completely to the control of the HOLY SPIRIT. For this reason it has become a plowed field for evil spirits to operate under the control of Satan himself. This is the situation of the unrenewed mind. And it is not only in the sphere of the mind, but also of the will and emotion; it is in the soul in its entirety. When bad thoughts are allowed in the unrenewed mind, they affect the emotion and also the will through the action of the body. The believer has a responsibility before his YAHWEH to walk before Him with a renewed mind as Paul wrote the Philippians, Whatever is **true**, whatever is **worthy** of reverence and is **honorable** and **seemly**, whatever is **lovely** and **lovable**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **kind** and **winsome** and **gracious**, if there is any **virtue** and **excellence**, if there is anything **worthy of praise, think of and weigh and take account of these things** (4:8). In his exercise of pure thoughts, he shows to have a renewed mind before YAHWEH and man. The proverb, "As man thinks so he is", reflects who he is in his inmost being.

The unrenewed mind is a stubborn and hardened mind toward YAHWEH. He desires that we "circumcise the foreskin of our mind and heart" and will, so that we can walk humbly before Him, keeping His commandments and fulfilling His will, so that the disposition of the mind will not be for the use of Satan. Who can bring a clean thought out of an unclean mind?

The evil spirits enter the mind that cherishes sin in the heart. The Psalmist says, If I cherish sin in my heart, YAHWEH will not hear me (Psalm 66: 18). One example of cherishing sin in the heart is through bitterness toward others. The letter to the Hebrews warn us to exercise foresight, to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure YAHWEH'S grace, in order that no root of resentment shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it (Hebrews 12:15). All unclean, all proud and arrogant idea that enters and remains in the mind of the believer with the purpose to fulfill it one way or the other has been established by Satan, just like in the betrayal of YAHSHUA by Judas in the denial of Yahshua by Peter, their minds became a field for Satan and his demons to work. Every time a believer accepts a notion that comes from Satan, he has given him a footing to his mind. The Patriarch Job left an example of how not to cherish sin in the heart, As long as my life is still whole within me, and the breath of YAHWEH is yet in my nostrils, my lips shall not speak untruth, nor shall my tongue utter deceit; my uprightness and my right standing with YAHWEH I hold fast and will not let them go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days and it shall not reproach me as long as I live (Job 27: 3-6); I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I look intently at a girl? For what is the portion from YAHWEH above? And what is the legacy from the Almighty on high (Job 31:1,2)?

The unrenewed mind misunderstands YAHWEH'S truth because it is fleshly inclined. And, as such, it accepts lies from the evil spirits misconstruing the truth from YAHWEH'S Word; it provides space for the evil spirit's activities of deceit and spiritual blindness, setting the mind in

bondage of perpetual ignorance of the truth that has set him free. He walks not in a renewed mind receiving the spiritual blessings promised, but he walks in darkness of lies he has believed when he made his mind available to the activities of the devil. The mind under this influence, accepts suggestions that are against the truth of YAHWEH'S Word without realizing it. In his spiritual blindness, he embraces ideas of New Age, Hinduism and every kind of ism; He is into fortune teller, into horoscope, and many other suggestions in a form of prophecy which comes straight from the pit of hell.

An empty and passive mind is also a result of an unrenewed mind; in its vacuum it gives foothold to the messages from the evil spirits. These spirits take control and lead it with deception to weakness. An empty mind is truly "the office of the devil"; it is an open field where he, through his demons, will cultivate lies, fear, deceits and more spirits, leading one to lose the power and control of the organ of thoughts. The empty mind has too much space to spare to the evil one to use and cause destruction to self and to others. In the passive mind, because the believer cannot make decisions, the spirit of insecurity takes over making him a procrastinator of his own time and opportunity. In the exercise of the mind there are tremendous benefits, but in the spiritual exercise of the mind there are benefits that are of eternal values, healing that are real and a relationship with YASSHUA that will never disappoint the believer. "You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free".

The mind of a believer must be a field where the HOLY SPIRIT plants and cultivates His fruit; Paul said, But we have the mind of Christ. It is hard to understand the meaning of this statement when our mind has become the field of activities for Satan and his demons to mislead the Christian with their deceits. The renewing of the mind is the responsibility of the believer, in the instructions of the Living Word of YAHWEH; His Word must be imprinted in the soul; the believer must fear the YAHWEH ELOHIM, that is, to walk in all His ways and to love Him and to serve YAHWEH with all his [mind and] heart and with his entire being (Deut. 10:12). The believer must lean on, trust in, and be confident in YAHWEH with all his heart and mind and do not rely on his own insight or understanding; in all his ways know recognize and acknowledge Him and He will direct and make straight and plain his paths (Prov. 3:5,6); the believer must set his mind and keep it set on what is above not on the things that on the earth, for he has died and his life is hidden with Christ in YAHWEH (Col. 3:2). The mind of the believer must be renewed by putting away and ridding himself of all anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from his lips, he must not lie to one another, for he has clothed himself with the new, which is renewed and remolded into knowledge after the image of Him Who created it; the believer must be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has forgiven him; and above all these put on love and enfold himself with the bond of perfectness; let the Word of Christ have its home [in his heart and mind] and dwell in him in richness; and whatever he does in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord YAHSHUA (Col. 3). Only this way will the mind of the believer be free to hear YAHSHUA'S voice and shut to the activities of the evil spirits.

John Newton (1725-1807), sailor, preacher and the hymn-writer of Amazing Grace, in one of his letters he entitled, *Evil Present with the Believer*, has deeply expressed the reality of the battlefield of the mind; here is an excerpt of it:

My Lord,

I think my last letter turned upon the apostle's thought, Gal. v. 17, "Ye cannot do the things that ye would". In the parallel place, Rom. 7:19, there is another clause subjoined "The evil which I would not, that I do". This, added to the former, would complete the dark side of my experience. Permit me to tell your Lordship a little part (for some things must not, cannot be told), not of what I have read, but of what I have felt, in illustration of this passage. I would not be the sport and prey of wild, vain, foolish, and worse imaginations; but this evil is present with me; my heart is like a highway, like a city without walls or gates. Nothing so false, so frivolous, so absurd so impossible, or so horrid, but it can obtain access and that at any time, or in any place: either the study, the pulpit, or even the Lord's Table, exempt me from their intrusion. I sometimes compare my words to the treble of an instrument, which my thoughts accompany with a kind of base, or rather anti-base, in which every rule of harmony is broken, every possible combination of discord and confusion is introduced, utterly inconsistent with, and contradictory to, the intended melody. Ah! What music would my praying and preaching often make in the ears of the Lord of Hosts, if He listened to them as they are mine only! . . . But if this awful effect of heart-depravity cannot be wholly avoided in the present state of human nature, yet, at least, I would not allow and indulge it; yet this I find I do. In defiance of my best judgment and best wishes, I find something within me which cherishes and cleaves to those evils, from which I ought to start and flee, as I should if a toad or a serpent was put in my food or in my bed. Ah! How vile must the heart be, that can hold a parley with such abominations, when I so well know their nature and their tendency. Surely he, who finds himself capable of this, may subscribe himself less than the least of all saints, and of sinners the very chief. . .

The awareness of the truth of the battlefield of the mind is ever present with the true believer, when his desires are to please the Master, YAHSHUA. The renewed mind submits to YAHWEH and cries for his holiness; it focuses on heaven and rejects the offers of the world.