

Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-5

1. What are the 'strongholds' that can take hold in our minds which can prevent us from thinking and living God's way?
2. The Apostle Paul uses the language of warfare when teaching on this subject. For those seeking to live according to God's word in the Bible, why is it that this battle can get so intense, unrelenting and even vicious?
3. According to **Ephesians 4:17-24** and **Philippians 4:4-9** what do we need to do to win the battle for the mind? Think also of some practical applications.
4. How can we '*take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*' (2 Cor 10:5)?

The key to overcoming temptation is not to resist it but to replace it.

5. Agree/disagree? Discuss.
6. How do we need to exercise self-leadership when it comes to:
 - (i) controlling what goes into our minds?
 - (ii) feeding our minds on God's word?
7. Why can't we be trusted to tell ourselves the truth?
8. What is truth?

For personal reflection: What TWO actions could you take this week to enable you to be more effective (with God!) in fighting the battle for your mind?

TC 22-iii-14

The battle for the mind



Deane Parish Church
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Romans 8:5-6

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their **minds** set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their **minds** set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The **mind** governed by the flesh is death, but the **mind** governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Ephesians 4:17-24 (English Standard Version)

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their **minds**. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their **understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you **learned** Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the **truth** is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be **renewed** in the spirit of your **minds**, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 7:18-19&24-25

¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing... ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds**. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the **knowledge of God**, and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ**.

1 John 1:8

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Psalms 101:3

³ I will not look with approval on anything that is vile.

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your **minds** in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, 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**. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 4:4

⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Proverbs 15:14 (New Living Translation)

¹⁴ A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash.

Proverbs 18:15 (New Century Version)

The mind of a person with understanding gets knowledge; the wise person listens to learn more.

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.