

# FIERY DARTS (Part 2)

## ***Ephesians 6:16***

***<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

We said to you that “fiery darts” aren’t just your run-of-the-mill attack from Satan. Instead, these “fiery darts” are a kind of *psychological warfare*. Meaning, they are not intended to injure as much as they are intended to cause confusion and force an enemy to give up the battle!

## ***2 Corinthians 10:4–5***

***<sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup> Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;***

Notice how Satan’s attacks can come in the form of *thoughts* and *imaginations*. This means, we can deal with the devil simply by dealing with (“casting down”) his thoughts! In fact, sometimes we haven’t truly dealt with the devil until you have dealt with his thoughts.

## ***Matthew 12:43–44***

***<sup>43</sup> When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. <sup>44</sup> Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.***

The word “**GARNISH**” in verse 44 means ***to put in order***. Although the house had been “swept and garnished,” nothing had been removed! Things were simply *put in order* and, as a result, the devil returned.

*Have you ever cleaned some part of your house only to discover that after just a few days the clutter returned? Why did it return? It probably returned because nothing was removed. You simply re-organized the clutter!*

This is what many of us are doing. Instead of getting rid of the *clutter* (thoughts and imaginations of the devil) we’ve learn to cope with our thoughts and put them “in order” in our minds. However, by refusing to deal with our thoughts, we are also refusing to deal with the devil!

When are we going to learn that our greatest problem isn’t our circumstances? Our greatest problem is how we **THINK ABOUT** our circumstances!

### **1 Peter 4:12–13**

***12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

The word “**THINK**” in verse 12 means to **entertain** or to **receive** as a guest. Therefore, whatever we “think” on we’re entertaining or receiving in our minds! Moreover, there’s a danger in entertaining or receiving the devil’s thoughts in our mind. Entertaining the devil’s thoughts can cause his thoughts...

## **TO BECOME STRONGHOLDS IN YOU**

The danger of allowing certain thoughts to live in our minds is those thoughts can become strongholds. Moreover, a stronghold is simply an invitation for other thoughts (spirits) to dwell in our minds!

### **Matthew 12:44–45**

***44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.***

This is why we can’t be casual with our thoughts, because a single thought can become a ‘gateway’ to other thoughts or spirits!

For example, a single thought of offense can quickly turn into thoughts of anger and rage (murder, assassination). The same can be said about lust. Thoughts of lust can open the door to other kinds of immorality. (I recently heard a testimony of an ex-homosexual man who said that his exposure to pornography as a teenager is what led him into homosexuality!)

We often ask ourselves, “How did I get to this point?” The answer is, by allowing thoughts to remain in your mind unchecked. Instead of checking our thoughts, we use excuses like, “Give me time to process this.” Well, while you’re processing the devil is advancing and bringing reinforcements! You must be decisive on the battlefield. You don’t have time to ponder and muse on things.

Not everyone is cable of making quick, tough decisions in the heat of battle. Some people let their emotions get the best of them. This is why armies have generals. You need someone who can help you make tough decisions in the heat of battle. (This is why we come to church. Unfortunately, the people who need the most help like to separate from those who can help them.)

Secondly, entertaining the devil's thoughts can cause his thoughts...

## TO RECREATE HIS NATURE IN YOU

Most are not aware that Satan has the power to recreate his nature in people.

### **Matthew 13:36–38**

***36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;***

There are “children of the wicked one” just like there are *children of the kingdom*. In other words, the devil has children just like God has children! Moreover, the devil's children are created the same way God's children are created—by a seed. (In this case, the ‘seed’ is the words or thoughts that he sows in men's minds.)

Therefore, when we receive the words and thoughts of the devil, his nature is gradually recreated in us. Once this happens we no longer need the devil to bring thoughts of anger or fear. Those thoughts will simply come up out of our own nature!

### **John 8:44**

***44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.***

Satan doesn't need anyone to tempt him to lie. When he lies he speaks “of his own.”

### **John 8:44 NASB95**

***44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***

Thus, it's in the devil's *nature* to lie. Moreover, Jesus points out how the scribes and Pharisees have taken on the nature of the devil. The reason they've taken on the nature of the devil is because they have taken on and received his thoughts and words! (In fact, we're all the product of the thoughts and words we (and our parents) have received over the years.)