

## Winning the War Within

### Romans 8:5-11

## Bulletin Notes

- Followers of Jesus are called to recognize in ourselves the guiding narratives that are more aligned with the flesh than the Spirit. You are set free to be made alive.

Two Dominant Realms of Influence: Ideas and Images  
(2 Corinthians 10:3-5... "we take every thought captive...")

- What ideas am I believing?
  - What am I quick to defend?
  - Who am I quick to attack?
- What images am I beholding?
  - Nature
  - Music
  - Art (tv/movies as well)

## Looking Back

The mind is the frontline of the battle for life and peace according to Paul in Romans 8. The flesh, that sinful nature we just can't seem to shake, is always present, being used by the devil to lead us into death. Knowing the devil only has lies in his arsenal, what would it look like to be suspicious of our own thoughts/conclusions/emotions/feelings? The Spirit longs to lead us into life and peace. This requires an all-out willingness and effort on our part as well.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree/consider/contemplate)

*The point of modern propaganda isn't only to misinform or push an agenda. It is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth." - Garry Kasparov*

*Our strongest desires are often not our deepest desires. John Mark Comer*

*Combined with a sense of righteousness, strong feelings become impervious to fact and reason. Dallas Willard*

## Working It Out

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. Why do you suppose we focus so much on “flesh and blood” enemies when the Bible is clear that our struggle is against spiritual forces?
  2. When you think about your own understanding of evil and sin, including the devil, how have you downplayed the role of the supernatural in your walk with Jesus?
  3. Read Romans 8:5-11 and note everything the flesh does and desires over against everything the Spirit does and desires. If you had to sum up the difference for someone new to the faith (or if you are new to the faith), how would you explain this?
  4. Read Isaiah 26:3. When you consider that Romans 5:1 says we are at peace with God through Jesus and that Jesus himself said his peace he leaves his followers (John 14) and accordingly we don’t lose heart, what are some reasons you think followers of Jesus in your communities and networks struggle to have that peace?
  5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What are the means by which you’ve had success practicing this kind of thought patrolling and inspecting?
  6. What ideas are you believing that might contribute to a mind of flesh? Consider these questions to help: What are you quick to defend? Who are you quick to attack? (Answering these honestly requires immense vulnerability).
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