

MAIN POINT

Satan attacks the Word of God and the character of God but Christ has provided everything we need for victory over Satan.

INTRODUCTION

What was the first thing you remember thinking about this morning? Is that pretty typical for you?

What purpose do you think training the mind has for the Christian? Is it important?

Though we often think about our obedience in terms of our physical actions, the Bible helps us see that most of the time spiritual battles are won or lost long before our choices are made. Battles are won and lost in the mind. Because they are, the Christian must not only be aware of what's happening in their head, but recognize that the spiritual battle is being fought there. In the battlefield of the mind, we must be on guard for and actively battle against wrong ways of thinking that can become spiritual strongholds.

DISCUSSION

> READ GENESIS 3:1-5 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5.

When have you been forced to answer the question "Did God really say?" How did you respond to the temptation to distrust God?

What did the serpent say about God's command in Genesis 3:4-5? What did he imply about God's character?

If we do not wage war in a physical way, what are some of the spiritual weapons God has given to us?

Paul said we are powerful enough, through using these weapons, to demolish strongholds. What do you think a spiritual stronghold is?

Why do you think Paul used such emphatic language—that these strongholds should be destroyed or demolished?

Why is the mind such a pivotal place in the spiritual battle?

What are some ways you sense that Satan has attacked your mind as a Christian?

What, in your own words, does it mean to take every thought captive to obey Christ?

Is this an active or a passive process? Why is that important to recognize?

How does what you allow to come into your mind affect your ability to take your thoughts captive?

APPLICATION

How can we encourage one another this week in our battle with sin and with remembering our true identity?