

The Mind That's Set

September 23, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

Living in the In-Between

- **Deuteronomy 5:32** NIV
“So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left.”
- Walking with contentment in the in-between is a true challenge for every Christ-follower
- Almost every other way looks better than the way we’re on
- Jesus’ challenge in Mark 8:34-37

The Battle Plan

- The war over your life? At its core it's a battle to determine who's going to control your thoughts
- **Psalm 1:2-3** NLT
“But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. ³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.”

The Battle Plan

- **Colossians 3:2** NIV
“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”
- **Colossians 3:2** PASSION TRANSLATION
“Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.”

One Key: Meditating on God's Word

- Some of us hear the word meditation and despair—it sounds like a higher spirituality than we can learn and practice
- Hebrew word is HAGAH: “to moan, growl, mutter, speak, muse”
- “If you’ve ever worried about something, you already know how to meditate! Every person, saint and sinner alike, meditates every day. The question is, what are you meditating on?”

[Bill Johnson. *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*. Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., Kindle Edition.]

One Key: Meditating on God's Word

- The war over our thoughts is crucial because it will determine who (or what) we trust
- **Isaiah 26:3** NRSV
“Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—in peace because they trust in you.”
- Steadfast is from a Hebrew word that means to depend upon or be supported by; best known use of the root word is in the laying on of hands

Why It Matters

- When we listen to worry, when we meditate on it, we become unsteady in our thinking
- One moment we're thinking God will come through, the next that all is lost
- **James 1:6b** PASSION TRANSLATION
“For the ambivalent person believes one minute and doubts the next. Being undecided makes you become like the rough seas driven and tossed by the wind. You're up one minute and tossed down the next.”

Warfare Tactics

- Warfare tactic #1: Read God's Word
- Warfare tactic #2: Remember God's Word by memorizing it

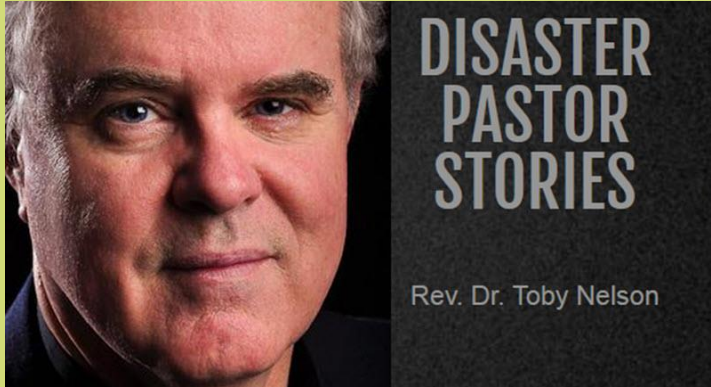
Howard Rutledge, Vietnam POW



Warfare Tactics

- Tactic #3: Revisit words from the Lord
- “They are the facts of my life, because God spoke them. It’s not simply positive thinking or using my imagination to trick myself into believing some alternate reality. It’s meditating on what God has said until I can see it and run with it.” [Bill Johnson. *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*. Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., Kindle Edition.]

Toby Nelson, Disaster Pastor



Warfare Tactics

- Tactic #4: Receive the word of the Lord
- Hiding God's word in our hearts and repeating it back to him—in song, in silence, in speech—is a powerful act of spiritual warfare to stand against the enemy
- **James 4:7b-8a** NLT
“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you.”

The Mind That's Set

- **Romans 12:2** VOICE TRANSLATION

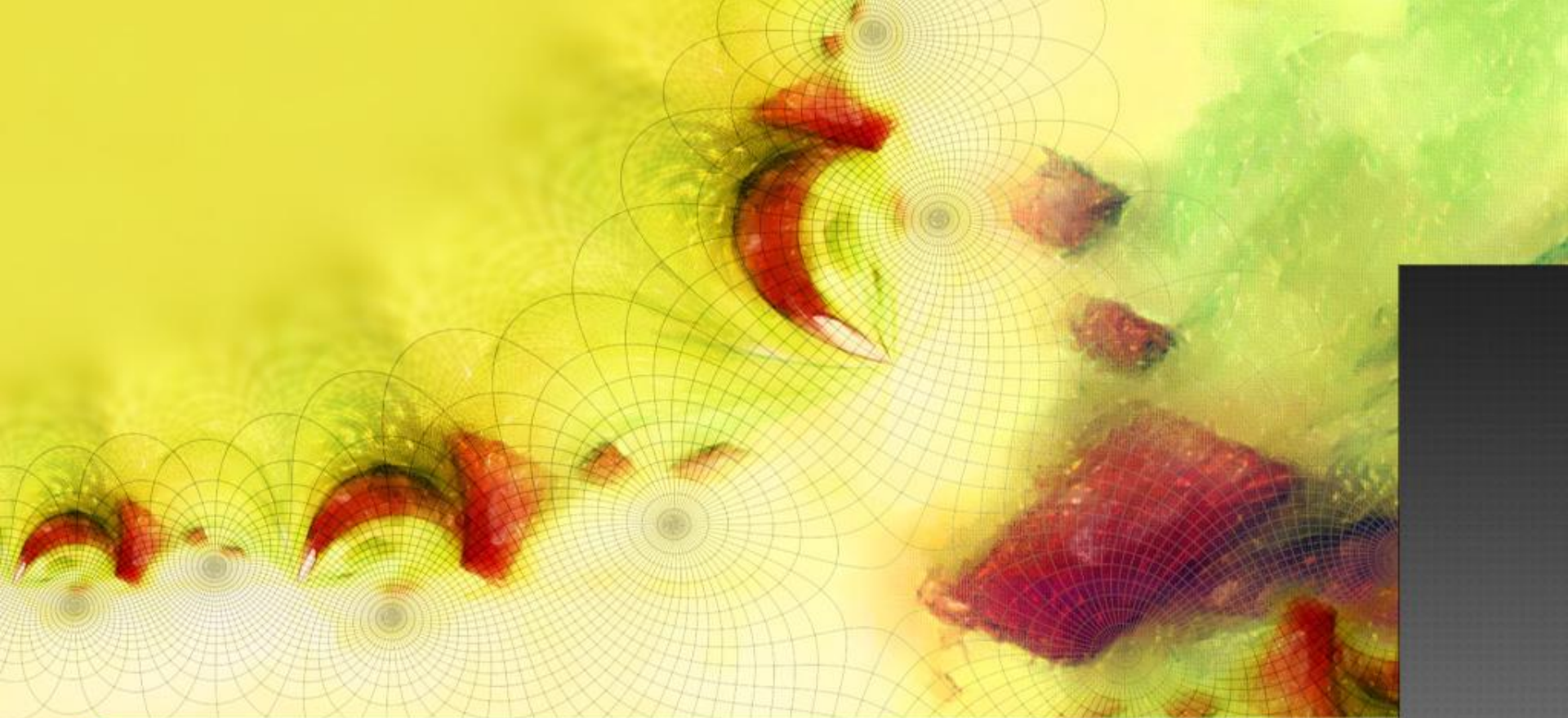
“Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.”

Untransformed Minds Bear Rotten Fruit



Transformed Minds Bear Good Fruit





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