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The wars within us Pt 1 our members war against the mind

This is a new study on the wars that take place in each one of us. This series will be broken into three- as there are three wars taking place within us. Each teaching will cover two points- the war and God's solution.

In this teaching we will consider two points- (i) There is a law in our members warring against the law of our mind, and (ii) God's solution is- we bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

A little more detail on our two points-

1. There is a law in our members warring against the law of our mind
"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Rom.7:23).

In this one verse we have the law in our members, the law of sin and the law of our mind. Let us seek an understanding of each from scripture-

The law in our members is the law of sin

From our verse we establish that the law in our members is the law of sin
"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Rom.7:23).

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us free from the law of sin- Rom 8:2

Q But what is the law of sin?

A We establish a meaning of the **law of God** to help with our understanding of the law of sin.

The law of God included all that pertained to the Lord's instruction to Israel, on how they were to live, according to the book of the "law of God" (Neh.8: 8).

Therefore, the law of sin is all that pertains to sin as stipulated by God. For example

Paul said, I am **carnal sold under sin**

[14] For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

[15] For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. (Rom.7: 14, 15).

Sin dwells in a believer (in his members)

[17] Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

[20] Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (Rom.7: 17 & 20).

The law of our mind (all that pertains to our mind- as stipulated by God). For example- Thoughts come into our mind- Dan 2:29- "As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter..."

So, the law in our members, which is the law of sin- wars against the law of our mind, which brings us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members.

Q How do we combat the effects of the **war between** the law in our members (which is sin) and the law of our mind, which brings us into captivity to the law of sin?

A To enable the Holy Ghost to teach us we search the words “bring” and “captivity”, and found there are two verses– our verse from Romans 7 and 2 Cor.10: 5– which forms our second point.

2. God’s solution is– we bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

[4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

[5] Casting down imaginations, and...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor.10: (4, 5).

The war between the law of our members which is sin and the law of our mind, **causes me to be brought into captivity to the law of sin** in our members. So to be released from this captivity we can ONLY pray something that will bring about the opposite– which the Lord has given us in the weapons of our warfare– bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience to Christ”.

Illustration

My struggle over the years is the thoughts of my mind. What to do with them? I ask God for help, I ignore them, but then when I am physically tired I act on them– which results in sin. I have mostly blamed such thoughts on Satan being the source, and so spent time rebuking the devil and resisting the devil. But I have learnt that it is NOT the enemy but my own flesh– specifically the sin that dwells in my members warring against my mind and bringing my mind into captivity to sin.

Questions of the scriptures

- i) Why did Paul say that– when he sins, it is no longer I but sin that dwells in me?
- ii) How does bringing into captivity every thought to Christ eliminate the fall-out of the war?

Answers from the scriptures

i) Paul says that it is no longer I but sin that dwells in him because that is the reality. Sin dwells in our members, and IF we DO nothing, then our mind has thoughts to sin. Hence to do nothing, the warring– **brings our thoughts into captivity to sin**. Therefore, it should not surprise us that the wisdom of God says– “The thought of foolishness is sin...” (Prov 24:9).

ii) When we USE the weapons given to us and ask God to **bring every thought into captivity to Christ** then we surrender, those thoughts that are sin– and give them to Christ. They NO longer bring us into captivity to sin. In doing we are able to– “with the mind, serve the law of God” (Rom 7:25).

Then put off the old man & the deceitful lusts & be renewed in the spirit of our mind
[22] That ye put off...the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
[23] And be renewed in the spirit of your mind (Eph.4:22, 23).

IF we acknowledge this war inside us, and actively participate in eliminating the effects of it, we will be a vigilant prayer warrior, praying without ceasing – asking God to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ – because this war inside us takes place 24/7.

Let us remember– that it is only when we bring every thought into captivity to Christ that we can– with the mind serve the law of God– Rom.7: 25. We can do nothing in our own strength, but by prayer–bringing into captivity every thought to Christ, who takes our thoughts of sin and enables us to serve the law of God. Amen!!