

## 2 Corinthians 10:1-6 Art of Spiritual War Notes

1. **The battle: spiritual:** If we think it's physical, the best we can do is manage symptoms.

V.4-5a Strongholds (greek: fortress) are wrong thoughts and perceptions and are expressed in arguments and clever thinking opposed to God's way of thinking and the knowledge of God. All sin is based on a lie that something can replace what God alone should give and all strongholds begin with a foothold. Eph. 4:27 *Don't give the enemy a foothold (topos)*. Example: *When I am offended or emotionally wounded, becoming angry or embittered, I may think things such as:*

1. If I forgive the person who offended me, he/she will just hurt me again.
2. By holding onto my anger, I can punish the one who offended me.
3. This offense is so serious, I cannot forgive.

The lie here is that I am a better protector, I know what is best for me based on my feelings.

2. **The battlefield: the mind.** Our affections are the effect of what the mind understands and perceives (often incorrectly).
3. **The strategy: V.5b Take every thought captive.** How? James 4:7-8
  - a. **V.7 Submit your thinking to God.**
    - i. **Think about what you think about.** Stop, capture each thought, examine it.
    - ii. **Discern who's speaking:** To discover if it is truth or a lie. How?
      1. **Filter it through the mind of Christ.** Phil 4:8. Does this line up with Jesus and his unchanging word?
      2. **Preach truth to yourself:** Divert our inner conversation to Jesus. Psalm 103: *Bless the Lord, oh my soul.* He commands his soul to praise God. Then he reminds his soul of 2 things: **For what he's done, justice for the oppressed, makes His ways known. Then who he is: slow to anger, abounding in love.** Preach the truth to yourself because *the truth will set you free* (John 8:32).
  - b. **Resist the Devil (James 4:7b)** Eph. 6 tells us how to resist the devil in the spiritual battle: Bookends the armor with the belt of truth; ends with the sword of spirit, the word of God. Swing that sword and smash any thoughts that don't match God's word. Eph. 6:18 finishes with the final spiritual armor advice of praying. Try Psalm 139 as it recognizes our deceptive hearts and invites the Holy Spirit counselor to *search and try me, see if there is any wicked way* (including thinking). Trace its roots and He'll often show patterns that originated with a lie. And the bitterness or anger that resulted.
  - c. **Draw near to God (James 4:8)** We only do what we want to do. Solution: change our affection by remembering the truths about God. Take every thought captive by making every thought obedient to Christ.

### Grow Group Questions:

1. Comment on this phrase: "The only way our fleshly affections (wants) go away is if they are reworked into holy affections". How do we "rework" those affections? Why is worship so important then?
2. Why is only placing guardrails on my sin an incomplete solution (like changing my cursor to a Jesus icon so I don't look at porn; or throwing out the alcohol, ditching the credit card).
3. When a sin pops up, follow it back to the source by asking, "What is it that my heart does not trust God to provide that I thought this sin would take care of?"
4. What are some of the good things we do but for sinful reasons?

## Announcements 1/14

- **WISH ART A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! (1/15)**
- **Scripture Memorization** - For verses, follow the QR code below!
- **Members Meeting** - TODAY After 2nd Service! Non-members can attend but only members can vote. Members must sign in before receiving their ballot.
- **Cupcakes for Life** - 1/21 See table in Lobby
- **Man Camp** - Feb 23-24 - Registration is open. See QR code to register!
- **Worship Collective: Night of Unity** - 1/24 at 6pm - Time of extended prayer and worship.
- **CHROME Pre-Trip Meeting** - 1/28 after 2nd service in the FH Classroom.
- **CHROME Mission Trip** - 1/31-2/4 - Sign up at the QR code below!
- **Breakfast for Life** - 2/3 at 8:45am - Breakfast to connect and educate Life-Affirming Christians
- **Next Steps Class** - 2/4 at 10:45am in the FH Classroom. Learn what we believe at Feather Sound Church and have the opportunity to become a member. QR Code Below!

