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"BATTLEFIELD FOR THE MIND"

by Carol Gordon

"And he replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have answered correctly: do this and you will live—enjoy active, blessed, endless life in the Kingdom of God.'" (Luke 10:27-28 AMP)

Many of us have been blessed by Joyce Meyers' book THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND, helping us to learn about renewing the way we think about and evaluate life. Recently, the Lord said to me that we were also in a BATTLE FOR OUR MINDS.

Surely all of us know someone who has been diagnosed with some mental health issue. So many of the helpless and hopeless the Church tries to reach fit this category. It is my opinion that the enemy works overtime to abuse, discourage and depress people until their thinking processes are affected. The same behavior may have chemical, emotional, or spiritual roots, and be diagnosed differently by various schools of thought.

Those who think they are "normal" can have ups and downs due to circumstances or stress going on in their lives or the lives of family members. No one is exempt from problems and difficulties in this world.

All of us grow up in environments that influence how we think and see things. Even children from the same household do not see life and their experiences alike. We have all heard that witnesses to the same accident or event have totally different memories and interpretations of it. How can we ever agree on things as the Lord instructs us to??

Our evaluations of life circumstances should be from a foundation of truth. These days many people do not even think there is such a thing as absolute truth. As believers we are committed to the reality that proceeds from our Heavenly Father and the foundation that the Word of the Lord is true! Even among believers there are varying opinions and interpretations.

According to the above scripture, Jesus affirmed that the first test is love. Are we loving God and others? If our way of thinking causes us to get in strife with folks, trying to prove we are right, there is something wrong with our attitude. We have to be willing to shift our ways to Father's ways. **"Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. For, 'Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach Him?' But we understand these things because we have the mind of Christ."** (1 Cor. 2:15-16)

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If we REALLY love Jesus, we will love Him enough to pursue the Word diligently so that we renew and retrain our world-view. It should be our greatest desire to see as He sees and evaluate in agreement with Him.

In every day life, many thoughts come to our minds. What grid do we use to check them out? Most thoughts do not originate with us, but are sent to test whether we will accept them or not. How many times has the Lord given us a direction that we ignored, deciding it was just "my thought"? How many times has the enemy shot a dart of fear that ruined our day? Haven't we expressed an idea out loud and then thought, "Where did that come from?"

Jesus told us that we TAKE a thought by SAYING it! (Matt. 6:31) We have a choice whether to "take" a thought, agreeing with it and making it our own. We must discipline both our thoughts and our words.

We are repeatedly warned against taking fear thoughts. Thoughts also come to us that discount our hopes and dreams. What about letting negative expectations, and resulting disappointments, build a wall between us and a loved one? What about thoughts that dishonor others, and the ones that dishonor ourselves! "I'm so dumb! I always make mistakes! I'll never learn this or that!" And then there are the jokes we are expected to laugh at and agree with about getting older! We condemn ourselves far too readily.

Many people hear thoughts, even voices, suggesting suicide or even of killing other people. Many young people have been trapped by voices that convinced them they were too fat or not attractive enough and have damaged their health with anorexia or bulimia. What about the ones that whisper to children and spouses, "He/she doesn't really love you, or have your best interest at heart." The examples are endless that open the door to the Destroyer.

If we truly love Jesus and know that He loves us more than words can tell, we will be serious about our relationship with Him. We will spend time in the Word and in prayer, so that we know who we are in Him, and Who He is in us! Unless we know His heart for us, we are vulnerable to the enemy's lies! We will engage in the battle for our thought life. Our response to Him and to the challenges that come our way is our worship of Him. With and in Him we can overcome anything.

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Rom. 12:1-2)

(All Scripture references are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted)



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NEWS AND NOTES FOR MAY

Dear Partners and Friends:

I had a lovely Mother's Day with family, and a nice trip to Texas. I recently ministered at Father's House in Edmond, OK. I also helped to host, as a part of Marriage Network Oklahoma, a seminar on THE SUCCESSFUL STEPFAMILY, with Ron Deal.

I am teaching through THE CHILD HEART book on Tuesday nights. We are filming it and it will be available sometime this summer.

Thanks for your prayers for Oklahoma during this stormy season, we are praying for other places that have had tragic occurrences. We are learning even more about praying over weather!

My April guests on HeartMenders.TV were Linda Caswell, Beverly Armstrong, and Nadine Shankles. I hope you got the word we have moved the show to Tuesdays. Tune in each week to see who is new! You can do it at any time, since the show are archived. From time to time we have a technical problem or late cancellation by a guest, and do not broadcast. Forgive us and tune in next week!

REMEMBER TO BE EVER FAITHFUL IN PRAYER! CHALLENGES ABOUND. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE LORD AND NOT ON THE NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES. COVER YOUR FAMILY AND THE BODY OF CHRIST! Pray for A GREAT AWAKENING and for His people to move ever closer to Him. Again, I invite you to join any of our prayer teams, for HM Prayer Requests, HM Support Team, and Media Outreach. Do be part of a prayer group where you live. Always include your home church and Heart Menders, as well

Thank you again to our financial partners for loving us and hearing from the Lord. Your gifts, large or small, are urgently needed to help us share the message of healing for the broken hearted and restoration of families.

Please keep praying, "LORD, HELP CAROL FULFILL YOUR CALL ON HER LIFE!"

Your sister in Him,

Carol Gordon

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