

Renewal Ministries of Colorado Springs

Hope and Healing Through Christ-Centered Ministry

The Battlefield of the Mind, Part-2 We Win or Lose by How we Choose

Last week we talked about the ongoing battle for the mind. The enemy of our soul wants nothing less than to destroy the children of God. If he can invade our thoughts, he has the hope of manipulation, deception, vexation, and worse. Where our thoughts go our feet follow.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- **Do not live (think) like the unsaved**

Ephesians 4:17-19 (NLT) With the Lord's authority let me say this: Live no longer as the ungodly do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed.



- **Do not associate with them**

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

- **Think on spiritual things**

Romans 8:5-8 (NASB) For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **The transforming of our minds**

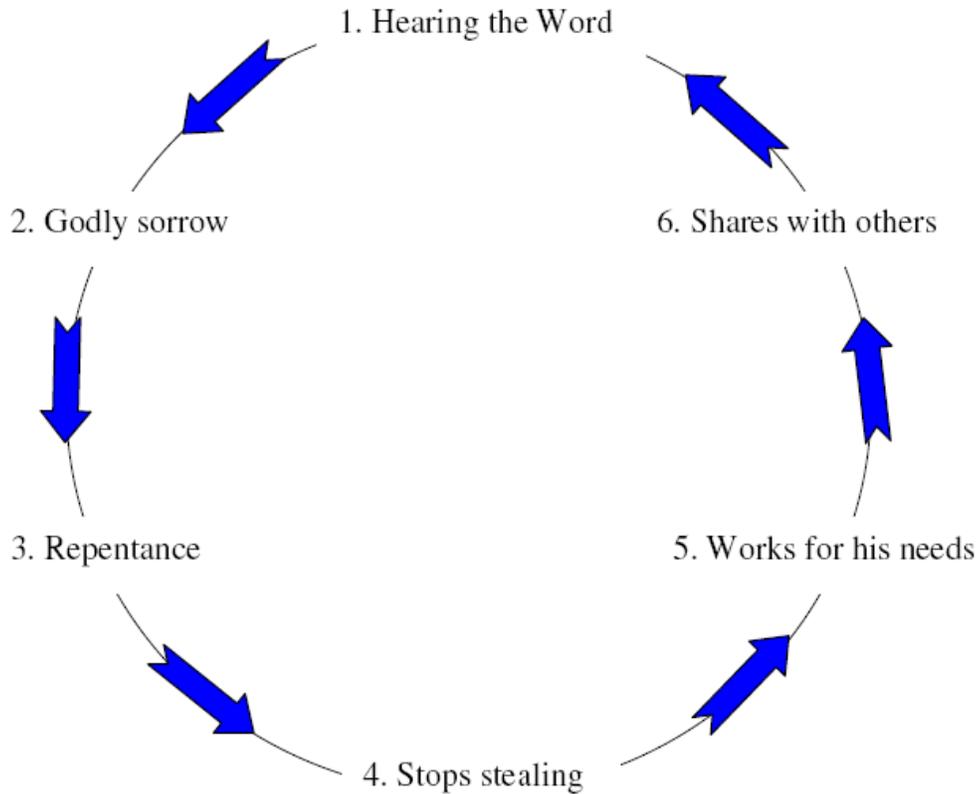
Romans 12:1-2 (NASB) Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, {which is} your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

PUT OFF	PUT ON
Romans 13:12... put aside the deeds of darkness	Romans 13:12b and put on the armor of light
Romans 13:13b not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.	Romans 13:13a Let us behave decently . . .
Romans 13:14b do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.	Romans 13:14a Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ,
Ephesians 4:22 Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.	Ephesians 4: 24 Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
Ephesians 4:25a Put off falsehood	Ephesians 4:25b Speak truthfully
Colossians 3:8-9 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.	Colossians 3:10, 12-14 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 12 clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.	Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes
1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.	Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.
Hebrews 12:1a Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,	1 Thessalonians 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
	Hebrews 12:1b and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.



The Cycle of Change

The Renewing of the Mind



Do not confuse confession with repentance. True repentance is always visibly measurable.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 (NIV) Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Acts 26:20b (NIV) . . . I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Matthew 3:8 (NLT) Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God.

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV) He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

- The parable of the prodigal son:

Luke 15: 17-20 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" 20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

- The reaction of Zaccheus:

Luke 19: 8-9 Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.