

VICTORY OVER THE WAR WITHIN

By Ellen Diann Messer

We are not our own, for we have been bought with a price. Jesus gave up His Life so that we may have life and life more abundantly. His prayer was that we would be one with Him as He is one with the Father.

I believe that walking in the Spirit is the most important practice of Christian life. The lies of the enemy against our mind is a war within. *2 Cor 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* We have to CAST DOWN the arguments and high things in our minds, not entertain and debate these things.

John 17:22-24 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

This prayer will prepare you to hear what the Lord wants you to hear and remove the mind-blinding ways of the world so you can follow Christ. Just believe in your heart and confess with your mouth. It is a heart transplant to receive the Spirit of God because your old man of flesh dies and God's Spirit resurrects you as a new man in Christ being born again of the Spirit of God.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask Lord that you forgive me as I have forgiven others. I choose to forgive all of the people or organizations that have hurt me. I ask you to forgive me for choosing to be unforgiving and bitter. I NOW choose to walk in the love of Christ to forgive because they do not know what they are doing. I also forgive myself for not doing what was right in all of my ways and I repent for all of my sins, unbelief, doubt and bitterness. I choose this day to believe that your WORD, the Bible is TRUTH and a light to my path and a lamp to my feet. I ask that you heal my wounded heart and make me strong and I choose to serve Jesus Christ, the Word of God, born of a virgin, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. I believe Jesus is the resurrected Messiah who paid for all of our sins and He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God and is interceding for all men continuously. I believe in my heart that Jesus kept His Word and sent the Holy Spirit to be with me forever to keep me in all my ways. I choose this day to Walk by the Spirit of God being led by His Spirit in all of my thinking, choices and actions. I choose to serve God and no other. I cast down all vain imaginations that exalt themselves above the knowledge of God. I repent for believing any lies from the occult religions to the doctrines of men and devils that keep men in bondage to lies. I repent for the spirit of religion and self-righteousness that is condemning and judgmental. I loose myself from the ways of the world and bind the Word of God to my heart. I loose my eyes, ears and mind to see, hear and understand the Word of God as taught to me by the Holy Spirit. I choose to test every spirit with God's Word to see, if it is from God and I choose to walk in the Wisdom that comes from above which is:

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

I thank you Lord Jesus that you are my Master and I serve you ONLY and I love you with my whole heart, soul, mind and with all my strength. I repent for making myself a friend of the world,

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which made me an enemy of God. Please forgive me for being so simple minded and untrusting of your Word. In the mighty name of Jesus because of the authority of the Most High God I command all strongholds to be exposed, driven out and never return and the Holy Spirit to heal and fill every wound within my spirit. Thank You Lord for your daily delivering power to walk in the Spirit of God, for I have the right to become a son of God and I choose to Walk In the Spirit of God by obeying the Spirit of God in everything. In Jesus Name Amen

AUTHORITY OF BELIEVER

In Christ, we have been seated in heavenly places, having been given authority over all of the powers of the Kingdom of Darkness. Authority without action is dead, just as faith without works is dead. We learn to take our authority when we WALK IN THE SPIRIT. God's plan for our lives can only be fulfilled if we SUBMIT to God and WALK IN THE SPIRIT because those who are LED BY HIS SPIRIT will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Choosing God's Word over the wisdom of the world is walking in the Spirit. When we walk in the Spirit of God we are empowered by the SPIRIT of God with spiritual weapons to win the WAR WITHIN.

We already have the VICTORY – the WAR IS WON, but in order to have the fruit of the REST available to us in Christ, WE HAVE to learn to WALK in the SPIRIT and win the WAR in our MIND. We have to CHOOSE to SUBMIT to GOD and put our flesh to death. It is painful at first because the flesh wants what it wants, but you will reap the reward if you do not grow weary in doing the good versus what you “feel like doing”. The reward is God's love, joy, peace and all of the fruit of the spirit. Your “feelings” are slow to change, but if you pass the TEST of faith, your feelings and desires will line up with the desires and plans that God has for you. As you stop committing adultery with the world you may feel “lonely” and other fleshly emotions, but stand and do not allow the enemy to use your feelings like a puppet master. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Obedience will reward you with the Godly emotions of the fruit of the Spirit.

FRUIT OF FLESH IS DESTRUCTION VS. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LIFE

The fruit of the FLESH is destruction, but the FRUIT of the SPIRIT is LIFE. Which do you want? Are you willing to die for God's best for your life? This does not make sense to the World to die in order to LIVE, but it is God's Way and YOU CHOOSE to walk in His Way. You don't wait to obey until you FEEL like it. Our feelings are either controlled by the Spirit of God or by the mammon of the world. You know who is in control by the way you feel and the fruit you have. Is depression from God? Is bi-polar from God? Is sickness from God? Are anger, hate, and malice from God? Is gossip from God? Is backbiting another ministry from God? Is self-righteousness from God? If you will die to yourself, God will lead you into all TRUTH. Only by the power of God can we see the PLANK in our own eye, and allow God to fix us so we can have the LOVE of God to help another remove the splinter from their eye. Many well-meaning Christians have major telephone pole size planks in their eyes and they beat up and condemn others with the letter of the Word and lack the Love of God. Accusing the brethren and backbiting are all works of the flesh.

If we want a victorious Christian life you need to join God's Army and fight the GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. God has an Army of Believers and God's Kingdom is WITHIN us. His Kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven comes through the BELIEVERS. We have to choose HIS WILL in our life on earth so His Kingdom can come within us to do HIS WILL on earth. Is there disease in heaven? Is there hatred in heaven? How do we get HIS KINGDOM on earth as it is in heaven if we do NOT SUBMIT to God and Walk in the Spirit which will give us the STRENGTH to resist the devil who must flee. For example, why don't we have scientists who are allowed to acknowledge God in cancer research? Would God withhold a cure? Why do Christians assume

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God Will for healing is being accomplished through a godless science that embraces on the wisdom of evolutions? Is God not the Cure and will God not tell us how to be good stewards of the temple that He lives in? Would God have you poison your cells with toxic drugs? Did God have the saints seek the wisdom of Egypt for health care?

God considers our FAITH Holy and our FAITH will be tested. IF YOU CHOOSE to believe GOD, then do NOT DOUBT, no matter what happens and keep walking by the Spirit. You will experience the walk through the valley of the shadow of death with no fear. If you waiver and have doubt you will not go through, but will stay in the valley and keep having to take the same test of faith until you pass the test. It is faster, easier and most rewarding to not grow weary in doing good in the test. CHOOSE TO PASS THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH!

God is good and His ways are just and righteous and don't change just because we may not understand them. That is why we cannot please God without FAITH. Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things NOT SEEN. God's Word is the unseen SUBSTANCE and God's Word will become evident just as His Word is the Glory we see in creation.

In times of trouble we don't see or even feel God sometimes, but we must still have FAITH. Faith is not whimpering, whining and crying OH GOD, OH GOD. Faith is giving thanks to GOD in everything, for this is the WILL of God. Understanding will follow obedience and your feelings catch up to obedience too. In the midst of trouble the SACRIFICE of praise will reach heaven and you will have HIS PEACE in the midst of the storm. IT IS A CHOICE that must be walked out. Don't grumble and complain and say it is hard. That is a LIE from hell. If you take on the YOKE of Jesus, instead of the YOKE of the problem, God says His yoke is easy. If it is hard it is because you are carrying the problem instead of giving it to Jesus.

You have to PUT on HIS WORD, Bind His Word around your neck and bind it to your heart. CHOOSE to believe God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. Fear is a spirit and if you feel fear get in prayer with thanksgiving and supplication until you feel the peace of God, which transcends all understanding. Fear will try and rob you of your faith. God has NOT given you a spirit of FEAR, but of LOVE, of POWER and a SOUND MIND. God will not take you to destruction; God will deliver you from your own destructions. Satan may create circumstances that LOOK bad, but it is temporary and will pass, if you will just STAND. Satan sets up circumstances that are facades to try and deceive you. Stand therefore in the face of these tribulations and remember all problems are temporary.

The War within a person is physically evident in those who are addicted to drugs, self-destructive habits, self-hatred and even mental illness. None of these people WANT to be this way and seek help from "experts" yet the war continues. The problem with all of the worldly experts in the medical profession is that they reject God, His Wisdom and lack the power to overcome these problems. These emotional addictions and mental problems are not all carnal in nature. The spiritual side of man is ignored by science and science has only one solution and that is to use mind-altering drugs. The problems are not solved; they are only temporarily covered up and will be followed by greater problems and some to the extreme such as suicide and murder.

All of mankind is at war within. Only Jesus is the PRINCE OF peace. The WORLD needs Jesus. Our nation should be teaching other nations about Christ instead of being ashamed of Christ. America should give to other nations in the name of Christ, not in the name of America. Wars between nations are because of the lack of peace of God and the pride of life. Pride is the reason

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Lucifer fell from heaven and it is a plague that destroys men today. Pride in ones own religion without God's Love has led to the Terrorism we experience today. The war of Islam is a Jihad war that is within each Islamic believer that believes he must destroy the infidels. This is an internal war that does manifest in the natural in what the world calls as radical Islam. Pride is a trick of the enemy to take over the minds of men.

Christians are at war with an unseen enemy when a Christians allows the world to seduce them. Their adultery with the world makes them an enemy of God and they separate themselves from the power to defeat the enemy. Just as Delilah seduced Samson and he lost his strength, so are Christians who commit adultery with the world. Are you tired of being a slave, as Samson became a slave to the Philistines? Does your drug addiction make you feel like someone has tied you to the grinding mill and forces you to labor in vain? If you are tired of the master you serve? Then **CHOOSE to turn back to Christ and loose your life for His Sake. If you loose your life for Christ, you will have life!**

In Christ there is the delivering power with signs and wonders that FOLLOW God's Word. There is power to overcome the carnal nature by the Spirit of God. For it is not by might, nor by strength, but by MY SPIRIT says the Lord.

People love Jesus, just as Samson loved God. Samson did not even know the Spirit of God had left him, yet when he tried to fight the Philistines, he had no power and the enemy blinded his eyes by poking his eyes out. Christians commit adultery against God by loving the World and the things in it and they don't even know that their spiritual eyes have been darkened by their sins. They don't even realize that they have separated themselves through their sin from God. When the enemy comes they have no strength to defeat the enemy.

Christians have been given all power over all of the power of the enemy. We have the RIGHT to become sons of God and those who WALK in the SPIRIT, these are the sons of God. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty. Choose to give your LIFE Wholly to Jesus and choose to allow the Spirit of God to teach you how to change your thinking and your acting.

Jesus came to set the captives FREE. Captives are also people who pretend they love their sins, but in reality they are slaves to their sins. Satan has many believers convinced that they have incurable diseases and the world is the only source of wisdom for healing diseases. Some believe that God does not love them or that they deserve death. Some even believe God gave them the disease when in reality the laws of sowing and reaping are at work. Satan does not care what lie you believe so long as you WILL NOT BELIEVE JESUS. Jesus said DO NOT FEAR for I have overcome the world. We must be overcome the lies with the TRUTH of God's Word.

It is not that people want to be sick, addicted, etc, it is because they really believe the lies that come from worldly wisdom and these lies are strongholds. God's Word is mighty for the pulling down of these strong holds and that is why deliverance is so important in the Church yesterday, and today. In Mark 16:16 the first sign of a believer is that they will kick out devils, yet this subject is almost taboo in most churches. Many Christians do not want to be associated with "deliverance ministries" because of many excuses from false doctrines to fear.

Deliverance is not scary; it is VICTORY over the enemy. It is FREEDOM in Christ and the righteous take the KINGDOM by FORCE. It is a fight of Faith and an act of the FREE WILL from God to CHOOSE to obey God's Word. Jesus is not about a "ticket" to heaven, HE IS THE

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WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE. Many in the Body of Christ are captives and need our faith filled prayers. Drug addicts, alcoholics, sex addicted people and such may say they want to be that way, but that is because they believe the lies that they cannot help themselves. They try to make the best of it through listening to worldly philosophies that tell they were born that way.

People may believe in themselves enough to use their own will power to overcome an addiction, and they may have time periods of success, but they all say they continue to FIGHT the DESIRE to go back to the very things they hate to do? You need the Spirit Walk to have the POWER over the desires of the flesh. The Word of God is our source of truth. God's Word says we are a SLAVE to whom we serve. If we do not have God through Jesus Christ then we serve satan through some form. It may be through false gods and religious practices or through self-serving belief systems. If our minds are NOT TAKEN CAPTIVE by FORCE by our free will to serve God's Word, then we are captive to lies that become strongholds that manifest in forms of self-destruction from addictions to an inability to have joy in life. We must CHOOSE to believe God and force our minds to submit to God, resist the devil and the devil will flee.

2 Cor 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

It is not by works of men, but only by God's Spirit that we are able to take our mind captive. We have to walk in the Spirit. Many will try to attain the right to become a son of God through works. However even though they may give all they have and even give their very lives for others it is not enough because ONLY the Blood of Christ pays for the remission of sins. We do not have a way to redeem our soul apart from Christ. There is no payment for sin except the Blood of Christ. God's Way is a narrow path of TRUTH and there is no question about the TRUTH to those who have HIS SPIRIT. Our minds, hearts, eyes and ears have been opened to the things of the Spirit of God and nothing can separate us from the love of God. NO BODY can FORCE any one to believe anything. It is a conscious CHOICE and that is the FREEDOM that comes from God. He gave us ONE freedom. CHOOSE whom you will serve. He sets before us LIFE and DEATH and commands us to CHOOSE LIFE. No person on earth can force you to become a Christian because it is impossible. But God is clear about being a slave to whom you choose to serve.

Satan has established many religions to suit the individual lusts within man. Man is drawn away from God because of the Lusts that are within. It is a choice to take captive the mind to overpower the LUSTS by walking in the Spirit. The different religions are broad and vague and men try to work their way into God's grace through do-good things or false gods. It is all a deception like the lie Satan told Eve. All false religions convince people of the same lie Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan convinced Eve that she could be like God and God is trying to hide something from Eve. That is the same lie of all these false religions in various forms.

If you will notice only the name of JESUS is hated among the unbelieving. Satan hates the name of Jesus. You can talk about false gods all day and nobody will care, but if you talk about Jesus the enemy in people feel like you are shoving something down their throat. EVERY KNEE will bow and EVERY TONGUE will confess that Jesus Is Lord. It is better to confess Jesus Is Lord on this side of Eternity, but NO MAN can say Jesus is Lord without the Holy Spirit. Satan does not care which lie you choose to believe so long as you don't choose Jesus. ONLY in the Name of Jesus do we have authority over ALL the power of the Kingdom of Darkness.

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How do you know which master you are serving? God says we know them by their Fruit. We will serve one Master and hate the other.

Matt 6:24 and Luke 16:13 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Gal 5:16-18 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

2 Cor 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

When we CHOOSE to submit to the Holy Spirit of God, we are empowered to win the WAR WITHIN. Our weapons are not carnal but mighty in God when we are LED by the SPIRIT OF GOD. We will not do the things that God hates because His Word empowers us by His Spirit. We choose to WANT to obey Him and please Him because of His Love for us. We love HIM because HE FIRST loved us. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and if we LEARN how to CHOOSE to submit to the Holy Spirit, He will teach us through God's Word how to use the weapons that God has given us to WIN the WAR within. Our feelings and desires will become Holy because God is Holy.

In Christ we are no longer LIMITED to the simple thinking of worldly wisdom when we CHOOSE to be LED by the Spirit of God. IN CHRIST are HIDDEN all of the treasures of WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE. The truth is hidden from the unbelieving because they have rejected the TRUTH. God gives them a delusion that they will believe a LIE because they have rejected the TRUTH.

However, we have the Holy Spirit who teaches us all things. We have God's Divine Nature living within us (Holy Spirit) and we have the MIND OF CHRIST. We are not limited to natural wisdom because God tells us in James Chapter One that if any man lacks wisdom he can ask of God. God has all of His Wisdom available to us and we just have to TRUST GOD enough to BELIEVE He will give us the Wisdom we ask for.

YOU HAVE NOT BECAUSE YOU ASK NOT

We have NOT because we ASK NOT! God is not a respecter of persons and you can receive whatever you ask of Him, if, you believe. You will have to study to show yourself approved because our minds need the knowledge of God's Word like your Body needs food. God will give us understanding and Wisdom by the Holy Spirit who is our teacher, comforter and our all in all. We MUST study the Bible because it has the WORD OF LIFE within. The BIBLE is a LIVING WORD and we are living epistles of God's Word through Christ Jesus. IN the WORD of GOD we live and move and have our being. All of creation was created through the WORD OF GOD. NOTHING that was made was made apart from the WORD. God said and it was. Our DNA is the book that God wrote about us. We each have a unique DNA from God. Creation has His DNA of Life, but only man is made in HIS IMAGE and LIKENESS because we are His Offspring. It is a LIVING WORD, not a program. The DNA IS NOT A PROGRAM, but a LIVING WORD. Each

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cell is a replica of God's Word about you. Each cell is under the master control of God's Word and our flesh is the earth suit that covers the DNA, your spirit, and your life is a God breathed word.

Since we have been created and redeemed by the blood of Jesus we have a choice to make. Who do we serve? If we serve our own life, we will loose our life. God has a plan for every life and to choose the world is to make our self an enemy of God. He is jealous for the spirit of life that HE gives us. He is jealous for HIMSELF, For in HIM you have life. If you choose to follow HIS WAYS, His Plans for your life will give you abundant life and you will keep your life. But we loose our life when we imagine we are in control and go about ignoring the God who loves us so much that He gave His only Begotten Son so that we could CHOOSE to have Life eternal with your heavenly Father.

Luke 17:33 "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

1 Cor 2:13-16 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Luke 14:26-27

26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Many believe Jesus is telling us a hard thing in this scripture, but when you CHOOSE to love GOD and receive HIM, His Word as the source of LIFE, His Word becomes the LOVE OF YOUR LIFE. If you do not LOVE HIS WORD (Christ) you will choose father, mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters and your own life above the WILL of God.

If we seek first the Kingdom of God and HIS RIGHTEOUS, all of these things we need will be added unto us. If we seek to please others and ourselves with things, we will loose our life and the others and the things will pass away.

The WAR WITHIN is real and we do have casualties only because men doubt God's Word, which gives the enemy power over the flesh. Satan uses emotions to control people just like a master puppeteer. However, people should understand that the emotions they feel are not always their own emotions. For example, fear is a spirit. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of LOVE, of POWER and a SOUND MIND.

TWO LAWS AT WORK

THERE ARE TWO LAWS AT WORK ON EARTH – THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS OPERATES UNDER THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD OPERATES THROUGH THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST. *Rom 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

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Romans 8:1-2 sums up the truth about the law of sin and death being defeated by the law of the Spirit of LIFE in Christ Jesus. But you have to practice walking in the Spirit, not just read about it. Notice that NO CONDEMNATION is not limited to those in Christ, but to those who WALK NOT ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT. Many foolishly embrace the world and the ways of the world and assume there will be no condemnation because they wear the nametag of Christ with no fruit to back up their claim to be a son of God.

When we choose to PRACTICE what we read in God's Word and then we will experience the POWER of God in our lives to OVERCOME the sins that had so easily beset us. Sin destroys us. God no more winks at sin than you would wink at your two year old playing near a busy highway. Sin destroys lives and can rob God's people of their RIGHT to become a son of God. We have to put away the old man and put on the new man. It is a choice that we purpose in our hearts to do.

OBEYING GOD VERSUS MAKING EXCUSES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

There are two kinds of Christians: People who are like King Saul or King David. King Saul was chosen by God to be King only because the people insisted on a King. God was their King, but the people wanted a King who was a man too. Today either Jesus is Lord of your life or you give man (flesh) rule over your life. If the flesh is ruling you, you can be sure that demonic strongholds are at work in your life.

King Saul became self motivated and disobeyed God's command and when the prophet confronted King Saul he did not repent. King Saul made up excuses and lies that he did not disobey because what he did was for God.

However, when King David was confronted with his sins, he fell to his face in repentance and asked for God's mercy. He turned away from his sin. David had a life full of sin, yet God called David a man after His Own Heart. Is your heart for God or is your heart for self? Do you just want God to fix your problems so you can be happy in this world or is your joy found in your relationship with God? Do you make excuses for not having the character of Christ?

It is God's Will that none should perish, but we all have been given FREEDOM to CHOOSE. God does not want just part of you, he wants you to love Him with your whole heart, soul, mind and with all your strength. There is no part of us that he does not want. He wants our personality; our ways, our thinking and we are HIS TEMPLE. We are not our OWN. He wants HIS SPIRIT to lead you; he does not want you leading HIS Spirit into sin that separates you from Him. When the Holy Spirit corrects you, do not grieve the Holy Spirit with your excuses for not obeying Him.

THE BATTLE IS WITHIN THE MIND

The WAR WITHIN is in the mind. What the mind thinks is who we are. "As a man thinks so is he". God's Word will change the way you think IF you will SUBMIT to God, resist the lies of the devil and then the devil will flee. The trouble we have with our thinking is that we keep entertaining thoughts that are contrary to God's Word. We do not debate God's Word, we only choose to believe and act on God's Word. We choose to take captive every thought to the obedience of God's Word.

Sadly because many fear dying to their flesh and fear "loosing" things, they allow the lies of satan to keep them confused, tormented and under the power of sin because they will not take their mind

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captive to God's Word. In War we have to take the enemy by FORCE. When we take our MIND CAPTIVE to God's Word, it is by our WILL to believe God EVEN IF we don't understand WHY.

In a WAR there are battles, and yes once you decide to take your MIND CAPTIVE to God's Word, you will experience major battles in the Mind. The key for me was to not allow the arguments to have a place in my mind. Our mind will argue with us and the key is to KNOW these arguments are NOT coming from us because we have already made our choice to obey. I just tell the chatter to shut up in the name of Jesus and I will not allow any mental arguing of God's Word. My mind is at peace when I do this.

The lies of satan are same kind of lies that EVE was faced with in the Garden of Eden. She fell for the lies because she doubted God's love for her. The devil accused God of having evil intentions toward Eve in not wanting her to be like Him. The truth is we are most like Jesus when we submit to Him. God does NOT FORCE us to obey, we are free to choose and that is why there is a WAR WITHIN. But Jesus has given us a way of escape. Our weapons are not carnal, but mighty in God for the pulling down of the strongholds. We can have rest in Christ in the TRUTH of God's Word. The key is to be aware of the schemes of satan and do not allow the debate about God's Word to become a seed of doubt by entertaining the thoughts.

The following fruit is the thermometer of the soul. You know them by their fruit. If your fruit is not of the Spirit, then CHOOSE THIS DAY to serve God and cast down the vain imaginations that keep you in bondage. If you find your flesh operating in the fruit of the flesh, repent and God will empower you to WALK IN THE SPIRIT.

WORKS OF THE FLESH

"For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption"

FEAR – Fear is a spirit (2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.)

**Gal 5: 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!
Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**

You are under the LAW of sin and death Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness,

Gal 6: 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption...

WORKS OF THE SPIRIT

" But he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

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Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ

NO LAW AGAINST SUCH THINGS

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

In understanding the works of the flesh it is important to do serious word studies about what is the Fruit of the Spirit such as LOVE, JOY, PEACE, according to God's Word. For example, Love does not take into an account a wrong suffered. Love is not offended. Can you be offended? Perfect love casts out all fear. Do you have fear? God's Word wants to transform your mind to the Mind of Christ, but it takes YOU willingly choosing to study to show yourself approved and CHOOSING to practice such things. God has a lot to teach you and His Word is sweet like Honey. God's Word is manna from heaven and His Word says, "Taste and see that I am good."

Gal 6: 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load. 6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. 11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

Gal 5: 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

You are NOT under the LAW of sin and death Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

PRAYER

1 Tim 6:13-16 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot,

VICTORY OVER THE WAR WITHIN

By Ellen Diann Messer

blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.