

# The Battlefield of the Heart

During July we've been talking about the need to go on the offense and take the battle to Satan. Today, we will focus on the place where the battle is fought. The place where we'll be able to look at literally see and feel the difference as our victories begin to mount. In this lesson, we'll learn how sin works on the inside. We'll briefly talk about what not to do, but mainly...we'll learn how to fight back. How to win, complete with a 7-step offensive plan that will lead us to victory.

## I. How Sin Works in the Heart

- A. Sin works from our past... where we relive it all again.
  - 1. Ezekiel 23.19 - Israel multiplied harlotries by **remembering** the sins of her youth.
- B. Sin works in our future.
  - 1. Psalm 36.1: *transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his **heart**.*
  - 2. Psalm 64.6: (NIV) *They plot injustice and say, "We have devised a perfect plan!" Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.*
- C. Sin also works in the present through the imagination.
  - 1. Matthew 5.28: *Everyone who **looks** at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

## II. How not to deal with it:

- A. Mere commandment keeping; Asceticism and pietism.
- B. Church attendance, religious rituals, motions, or emotions.

## III. A 7-Step Offensive Plan

- A. 1 Peter 2.11 - **Abstain from sinful desires** that wage war against the soul.
  - 1. Romans 6.11-12 - *do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires.*
  - 2. James 4.7 - resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- B. Romans 13.14 - **make no provision for the flesh.**
  - 1. Don't feed your sinful tendencies.
  - 2. Refuse to furnish your mind with the things that feed your desires.
- C. 2 Corinthians 3.18 - **fix your eyes on Christ** by gazing at the **glory** of the Lord.
  - 1. You become like what you worship.
- D. Psalm 119.11 - **Mediate on the word.** *I have **treasured** your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.*
  - 1. See also: Psalm 1.2; Joshua 1.8; Psalm 119.105
  - 2. Philippians 4.8 - Load your mind with Scripture.
- E. 1 Thessalonians 5.17 - **pray without ceasing.**
  - 1. Luke 22.40 - *Pray that you may not **fall** into temptation.*
  - 2. Psalm 19.13 - here is a prayer for protection from sin.
- F. 1 Corinthians 9.27 - **practice self control.**
- G. Ephesians 5.18 - **be filled with the Spirit.** Romans 8.12-13 - kill sin through the Spirit.

## IV. Conclusion

- A. It is up to each of us to stand in the strength of the Spirit and the power of God.
- B. What will you do with your sin?