

MAIN POINT

To honor Christ, we must be on guard for and actively battle against wrong ways of thinking that become spiritual strongholds.

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 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6.

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?

> READ ROMANS 12:2 AND ROMANS 8:5.

Why is it easy to conform to the behavior of the world? In what areas of your life might you be doing so?

What are some of the ways God renews our minds? What are some of the obstacles that stand in the way of your daily transformation?

What characterizes a person who lives according to the Spirit? What characterizes a person who lives according to the flesh?

Does your thought life give more evidence that you live according to the Spirit or the flesh?

APPLICATION

From what do you need to renew your mind? How will you partner with the Holy Spirit this week to take on the character of Christ, from your mind to your heart and hands?