

“CASTING DOWN vs. CASTING OUT”

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Matthew 10:1, 8

- **John 3:3**

- Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

- **Isaiah 11:2 (NIV)**

- “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him
- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
- the Spirit of counsel and of might,
- the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.”

- **SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE & ENDURANCE**

- 2 Timothy 2:3–4

- Endure hardship as a good soldier.

- 1 Timothy 6:12

- Fight the good fight of faith.

- Revelation 2:26

- Overcomers receive authority

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

- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh
- **Spiritual battles are actually won by divine power—not by human strength.**
- For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds
- 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;

- **Matthew 10:1,8**

- And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.
- Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

We live in bodies, we deal with people, problems, pressures, and personalities—but the real battle is spiritual.

Implication:

Stop fighting spiritual battles with emotional, carnal, or human weapons.

Your frustration won't fix it.

Your intellect won't break it.

Your charisma won't change it.

Your strategy won't shift it.

Only the Spirit can win a spiritual war.

Paul says our weapons have “divine power to destroy strongholds.”

Strongholds =

entrenched patterns of thinking

lies we’ve believed

generational cycles

spiritual resistance

internal arguments against God’s truth

Divine weapons include:

The Word of God

Prayer

Worship

Fasting

Obedience

The authority of Christ

The Holy Spirit's power

This is the battlefield:

the mind.

The enemy attack your:

Identity

Confidence

Calling

Faith

Obedience

perspective

Two Battles, Two Weapons

Many believers lose spiritual battles not because they lack power, but because they use the wrong weapon for the wrong war.

Paul teaches us to cast down thoughts.

Jesus commands us to cast out demons.

Confusion between the two leads to frustration, stagnation, and unnecessary bondage.

Learn the difference so we can walk in clarity, authority, and victory.

- **CASTING DOWN:**
- **THE WAR IN YOUR MIND**
- **2 Corinthians 10:5**
- “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God”
- **What Needs to Be Cast Down**
- Imaginations
- Arguments
- Internal lies
- Mental strongholds
- Thoughts that contradict Scripture

- **This Is an Internal Battle**

- Not a demon—it's a thought pattern
- Not possession—it's perception
- Not deliverance—it's discipleship
- Some of what we call “spiritual attack” is actually mental agreement with the wrong voice.
- You don't cast out what you need to think through.
- You don't rebuke what you need to replace.
- **Jeremiah 33:3**
- “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

How You Cast Down

- **By renewing your mind**
- **Romans 12:2**
- And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- **By taking thoughts captive**
- Taking our thoughts captive means we actively manage our minds and emotions, ensuring they align with God's truth.
- Our thoughts can lead us toward darkness, fear, and doubt, but God's Word is a powerful tool that helps redirect our thinking.

- **Colossians 3:2**

- “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

- **Isaiah 26:3**

- “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

- **Proverbs 4:23**

- “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

- **James 1:21**

- “Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

- By speaking the Word, not your feelings
- By replacing lies with truth
- **Matthew 15:18**
- “But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.”
- **John 14:27**
- “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
- **Romans 10:17**
- “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

• **CASTING OUT: THE WAR AGAINST SPIRITS**

• **Matthew 10:1**

• And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

• **What Needs to Be Cast Out**

• Demons

• Unclean spirits

• Oppressive influences

• Generational spirits

• Tormenting spirits

- **This Is an External Battle**

- Not a thought—it's a spirit
- Not a mindset—it's bondage
- Not counseling—it's confrontation

- **How You Cast Out**

- By spiritual authority, not emotion
- By the name of Jesus, not human strength
- By command, not conversation
- By faith, not fear

- Mark 5:2-

- And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

• Mark 5:1-20

• And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

- You don't counsel a demon.
- You don't negotiate with darkness.
- You don't cast down what needs to be cast out.
- **Mark 1:23-26**
- Suddenly, a man with an unclean spirit cried out in the synagogue: /
- “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
- Have you come to destroy us?
- I know who You are, the Holy One of God!”
- But Jesus rebuked the spirit. “Be silent!” He said. “Come out of him!”

Misdiagnosis Leads to Misery

When You Try to Cast Out What Needs to Be Cast Down

You blame the devil for what is actually your discipline

You rebuke what you refuse to renew

You stay stuck because you won't take responsibility

Hebrews 12:10-11

10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

For the moment, all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

When You Try to Cast Down What Needs to Be Cast Out

You try to “think away” spiritual bondage

You try to “positive-talk” a demonic attack

You try to “manage” what must be evicted

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 John 3:3

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Enemy Loves Confusion

Because confusion keeps you:

Powerless

Passive

Prayerless

Paralyzed

But clarity brings authority.

Proverbs 4:7

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Clarity

Do you really understand what is going on with you?

Psalms 32:8

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”

Proverbs 2:6

“For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Proverbs 3:13

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.”

HOW TO KNOW WHICH BATTLE YOU'RE IN

If It's a Thought Problem → CAST DOWN

It contradicts Scripture

It rises in your mind

It responds to truth

It changes with discipline

If It's a Spirit Problem → CAST OUT

It torments

It persists

It resists truth

It manifests in patterns of bondage

The Holy Spirit Gives Discernment

You don't fight blindly.

You don't swing wildly.

You fight with precision.

WALKING IN VICTORY: USE THE RIGHT WEAPON

For the Mind:

The Word

Scripture Meditation

Confession Renewal

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Psalms 25:4-5

“Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me for you are God my Savior and

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Psalms 143:10

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

Psalms 119:133

“Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

For the Spirit Realm:

Authentic Prayer

Command with the name of Jesus

The power of the Holy Ghost

For the Believer:

Balance

You need both:

A disciplined mind

A delivered spirit

Victory requires both renewal and authority.

Two Battles, One Savior

Jesus gives us:

Power to cast down what rises in us

Power to cast out what comes against us

When you use the right weapon for the right war, you walk in:

Clarity

Freedom

Authority

Peace

Victory

GOD AS OUR WARRIOR

Exodus 14:13–14 “The Lord will fight for you...”

Deuteronomy 20:1–4 God goes with you to fight your battles.

Psalms 18:32–39 God trains our hands for war.

Psalms 144:1 “Blessed be the Lord... who trains my hands for war.”