

II Corinthians 10:4 "for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, (natural/physical) but divinely powerful (supernatural/spiritual) for the destruction (total annihilation) of fortresses. (concrete mindsets) 5 We are destroying speculations (empty thoughts) and every lofty thing (proud thoughts) raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,"

God does not leave us defenseless!

But first let's talk about the enemies weapons, He only has three and even those only have power through deception. His tactics are the same today as they were in the garden. He must first make you believe that his lies are real before they can have any power or affect. If what you see, touch, taste, feel and hear with your natural senses is more real to you than what is in the spiritual realm he will have very little difficulty deceiving you. For example, In II Kings 6:17 Elisha prayed "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. If you are born again of the Spirit you have ten senses not five, five natural and five spiritual; which one's are you using?

His attacks can take many forms but there are only three foundational weapons. They are the same ones he used against Jesus in the wilderness. According to I Jn. 2:16 they are; "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, these are not of the Father, but of the world." Jesus "knew" this and in Luke 4:1-8 used scripture (truth) to overcome every temptation, every lie "mixed with truth." Thus He experienced I Jn. 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Within the enemies arsenal are all the fears, lusts, sins past and present and pride that dwells within our own minds. Our tongues betray us, (Pr. 6:2) for he cannot read our mind, he is not all knowing. But how many wars have been lost because someone spoke foolishly at the

wrong time in front of the wrong person. Well he and his cohorts are listening to every single word coming out of your mouth all of the time. He can put thoughts within our minds through our five senses and even make subliminal suggestions through spirit beings. But these are no more than landmines, they are useless unless we step on them. And there are many. We need to walk very circumspectly. (very very carefully) Eph. 5:15.

Each of us is genetically wired differently; our experiences, backgrounds, and even spiritual heritage determines what the enemy uses against us. This morning he used memories of my sordid past. As I woke I had a choice, (free will) allow the thoughts to continue and develop into more sin or take them captive. By **God's grace** (Him giving me the strength, ability and even desire to do His will) I chose the latter. For it is not of me that I do these things but of Him who lives in me. I can take no credit, there is no opportunity to boast.

But you say; "well that's just the way I am." A truer statement could never be made. But within that statement is another that says; "God is unjust and cruel for making me so." This is either a statement of rebellion or unbelief and both are unacceptable. He gives us the power to change.

We have "FREE WILL". We cannot monitor every single thing that goes into our minds, but we have total control as to what stays there. Phil. 4:8 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, dwel on these things. Reject the garbage.

Stop blaming your past, your present situation, and God. For that is what we're doing when we complain or make excuses. Just stop stepping on the land mines, bring every thought captive and use what your are given; **HIS WORD!** Now does this mean I NEVER experience defeat? I wish. Like you, I don't always choose "the right thing." But when I do, I do have victory. I know it works, I just gotta work it. And **the more I understand** His amazing love and what He has already done for me **the more I will choose "the right thing."**

We also have other weapons in our arsenal far greater than any weapon of mass destruction. HIS army is better equipped than any ever known. Some are offensive, some defensive and some are both. But the real problem is not that we haven't been issued them but that we have them and don't know how to use them. Eph. 6:10-17 states: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the **full arm or** of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the **full armor** of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having **girded your loins with truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, 15 and having shod your feet with the **preparation of the gospel** of peace; 16 and in addition to all that, take up the **shield of faith** by which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

It is so clear that the battlefield is the mind, life itself is your Boot Camp and your **comrades** are the body of Christ. Your drill sgt. is the Holy Spirit, Jesus is your leader and His Father is Commander and Chief. Learn to listen and obey and the Holy Spirit will teach you how to use the weapons and Jesus will lead you into victory. Then not only will you benefit but you will be of benefit to others and help to win the war. You see the very first thing you learn in boot camp is that it is no longer "all about you" the soldier. It's about the army, all about the mission, all about the war. Those who don't get this are the first to become casualties and cause the death of others in the process. You see the one thing all **heroes** have in common is; they **are not self absorbed**. Their focus is on others; **the mission!**