

# Winning the Battle of the Mind

# Winning the Battle of the Mind

## **Ephesians 6:12**

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.

**Mind:** The collection of thoughts, perceptions, will, memory, and imagination that direct and influence behavior.

## **Matthew 22:37**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

## **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

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.

# The Strongholds of our Mind We Fight Against

- Arguments -> logismós -> A reckoning, calculation, consideration, reflection
- Pretension -> húpsōma -> Height / Arrogance

# Three Conditions That Resist Breakthrough

## 1. Pride & Arrogance

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

## 2. Justifications & Excuses

## 3. Lack of Submission

### **Romans 13:1, 2**

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

# Three Steps to Breakthrough

1. Adopt a Humble and Teachable Spirit
2. Stop Making Excuses
3. Submit to the Authorities in Your Life

# Two Battlegrounds

## 1. Generational Iniquity

### **Exodus 34:6, 7**

6 And [God] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

### **Galatians 3:13, 14**

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

# Two Battlegrounds (cont.)

## 2. Willful Sin

### **Ephesians 4:17-23**

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. 20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.