

# **APRIL ACHIEVING A MINDSET FOR DESTINY**

We are eliminating major obstacles that will hinder you from reaching your destiny. Last month you learned how the words you speak can lead to unbelief, fear, and disobedience and abort your divine destiny.

During April, we will spend the entire month focusing on one huge obstacle--the major battlefield where most spiritual attacks occur--your mind and heart. Your victory in all the other areas of spiritual warfare depends on the outcome of this battle.

The major battlefield where Satan wages war against you is in your heart and mind--at the very center of your being--where your moral, spiritual, and mental abilities are located. As you will learn during this month, your heart and mind are intricately related. Satan attacks you at your most vulnerable point where your thoughts originate, where you receive God's Word, and where your will, emotions, desires, and mental abilities are located.

Poised at the border of their inheritance the first time, Israel failed to enter into their Promised Land because they did not have the mindset to do so. Their hearts and minds were filled with negative thoughts of fear and unbelief that resulted in rebellion.

What about you? Do you have the proper mindset to reach your destiny or are you wrestling with negative, sinful, fearful, doubting thoughts that are influencing your heart and mind?

The battle for your heart and mind is actually a conflict for your destiny. That is why it is vital that you learn how to win this important battle. Without the proper mindset, you will never fulfill your divine destiny.

This month, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you will achieve the proper mindset for destiny. You will learn how to win the battle for your heart and mind.

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## APRIL 1 THE MAIN BATTLEFIELD

Throughout the ages, the heart has been referred to as a source of virtue, love, and intelligence. Many ancient cultures, including the Mesopotamians, Egyptians, Babylonians, and Greeks assert that the heart is the primary organ responsible for influencing and directing emotions and decision-making. Similar perspectives are found in many religions.

Even with these traditions and plentiful metaphors such as "I love you with all my heart", most of us have been taught that the heart is just a muscle that pumps blood and maintains circulation. Neuroscientists have discovered exciting information about the heart, however, that reveals it is far more complex. Scientists have found that the heart has its own independent nervous system—a complex system referred to as "the brain in the heart." There are at least forty thousand neurons (nerve cells) in the heart—as many as are found in various sub-cortical centers of the brain.

The heart communicates with the brain and the rest of the body in three ways: Neurologically (through transmissions of nerve impulses); biochemically (through hormones and neurotransmitters); and biophysically (through pressure waves). Growing scientific evidence suggests that the heart may communicate with the brain and body in a fourth way—energetically (through electromagnetic field interactions). Through these communication systems, the heart has significant influence on the function of the brain, continually sending the brain extensive emotional and intuitive signals.

This scientific data makes it clear why Satan's objective is to attack at the very center of your existence--your innermost being--your heart and mind. In explaining the source from which man is defiled and where sin is conceived, Jesus said:

*For from within, (that is) out of the heart of man, come base and wicked thoughts: sexual immorality, stealing, murder, adultery, Coveting (a greedy desire to have more wealth), dangerous and destructive wickedness, deceit; unrestrained (indecent) conduct; an evil eye (envy), slander (evil speaking, malicious misrepresentation, abusiveness); pride – (that is) the sin of an uplifted heart against God and man; foolishness (folly, lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness). All these evil (purposes and desires) come from within, and they make the man unclean and render him unhallowed. (Mark 7:21-23, AMP)*

Your heart and mind are intricately related. Understanding the relationship between them is essential in order to war effectively on this major spiritual battlefield.

## APRIL 2 WHERE SIN IS CONCEIVED

It is in man's heart—his innermost being—where sin is conceived. It was in Satan's heart that sin originated. His "heart" was lifted up because of his beauty (Ezekiel 28:17). It was in his "heart" that he exalted himself above God (Isaiah 14:13-14). The sin of Ananias and Sapphira originated in their hearts (Acts 5:3).

The Greek word for "heart" is *kardia*, which includes man's entire mental and moral activity—the inner man. The heart and mind are linked and are where the emotions, desires, perceptions, thoughts, understanding, reasoning powers, conscience, intentions, will, and imagination reside.

What is in a man's heart and mind determines what he is. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"* (Proverbs 23:7). Jesus told the Pharisees:

*Oh generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. (Matthew 12:34-35)*

These verses reveal that man's heart is where either good or evil resides. Your words and actions are determined by what is in your heart, and your heart is affected by your thought life. If there is hatred, anger, jealousy, and pride in your mind, these negative emotions will affect your heart and be manifested in the words that come out of your mouth and in your actions.

The heart is the center of your existence. It is in your heart that you receive the Word, are convicted by the Holy Spirit, and receive salvation (Romans 10:8-10). It is in the heart—within your innermost being—where you either have faith to believe God's Word or you harbor doubt and unbelief that will hinder you from claiming God's promises. Jesus said, *"Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen it shall be granted him"* (Mark 11:22-23, NAS).

Because the heart and mind are so closely related, we must look at what God's Word says concerning them in order to have a clear understanding of this major battlefield. The Greek word used to refer to the mind is *nous*, which is used to describe the mental functions of perception, understanding, knowing, feeling, judging, and determining. The mind is comprised of the will, emotions, thoughts, and imagination which influence the issues of your heart. Are you beginning to see why this is the most important spiritual battlefield?

### APRIL 3

## ENFORCING THE VICTORY

It is in your mind where Satan is unleashing his all-out war. The war you are fighting is not against flesh and blood. It is not a mental battle fought through the power of positive thinking, head knowledge, psychological techniques, or your limited mental abilities. It is a spiritual battle in your mind which must be fought and won in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Satan's strategy is to bombard your mind with fiery darts of unbelief, fear, worry, confusion, temptation, depression, oppression, and deception. He will try to fill your mind with evil desires and lusts of the flesh. Anxiety, fear, defeat, and discouragement concerning the circumstances in your life are all mental tactics that result in a heart filled with hopelessness and despair.

But Satan's power over your mind can be broken! God has made total provision so you can be victorious in every battle, just as He did for the nation of Israel. Israel had all the power they needed to overcome their enemies and claim their inheritance. As you prepare to fulfill your divine destiny, God has provided you with everything you need also.

You are facing an enemy that has already been defeated. Two thousand years ago when Jesus cried, "It is finished," the war against Satan was won. Through His precious blood that was shed on the cross, you are totally delivered out of Satan's hands and that deliverance includes your heart and mind.

Satan has no claims over you whatsoever! "*For sin shall not have dominion over you...*" (Romans 6:14). You are no longer living in the kingdom of darkness under Satan's dominion as "prince of this world." You are a joint-heir with Christ in the Kingdom of God. Satan has no power over you other than what you yield to him.

God does not expect you to face Satan and the evil forces of wickedness in your own strength. He has given you authority over all the power of the enemy through the Holy Spirit within you. He has provided powerful spiritual armor that makes you invulnerable and invincible against all of Satan's attacks. He has armed you with weapons of warfare, enabling you to pull down every stronghold of the enemy (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

God has given the power to *you* to pull down Satan's strongholds and totally demolish them. But your victory over Satan is not automatic. Victory is yours only as you put on the armor of God, use your spiritual weapons of warfare, resist Satan, and enforce the victory Jesus secured on the cross. Your mind is Satan's major arena of attack where spiritual battles must be fought and won. You must learn to enforce the victory which Christ has secured for you--right there, on the major battlefield of your life.

## **APRIL 4**

### **GOING TO THE ROOT CAUSE**

Your battles are not with family members, your husband or wife, your employer, fellow workers, or any individual. Your battles are not with sickness and disease--cancer, high blood pressure, heart trouble, or diabetes. Your battles are not the problems you are facing on your job or in your finances.

You must go beyond the surface to the root cause of your battles. In prayer, you must go deep into the spirit realm and identify the real enemy--the evil spirits that are at work in your circumstances.

Spiritual warfare is not just a theory. It is a reality! Although you cannot see it with your natural eyes, this war you are fighting against Satan is just as real as the wars taking place in the natural world that are being fought with tanks, airplanes, missiles, and guns. Your battles are just as real as the actual battles fought and won by Israel in the land of Canaan.

You see the effects of Satan's attacks in the natural world as he attacks your body, your finances, your family, and your circumstances. You witness the effects of his attacks in the lives of your loved ones in rebellious children, lost family members, and those who are bound by drugs or alcohol. But until you recognize where this spiritual battle is actually taking place and take offensive action against Satan, you will continue to live in defeat.

This war in which you are fighting in one-on-one combat is not taking place in the natural realm. You must go to the basis of your problems and deal with the root causes. You must kill the root in order to destroy the fruit. If you don't want the fruit of anger in your life, then deal with the root causes in your heart--your bitterness and unforgiveness.

Where is the battlefield where the war against Satan and his principalities must be fought and won? It is in your innermost being, your heart and mind where either good or evil thoughts reside. A man's words and actions are determined by what is in his heart. If there are thoughts of hatred, anger, jealousy, or pride in a person's heart they will affect the words that come out of his mouth. That is why you must go to the root to destroy the fruit.

What is in your heart? What is in your innermost being? Open your heart to God for inspection today. Ask Him to reveal to you what is in your innermost being. Identify the root causes and deal with them, and then the surface manifestations will be eliminated. Cut the root, kill the fruit!

## APRIL 5 AS YOU THINK IN YOUR HEART

Jesus taught the multitudes that it is possible to sin in their heart and mind even before the sin is manifested outwardly. He said, *"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart"* (Matthew 5:28).

It is in man's heart--his innermost being--where sin is conceived. It was in Satan's heart that sin originated. His heart was lifted up because of his beauty:

*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. (Ezekiel 28:17).*

It was in his heart that Satan exalted himself above God:

*For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:13-14).*

In the New Testament, a man named Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, lied about the sale of their land and kept back part of the money for themselves:

*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. (Acts 5:1-2)*

Peter asked, *"...why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?"* (Acts 5:3).

The money was theirs to keep if they desired. The problem was that they had allowed Satan to fill their minds and hearts with deception which was manifested by lies. The Greek word for heart is *kardia* which includes man's entire mental and moral activity, the inner man. Peter was asking Ananias, "Why have you allowed Satan to so fill your innermost being, your heart, mind, your thoughts that you lied to the Holy Spirit?" The thoughts Ananias and Sapphira allowed Satan to plant in their hearts took root, sin was conceived in their hearts, and sin was manifested through lying about how much money they received and were giving.

What is in your heart determines who you are, *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."* (Proverbs 23:7). How is your thinking today? Do you have some thoughts that need to be eliminated by the power of the Holy Spirit?

## **APRIL 6**

### **THE ISSUES OF LIFE**

If a man's heart and mind are filled continually with evil thoughts, lusts of the flesh, carnal desires, and wicked imaginations, he will be a weak and defeated believer.

On the other hand, if a man's heart and mind are filled with good thoughts--God's Word, faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit--he will be strong and victorious.

Since the heart is the center of man's existence, the innermost being from where all the issues of life flow forth, it is vitally important that you make every possible effort to continually protect it from the enemy.

You are warned: *"Keep your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life"* (Proverbs 4:23, AMP). The springs of life mean all the issues--everything pertaining to your life.

Your mind is Satan's major point of attack and it is here where the war must be fought and won. The war you are fighting is not against flesh and blood. It is not a battle fought with your mental abilities, through the power of positive thinking, head knowledge, psychological techniques, or your limited natural abilities. It is a spiritual battle in your mind which affects your heart. It can only be fought and won by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When Israel was at the edge of their destiny the first time, it was an attack on their minds that prevented them from entering their Promised Land. They listened to negative reports and believed these instead of God's promises. They lost the battle for their hearts and minds. They thought on what they heard, became discouraged, and grew fearful. In so doing, they disobeyed God, missed their destiny, and turned back to die in the wilderness.

But you will not follow in their tracks, because you are coming out of the wilderness. Through Christ, you are renewing your mind--the major point of Satan's attacks. You will not be discouraged, nor will you turn back to the old life. You will not die in the wilderness.



**APRIL 7**  
**A NEW MIND**

Paul referred to the battle that takes place in your heart and mind. He told the Romans:

*For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. (Romans 7:22-23, NIV)*

In these verses, Paul was speaking of the carnal desires of the flesh which war against the mind and try to make it a slave to the sins of the old carnal nature.

Paul continues by explaining that through Christ you have been set free from this old nature with its sinful desires, thoughts, and attitudes. You are now empowered to serve God with your mind and heart:

*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (Romans 7:24-25)*

Then Paul explains how sin has been deprived of its power over you. The power of sin which once ruled your heart and mind has been broken, and you are no longer a slave to the sinful desires of your carnal nature:

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. (Romans 8:2-3)*

Jesus destroyed the works of the devil and set you free from the power of sin. Sin no longer has dominion over you. Once alienated from God, you were bound by your own stubborn, selfish will to live your life to please the flesh. But now, through Jesus, your heart and mind have been cleansed and set free from the power of sin. Your heart and mind are continuing to be renewed daily because you have been reconciled to God:

*And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight. (Colossians 1:21-22).*

Your mind, which was once under Satan's control, has been set free from his power. God placed His Spirit within you when you were born again. Your old sinful nature has not been rehabilitated, rather you have a brand new nature. All things are new. You have a new heart and a new mind with new attitudes and desires.

## **APRIL 8**

### **A VICTORIOUS MIND**

Jesus paid the price so you can have a one-hundred percent victorious mind. Satan no longer has power over you. He does not have power to make you sin. He cannot control your mind, thoughts, will, and emotions. He has no power whatsoever over you except what you allow him to have.

Sadly, Satan is creating havoc in the hearts and minds of many believers who do not know that they can have power over his attacks. They are in a constant state of turmoil. They are continually being bombarded with fear, worry, doubt, and confusion, yet they do not understand that it is Satan who is attacking them.

Many believers are being tempted with carnal desires and lusts of the flesh. A fierce battle is raging within them. Satan has a vice-like grip on their minds and they are unable to be free of his tormenting spirits. As a result, their minds are filled with fear, guilt, and condemnation. They are living a defeated life.

Many believers are victims of depression. They are gripped with a sense of hopelessness, frustration, and despair. They are spiritually immobilized, unable to release their faith, to think clearly, and to cope with the problems and circumstances they are facing. In some severe cases, their minds are in such turmoil they consider suicide.

These defeated believers are tormented, frustrated, and confused. They are unable to take authority over these satanic forces because they do not know where Satan is attacking or how to defeat him.

There is no reason why God's people should be defeated. There is no reason why they should be confused, worried, fearful, anxious, depressed, or oppressed in their hearts and minds. There is no reason why you should live this way.

Jesus did not pay the supreme price and give His life as a sacrifice so that you could live in victory over the enemy only fifty percent, seventy percent, or even ninety-five percent of the time. Jesus paid the price at Calvary so that you can have a one-hundred percent victorious mind one-hundred percent of the time!

## APRIL 9 DEFEATING DEPRESSION

Perplexity! Stress! Fear! Worry! Hopelessness! Despair! Discouragement! Defeat! These negative forces permeate our society. But in the midst of these negative forces, believers do not have to become victims of depression!

Regardless of the things which are coming upon this earth, regardless of the trials, circumstances, and attacks of Satan upon your mind, you do not have to become depressed like the people of the world who are living in spiritual darkness.

You must recognize depression for what it is--a major strategy of Satan. Satan is using depression in an attempt to stop the progress believers are making in pushing back the forces of darkness in the nations of the world. We are not talking about depression that results from a physical condition--such as a lack of serotonin. We are talking about an all-out attack of spiritual and emotional depression that is rampant in the Body of Christ.

There are multiplied thousands of Christians today who have failed to recognize depression as an attack of Satan. They do not know how to fight and win the war over depression and they are being spiritually immobilized on the sidelines.

Many Christians consider depression a natural reaction when they face difficult trials or attacks of the enemy, such as long-term sickness, marital problems, death of a loved one, loss of a job, or extreme financial difficulties. But the Bible says that believers are to be joyful in the midst of trials, giving thanks in every situation--not depressed.

There are some Christian ministers and leaders who are experiencing "spiritual burnout." They have been carrying such a heavy workload, pushing themselves twelve to fourteen hours a day, seven days a week, giving themselves unselfishly in meeting the needs of others. In so doing, they have failed to spend time in God's presence being strengthened and refreshed by His Spirit. They have been so involved in doing the work of the ministry that they have failed to take time with the Lord to be renewed in their minds. Hence, they become tired, discouraged, and depressed. *"...depression crushes courage, And leaves you unable to cope" (Proverbs 18:14, TPT).*

Depression is a major tool of the enemy--but you do not have to succumb to it. God has promised you a one-hundred percent victorious mind through the power of the Holy Spirit. Take authority over depression today! Do not allow it to operate in your life, today or any day. The minute a depressing thought comes, begin to praise and worship the Lord and it will flee.

**APRIL 10**  
**SETTING YOUR MIND FOR VICTORY**

Some believers are depressed because of past failures. Satan brings up their past sins and uses these thoughts against them. Some people are depressed because of guilt over bad habits, temptations, and sins they have been unable to overcome. They have struggled to be free, but when they continue to fail, their hearts and minds are filled with guilt.

Many Christians today are frustrated, worried, and depressed over financial problems. They have overdue bills and other commitments they are unable to pay because their income is insufficient to meet their basic needs.

Others are deeply distraught and depressed concerning their marriage relationship. There are those who have unsaved spouses and there is no peace or harmony in their home. Some have mates who have left them for someone else or have asked for a divorce. Others feel their spouse no longer loves or appreciates them. Some are living in abusive situations.

On the job, there are thousands of Christians who are depressed. Faced with a heavy work load, pressures, demands, and deadlines with which they are unable to cope, they are worn-out mentally and physically.

Others are depressed because of pain or sickness. Research indicates eighty-three percent of patients with chronic pain are depressed. Long-term illness fills their minds with doubt, worry, and self-pity--all of which lead to depression.

Depression is not a normal reaction for believers facing adverse circumstances. We must realize that depression is not an acceptable reaction to problems. We must recognize it as more than a leading cause of major illness. It is time that we go to the root cause and recognize depression for what it really is: Depression is a spirit that Satan is using to attack our minds!

You are not a helpless victim of depression. Regardless of the great distress and perplexity--the stress, fear, and hopelessness that surrounds you--you do not have to become depressed. Set your mind for victory. Refuse to allow Satan, others around you, or your own thought life to program your mind for failure, defeat, or depression.

From this day forward, determine that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will not allow your mind to be ruled by depression. Set your mind for victory!

## APRIL 11 GOD'S GUARANTEE

Satan wants you to accept depression as if there is nothing you can do about it. He wants you to be depressed and stay depressed, so that you will be unable to fulfill God's purpose and plan for your life.

To successfully overcome depression, you must learn to stop it the moment it attacks your mind. You must recognize that the thoughts which you allow to remain in your heart and mind are what causes your depression--not your negative circumstances. None of the circumstances you are facing or ever will face can cause you to be depressed. It is your response to your problems that determines whether or not you will be depressed. You do not have to ever be depressed again! God's Word has promised:

*No temptation (trial) has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted (tried) beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted (tried), he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV)*

This is God's guarantee against depression. God will not allow any circumstances, trial, temptation or attack of the enemy to come into your life that you are unable to bear. In every circumstance you face, He will make a way of escape that will bring you out victoriously.

The Apostle Paul had every reason to be discouraged, defeated, and depressed. Think about the circumstances he faced. He was rejected, beaten several times, stoned, shipwrecked, and imprisoned. Yet, he was not depressed. He despaired of life at one point, but he did not become what we call "clinically depressed." Paul declared:

*We are troubled on every side – yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed...  
(2 Corinthians 4:8-9)*

In the prison cell where Paul and Silas were incarcerated for preaching the Gospel, Paul had every reason to be depressed (Acts 16). His back was bruised and bleeding and he was bound by chains. He was no doubt hungry and physically exhausted. He had been unjustly imprisoned. But, he was not depressed. He was not fearful, worried, angry, or filled with self-pity concerning his circumstances. Instead of griping, complaining, and feeling sorry for themselves, Paul and Silas sang praises to God and--in so doing--won the victory over depression. As they praised and worshiped God, He supernaturally intervened in their circumstances and delivered them. Through praise and worship, they found the way of escape. There is no temptation you are experiencing but what is common to man. God is faithful to His guarantee that your circumstances will never be more than you can bear. There is always a way of escape.

## **APRIL 12**

### **REJECTING OPPRESSION**

Satan is oppressing many of God's people today, just as he oppressed the Syrophoenician woman's daughter in New Testament times. Demon "oppression" and "possession" are just as real today and perhaps even more prevalent as during Christ's ministry on earth.

When a believer is oppressed, it is an outward result of Satan attacking his mind or body and sometimes both. A true believer can be oppressed mentally or physically and not be possessed by unclean spirits. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit, demonic forces can oppress you, but not possess you because the Holy Spirit cannot dwell in the same spiritual house with demons.

It is time for the church of Jesus Christ to recognize the demonic oppression that is coming against God's people, confront Satan and his evil forces, and take authority over them just as Jesus did in His ministry. Satan is illegally exercising dominion over believers, tormenting their minds and afflicting their bodies.

Demons are spirit beings without physical bodies. One of their main objectives is to invade and indwell human minds so they can take control of their bodies. Demon spirits of fear, doubt, unbelief, worry, and depression will attack and torment a person's mind until they become so oppressed they are unable to appropriate by faith the promises of God in relation to their circumstances.

In this state of oppression there is such a heaviness in the spirit that there is a thick spiritual darkness like a cloud that cannot be penetrated. The person may have "head knowledge" of God's promises, but because of the heavy oppression by these spirits, be unable to act in faith upon the Word of God.

If a believer fails to resist these attacks and reject the thoughts and suggestions these spirits try to plant in his mind, his emotions and actions will become controlled by them. Eventually his will becomes so weakened that he yields to the oppressing spirits and is in a constant state of torment. Such torment will soon be manifested in his physical body and by his actions as well.

Recognize Satan's strategy of oppression and reject oppressive thoughts the minute they pop into your mind. Do not allow your emotions to be controlled or tormented by these demonic forces.

## APRIL 13 RECOGNIZING DEMONIC FORCES

Demon spirits often oppress people by causing physical ailments in their bodies. This was the case of a woman with a spirit of infirmity who was bound and oppressed by it for eighteen years. She was bowed together and unable to lift herself up (Luke 13:10-11). This woman was not possessed, but was oppressed by an evil spirit. Jesus discerned that a spirit of infirmity was causing her condition.

It was for this purpose Jesus had come! God anointed and empowered Jesus to heal and deliver those who were oppressed by the devil. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

*And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, Woman, you are released from your infirmity! Then He laid (His) hands on her and instantly she was made straight, and she recognized and thanked and praised God.  
(Luke 13:12-13, AMP)*

When the leader of the synagogue reprimanded Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus said, *“And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” (Luke 13:16, AMP).*

One day, a man with a blind and dumb spirit was brought to Jesus. The demon oppressing this man had afflicted his vision and his ability to speak. After Jesus took authority over the spirit and cast it out, the man was totally healed: *“Then a blind and dumb man, under the power of a demon, brought to Jesus and He cured him, so that the blind and dumb man both spoke and saw” (Matthew 12:22, AMP).*

God never intended for man to experience sin, sickness, disease, or emotional and mental disorders. These negative forces entered into the world as a result of sin and are used by Satan to attack God's people.

It is time for us to recognize how Satan and his demonic forces are afflicting and oppressing believers. This is a major step we must take before we can take authority over the spirits of oppression, break their hold, and be loosed from their control.

Your spiritual eyes are being trained to recognize how Satan and his demonic forces are attacking, afflicting, and oppressing believers today. Your ears are being opened to receive divine revelation, and you are learning to use your mouth to articulate God's Word. You will know how to respond to attacks in your own life and how to liberate others who are bound by the enemy.

**APRIL 14**  
**RISING UP IN NEW STRENGTH**

There has been a lack of revelation not only regarding the work of the enemy, but also concerning the power and authority believers have over Satan and his evil forces. Not understanding the need to detect and resist evil spirits, many believers have become victims instead of victors. Instead of exercising dominion over evil forces, believers are allowing these spirits to seize authority in their lives.

Now that you are learning about the strategies Satan is using, however, you will no longer be ignorant of his devices. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and sent by God to set free those oppressed by the devil. Jesus has already destroyed the power of the devil. As His ambassador, you are anointed and dispatched by the Holy Spirit to enforce His victory throughout the world.

There may be spirits oppressing your mind, continually bombarding you with lusts of the flesh and tempting you to sin. A spirit of fear may be tormenting your mind to such an extent you are constantly living in fear. Worry and doubt may be attacking your mind until you are in a constant state of turmoil. Spirits of heaviness, hopelessness, frustration, or depression may be coming against you until you have reached a point in your life where you feel you cannot go on--where you are simply worn out, tired of resisting the enemy and conducting spiritual warfare.

Just as God delivered Israel out of the hands of her oppressors, He will deliver His people today out of the oppression of the enemy. Those who have been tormented in their minds by spirits of lust, adultery, fornication, and sexual perversion will be delivered. Those under heavy oppression—who have no joy or peace, and who are unable to freely worship God—they are going to be set free! The dark cloud of oppression will lift and they will walk and live in new freedom in the Spirit.

The key to being set free from oppressing spirits is found in knowing and using the power and authority that is rightfully yours (Luke 10:19). Do not hesitate or be fearful in dealing with the demons that are attacking you, your family, friends or loved ones. Take authority over them and cast them out, in the Name of Jesus.

You are anointed by the Holy Spirit to confront the powers of Satan and liberate those who are oppressed—including yourself. God is empowering you to rise up in new strength to stop the enemy in his tracks.



**APRIL 15**  
**TRANSFORMING YOUR MIND**

Paul told the Corinthians, *“But we have the mind of Christ, the Messiah, and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart” (1 Corinthians 2:16, AMP).*

God has planned that believers be transformed into Christ’s image (Romans 8:29) and this transformation takes place by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18).

As you fill your mind with the Word of God, you are being transformed into His image. As your mind, will, desires, and purposes are renewed, you become governed by the Holy Spirit and begin to manifest this in your thoughts, emotions, and conduct.

Paul told the Ephesians to be constantly renewed in the spirit of their minds:

*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:23-24).*

God has planned that your mind be filled with revelation knowledge so that you will be able to comprehend the riches of your inheritance and the power you possess as a child of God.

Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesians the spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Christ, *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him” (Ephesians 1: 17).*

How? *“By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light...”*

Why?

*...so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints – His set-apart ones. And (so that you can know and understand) what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength. (Ephesians 1:18-19, AMP)*

God has planned that you have a strong mind with the ability to control every thought, imagination, desire, and emotion, and—through the spiritual weapons He has provided you— bring them into conformity to the will of God. Do not settle for anything less than a totally transformed mind.

## APRIL 16 REFUSING TO BE A VICTIM

God is calling you to have a sound, well-disciplined mind. Satan, on the other hand, wants you to think you are a helpless victim of negative thinking and that there is nothing you can do to control your thoughts.

Satan is a liar! He does not have the ability to control your mind. You do not have to accept the thoughts that he tries to plant in your mind. He cannot force you to think evil thoughts. He cannot force you to worry. He cannot force you to be fearful, discouraged, or depressed.

Satan's power over your mind has been broken. He only has the power to attack your mind when you fail to resist and permit him to have access to it, so "*...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7).

Unfortunately, there are some believers who are allowing Satan to have complete access to their minds without putting up any resistance. Not only are they permitting negative, doubting, fearful ideas to enter their minds, they are allowing these thoughts to remain and are continually dwelling upon them. Their excuse is, "I cannot help myself."

But you can help yourself! God has made it possible for you to have a one-hundred percent free, one-hundred percent victorious mind--but you must be willing to take aggressive action. You must recognize Satan's attacks, resist the ideas he tries to plant in your mind, take authority, and cast out every errant thought in the Name of Jesus.

Paul told Timothy: "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*" (2 Timothy 1:7). The Greek word for *sound* is *sophronismos*, which is an appeal for soundness of mind or self-control. Paul was encouraging Timothy to develop a strong, sound, well-disciplined mind. He was instructing Timothy to discipline his mind by taking authority over it and focusing his thoughts on fulfilling the ministry to which God had called him.

Take authority over your mind today. Fill your mind with thoughts of the vision God has given you and how you will fulfill it. Focus on your destiny. Look to the future instead of the past. Refuse to be a victim of the tactics of the enemy in your thought life.

**APRIL 17**  
**THE CYCLE OF DEFEAT**

God has planned for you to have a sound mind that is one-hundred percent victorious. He wants you to have a well-disciplined mind that is controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Developing this kind of mind does not happen automatically. To have a well-disciplined, victorious mind, you must:

- Take aggressive action against Satan's attacks—recognize, resist, and reject all thoughts he tries to plant in your heart and mind.
- Continually bring every thought into captivity.
- Be renewed in your mind by “putting off” the old nature with its carnal thinking and bringing your thoughts under the control of the Holy Spirit and into conformity with the will of God.
- Fill your heart and mind with God's Word and the knowledge of Christ.

Satan's objective in attacking you is to wear you down until you become spiritually weary and faint in your mind. He knows that if your mind is weak he will be able to gain access to your life. Satan will try to make you so tired of your circumstances and your struggles that you will just give up.

No doubt, you have fought heavy spiritual battles before, but they will not compare with the battles you will face during the end-times. Satan will intensify his attacks on the saints of God and will try to literally wear them out (Daniel 7:25). Unless you are aware of what is happening and prepare yourself, you will not be able to stand in victory. You will live in a continuous cycle of defeat.

Satan will attack you through your circumstances so that you will become caught in a cycle of defeat. He will bombard your mind with fear and doubt until you become spiritually weary and faint in your mind. Then you will become discouraged, lose hope, and resign yourself to accepting your circumstances as they are. Your discouragement may then lead to depression where you will be spiritually immobilized.

Take aggressive action against Satan's attacks on your mind today. Continually bring every thought into captivity. Renew your mind by putting off your old carnal thinking and filling your mind with God's Word.

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)*

## APRIL 18 TAKING AUTHORITY

Paul warned New Testament believers not to become weary and faint in their minds, due to the great opposition and persecution they were facing. He told them:

*...let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (Hebrews 12:1-3)*

The Greek word for *faint* means “to unloose, relax, and make weak.” Satan wants you to become so overwhelmed by your circumstances, so weary fighting the battles that you face day-after-day, that you faint spiritually.

The enemy wants your mind to be spiritually weak so that you will:

- let up on your prayers.
- reduce the time you study the Word.
- stop resisting his attacks.
- yield control of your thoughts to him.
- stop casting down vain ideas.

You may be at this dangerous point right now where you are weary and have fainted in your mind. You may be so worn out from spiritual battles that you are ready to give up. You may be tired of resisting temptation. Your mind may be in constant turmoil. You may be depressed or severely oppressed by the enemy.

Jesus warned about the care of the world saying, *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34).*

Whatever strategy Satan may be using to attack your mind, don't give in! God has made it possible for you to walk in one-hundred percent victory over all the power of enemy. The moment you faint in your mind and stop resisting his attacks, you are surrendering yourself into his hands. You are defeated only when you fail to fight.

It is time to prepare your mind for aggressive action. Do not remain passive. To win the battle of your heart and mind and live in one-hundred percent victory over every attack of the enemy, you must have a strong, powerful, disciplined mind that is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Allow the Holy Spirit to take complete control of your heart and mind.

## APRIL 19 STRENGTHENING YOUR LOINS

In writing to believers who were distressed because of the tremendous trials they were experiencing, the Apostle Peter commanded, “*Gird up the loins of your mind...*” (1 Peter 1:13). In essence, he was telling them to prepare their minds for aggressive action, to strengthen their minds for the battles they were facing.

The first piece of armor the Roman soldier put on as he prepared for battle was his belt. The belt was a very significant part of the armor as it was tied around the soldier’s waist to gather in the short tunic which he wore, keep the breastplate in place, and hold his sword. The soldier’s belt strengthened his loins and enabled him to fasten his armor securely, making him prepared to fight. To tighten or gird up the belt indicated a soldier was ready for action. To loosen or slacken the belt was a sign that he was off duty.

It is time for you to prepare for the battle by “girding up” and strengthening the loins of your mind. If you fail to do this, you are not going to be able to walk in the victory God has planned for you.

The *loins* refers to the chief area of bodily strength. The entire body is connected to the loins. If the loins fail, the whole body fails. The "loins" you are to gird up for battle spiritually are your heart and mind—your innermost man—the center of your existence from where all the issues of life flow forth.

If your heart and mind is strong and disciplined, if you know God’s Word and your thoughts are constantly being brought into obedience to Christ--then you will be strong and courageous during times of great trial, temptation, or attack by the enemy.

If you have a passive mind, you are an easy target for Satan. When your mind is in a state of passivity, your spiritual senses are dulled. You are vulnerable to every attack--deception, fear, temptation, oppression, depression--and eventually you will lose control of your thought life.

It is time for you to rise up, to march forward in new strength with a one-hundred percent victorious mind. You must not be intimidated by the power of the enemy. You must not be fearful or cowardly. You must face the enemy with renewed spiritual aggressiveness and a determination to defeat him in every area of your life.

As you go out into the world today, gird up the loins of your heart and mind. Do not let your spiritual senses become dull. Be ready to face the attacks of the enemy. Strengthen your loins before you enter the battlefield.

**APRIL 20**  
**WALKING IN VICTORY**

God has made it possible for you to have a one-hundred percent victorious mind, but you must learn to discipline your mind until it is fully governed by the Holy Spirit within you.

You can either set your mind for victory or for defeat. If you are continually allowing thoughts of failure and defeat, then you will be defeated. If your mind is continually fixed on the victory Christ has made possible for you, you will be victorious. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7).*

What you program into a computer is exactly what is going to come out of it. If the information you program is incorrect, that is what you are going to retrieve from it. If what you program into a computer is one-hundred percent correct, the output will be one-hundred percent accurate.

The same principle is true regarding your mind. The thoughts, desires, and imaginations which you allow to fill your mind are what will govern your heart, be expressed through your words, and be manifested in your life.

It is time to reprogram your mind for battle! Begin today to take aggressive action against the enemy. Refuse to allow Satan to plant even one thought in your mind. If your mind is in turmoil, filled with fear or worry concerning the circumstances you are facing, then you must take control of these negative thoughts. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, take authority over the tactics of the enemy and reject every thought he tries to plant in your mind.

Whenever Satan tries to attack your mind, tell him: “Satan, you are a liar! You no longer have control over me. You have no control over my mind, thoughts, will, or emotions. God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound, well-disciplined mind.”

Prepare your mind for battle and go forth to walk in complete victory today!

**APRIL 21**  
**REPROGRAMMING YOUR MIND**

Before Jesus came to this earth, He had a predetermined course of action to do the will of God. Jesus knew He would be rejected, despised, and crucified, yet He set His mind to do the will of God regardless of what He had to endure. He did not allow anything to divert Him from completing the work He came to do. His focus was on His divine destiny.

Like Jesus, you must set your thoughts upon the God's Word, His will, His plans, and His purposes. You must determine that you are going to walk in the victory God has provided for you. You must take authority over your thoughts, desires, and intentions and focus them on spiritual things. Paul told the Romans:

*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5)*

He told the Colossians:

*If then you have been raised with Christ (to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead), aim at and seek the (rich, eternal treasures) that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. And set your minds and keep them set on what is above – the higher things – not on the things that are on the earth. For (as far as this world is concerned) you have died, and your (new, real) life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-3, AMP)*

To “set your mind on things above” is to desire and seek after those things. It involves focusing your thought life on God's Word, His will, and His divine destiny for you.

You must make a determined effort to program your thoughts and keep them centered upon eternal things instead of allowing them to be constantly diverted by the cares of the world and the temporal concerns of this life.

When a computer has programming errors, it must be reprogrammed in order to function properly. The same is true for your mind. Technologically, if a computer is not functioning properly one must go back to the instruction manual and reprogram the machine correctly. In the spiritual world, you must go back to the manual of God's Word and reprogram your mind.

**APRIL 22**  
**PREPARING TO WIN**

When your heart and mind are firmly established upon God and His Word, you will have supernatural confidence. Regardless of the battles you face, you will not be afraid:

*He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. (Psalm 112:7-8)*

God wants His *dunamis* miracle power to operate in your life so you can enter into a new dimension of power and victory greater than you have ever experienced.

The prayer Paul prayed for the Ephesians is also for you today: *“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).*

Set your mind for victory. Face your circumstances today with a victorious mind that is one-hundred percent free from fear, one-hundred percent free from worry, and ready to win the war!

You are not a helpless victim without any control over your thought life. Do not accept the thoughts Satan tries to place in your mind. Remember that Satan only has the power to attack your heart and mind only when you allow him access through your thought life.

God has given you power over all of Satan’s attacks on your mind. Arm yourself with the mind of Christ. Focus your thoughts with God’s Word and His promises. Instead of negative thoughts of fear, doubt, and worry, fill your mind with thoughts and confessions of faith and thanksgiving to God for giving you victory.

There are many believers who have programmed themselves for defeat by focusing on their circumstances instead of setting their minds for victory. You don’t have to be one of them!

Paul told the Philippians to think on things that were pure, lovely, gracious, excellent—things worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8, AMP). Today do this: Think only on things that are true, worthy of reverence, honorable, seemly, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, and excellent. As you do so, you will be prepared to win every mental conflict that might abort your destiny!



**APRIL 23**  
**THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT**

James told the believers, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7).

The word "submit", as used here means that by an act of your will, you must yield to God. Do not yield to the attacks of the enemy on your mind. Submit your mind to God and yield to Him.

The Greek word for “resist” in this verse means “to set against and to withstand.” You must rise up in the power of God against Satan and the evil principalities and powers that are coming against you mentally. You must actively and aggressively oppose Satan by rejecting and ejecting all evil and negative thoughts from your mind. Withstand the enemy, and you will be able to stand!

The type of resisting that forces Satan to flee is not mind over matter or positive thinking. It is not done by repeating some sort of positive mantra. You cannot use such carnal weapons in this war against Satan because...

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10: 4-5, NIV)*

If someone was attacking a child, a friend, or a pet that you love, would you sit passively by and let them beat the life out of them? No you would not! You would take aggressive action to stop the attack.

The same is true in the spirit world. Satan is out to destroy your mind. Do not sit by and let him do it. Do not try to use carnal weapons of your own wisdom, but activate the power of the Holy Spirit within you to demolish every errant thought. Aggressively take captive every thought that comes into your mind.

If you submit to God and resist the devil, he will flee. He will actually take off running! That is the promise. Satan is not afraid of you. He is not going to retreat from you. But he will run from the One Who is in you, as you resist his attacks in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

**APRIL 24**  
**PUTTING FLESH TO DEATH**

The Apostle Peter warned: “*Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith...*” (1 Peter 5:8-9). The moment you become a bit fearful, worried, discouraged, or depressed, recognize it as an attack of Satan against your mind. You do not have ten minutes or even ten seconds to harbor these thoughts. The instant you recognize Satan’s attack on your mind, you must act. You must resist the negative thoughts. Rebuke them in the Name of Jesus.

There will be times when Satan’s attack on your mind will be so strong it will be necessary for you to press the battle through a prolonged season of prayer. As you resist Satan steadfastly in the faith, there will be times when you think you have won a final victory over his attacks on your mind. Whatever you do, don’t let your guard down! The moment you relax in your mind, thinking the battle is over, the enemy will return with some other negative mental strategy. You must continue to press the battle in the spirit world until you are walking in victory in your mind all day, every day.

Like a soldier picking up his weapons before going out into battle, you must arm yourself with the “mind of Christ”—His will, His thoughts, His desires, and His purposes. Peter told believers in the early church:

*So, since Christ suffered in the flesh (for us, for you), arm yourselves with the same thought and purpose (patiently to suffer rather than fail to please God). For whoever has suffered in the flesh (having the mind of Christ) has done with (intentional) sin – has stopped pleasing himself and the world, and pleases God. So that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living by (his) human appetites and desires, but (he lives) for what God wills. (1 Peter 4:1-2, AMP)*

You must take deliberate action to arm yourself with the mind of Christ. This does not happen automatically. You must draw the line and settle it forever in your heart that you will not allow sinful thoughts to have any place in your life.

You must be willing to put to death the lusts of your flesh including your own selfish desires, ambitions, and goals. You must deliberately strip yourself of carnal desires, thoughts, and intentions and put on the mind of Christ with His thoughts, desires, purposes, and intentions. Your will must be completely surrendered to God and your life totally consumed in fulfilling His will. You must die to the flesh and come alive to the thoughts, desires, purposes, and intentions of God.

## APRIL 25 RENEWING YOUR MIND

There is absolutely no way you can live in one-hundred percent victory unless you are continually renewing your mind. To arm yourself with the mind of Christ, you must saturate your heart and mind daily with the Word of God. Once a week on Sunday is not enough because Satan is active every day, not just on Sundays.

In the natural world, you cannot eat a meal once a week on Sunday and expect to maintain your health. The same is true in the spiritual world. You cannot receive spiritual nourishment just once a week. You must receive regular daily nourishment in order to maintain your spiritual health.

The renewing of your mind must be a continual daily process. As you fill your spirit with the Word of God each day and bring your heart and mind into submission to the Holy Spirit, you will be renewed “...in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (*Colossians 3:10*).

Paul said, “*Be renewed in the spirit of your mind*” (*Ephesians 4:23*). The renewal mentioned here is not referring simply to the natural mind with its abilities to retain knowledge. The “spirit” of your mind refers to thoughts, attitudes, and desires which are to be brought under the dominion and control of the Holy Spirit. The “spirit of your mind” is the portion of your mind which brings you into fellowship with God and directs your mental energies toward pleasing Him and fulfilling His will.

The word “renew”, as used here means to adjust your thinking to the moral and spiritual thinking of the mind of God. So how do you do this? You must fill your mind with God’s Word and meditate on it continually until it becomes an integral part of your life. As your mind is renewed each day through the Word of God, you will go out into the world armed with the victorious mind of Christ. You will have the mindset that you will not be defeated regardless of the circumstances you face. You will not become weary or faint in your mind. You will be strong, immovable, and victorious over every attack. You will be spiritually armed and dangerous!

Satan is amassing his forces to come against believers in an end-time assault to stop the advances we are making into his territory with the light of the Gospel. Part of his battle plan is to seize control of your mind. But through these devotional readings, you are gaining knowledge of his tactics. You are receiving a spiritual breakthrough that will enable you to be prepared for every attack and allow you to successfully fulfill your divine destiny.

## APRIL 26 PREPARING TO FIGHT

God is calling you to prepare for battle because Satan is intensifying his attacks against God's people. To go out to battle without preparing your mind for the fight is like a soldier going out to the battlefield without his weapons, untrained, unprepared to fight, and without a battle strategy.

Before an army engages the enemy in battle, there must be a time of preparation. Weapons are checked to see if they are ready and in good condition. The Commander-In-Chief and the officers plan their battle strategies. The soldiers go through all sorts of practice maneuvers simulating the strategies they will use during battle. The army is placed on high alert. They are prepared physically and mentally to confront the enemy.

Like a soldier in the natural world, you must be trained and prepared to fight and win the war for your mind. You should not be surprised when the enemy attacks. He is your enemy, and that is what enemies do! You must not feel sorry for yourself, whine, complain, or wonder why you are being attacked. You have been warned about Satan's strategies through the Word of God. He will attack, but you can be prepared.

Paul told the Corinthians: *"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13, NAS).*

He told the Ephesians: *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).*

When you go out to battle, you do not face the enemy in your own strength, but in the power of Almighty God. You are going out to fight and win the war against Satan equipped with the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. This power is resident within you (Ephesians 1:19-20). This means that there is no room for defeat!

Strengthen your mind for battle and prepare to fight, knowing that God is sending you forth fully equipped for spiritual warfare. You are going out armed and with a strong, victorious mind. Paul said:

*Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day (of danger), and having done all (the crisis demands), to stand (firmly in your place). (Ephesians 6:13, AMP)*

A new strength is coming into your heart and mind, into your innermost being. Receive this promise by faith and be strengthened in your mind. You are set free from the mental torment that has hindered you from reaching your divine destiny.

**APRIL 27**  
**GUARDING YOUR HEART AND MIND**

Above everything else--your business, career, finances, everything you possess--you must diligently guard your heart and mind. They are your most vulnerable points spiritually.

As you have learned through the devotionals this month, this is the center of your existence where your entire moral and mental activity originates, where your thoughts, will, emotions, desires and mental abilities are located.

Guarding your heart and mind does not mean assuming the passive position of sitting back waiting for Satan to attack. It is an offensive strategy requiring aggressive action. In the game of American football, there are offensive guards and defensive guards. The offensive guard is aggressive. With great forcefulness and power he knocks players out of the way and blocks them to open the way for the runner to score a touchdown. The defensive guard's responsibility is to use every maneuver, every ounce of strength and determination he has, to prevent a runner on the opposing team from scoring a touchdown.

This is the type of aggressive action that is necessary to guard your heart and mind. To have a powerful, one-hundred percent victorious mind that will enable you to defeat Satan's attacks, deceptions, and strategies, you must keep constant watch over your heart and mind. You must block the attacks of the enemy and become spiritually aggressive against him. Do not let the enemy score a touchdown in your mind!

Set a constant guard against all of the enemy's attempts to gain access to your heart and mind. This requires aggressive action to exercise control over your will, thoughts, desires, emotions, and motives and bring them into submission to the Holy Spirit at all times. Guard what you hear and see, as these are gateways into your heart and mind.

It is not only necessary to guard against Satan's attacks, but you must also guard against your own carnal thoughts and desires of the flesh, the selfish inclinations to follow your own will instead of God's will. When these attitudes and desires are detected, you must take aggressive action to rid yourself of them. Rebuke the enemy. Pray, praise, and worship. Immerse yourself in the Word. Listen to anointed Christian music.

Guard your heart and mind with all diligence, under all circumstances, in all places and at all times with the greatest possible intensity. If you haven't already started to do this, then you must begin right now--today!

**APRIL 28**  
**JUST DON'T DO IT**

God has made it possible for you to have a victorious mind that is free from anxiety. The moment you recognize you are becoming troubled, afraid, or worried, you must take aggressive action right then. Do not allow your mind to dwell upon the problems or circumstances you are facing. When Satan begins to attack, reject and rebuke those thoughts immediately!

Exert spiritual energy--flex your spiritual muscles--and grab hold of every negative thought that enters your mind and eliminate it. As you do this and set your heart and mind upon God and His Word, He will guard your thoughts and keep your mind in perfect, constant peace: *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).*

Jesus said not to worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear (Matthew 6:25). Paul told the Philippians:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV)*

Paul said not to be anxious about anything, yet many believers spend a great amount of time and energy worrying about the cares of this life.

You may be thinking, "You just don't know what I'm going through." That may be true, but here is a greater truth that is based upon the Word: Your mind can be set free! Jesus paid the price and made it possible for you to have a one-hundred percent victorious mind regardless of what you are going through. It is as simple as that!

Do not be anxious about anything today. Instead, in everything, by prayer and petition and with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. If you do this in every circumstance, then at the end of this day you will find that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, has kept your heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). It is a peace that transcends all understanding, because you have peace despite your negative circumstances.

Do not let the enemy steal your peace. Just don't do it!

**APRIL 29**  
**A NEW DIMENSION OF POWER**

Instead of worrying today, set your mind on God and His promises to you. Fill your heart and mind with thoughts of faith, praise, thanksgiving, and worship even in the midst of the adverse circumstances you may encounter.

You cannot do this in your own strength or in the power of your natural mind. Regardless of how strong your will may be, you cannot do this simply by will power. The battle must be fought and won in the spirit world.

Whenever you realize that your mind is in turmoil, take aggressive action right then. Bind the power of the enemy in prayer. Draw upon God's strength and the power of the Holy Spirit within you to resist, oppose, and withstand Satan's attack on your mind. Exercise your authority over the enemy by taking control over your thoughts and casting out every negative, ungodly thought in the Name of Jesus.

Paul said, *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7, NIV). The word "guard" in this verse is a military term which means "garrison." God has promised that as you reject negative thoughts and present your needs to Him in praise and thanksgiving, He will guard your heart--your thoughts, will, and emotions--just as soldiers under military orders guard a garrison. They constantly watch over it and protect it so that it remains safe from enemy attack.

Satan doesn't give up easily. He will repeatedly try to bring negative, sinful thoughts into your mind. Continue to rebuke and resist him in the Name of Jesus. As you do this, he must leave and all worries, anxieties, and negative thinking must leave with him. As you actively resist him, he will flee!

You can draw upon God's strength and the power of the Holy Spirit to resist, oppose, and withstand attacks on your mind today and every day. Command Satan to take his hands off your mind! Make this declaration out loud right now:

"Satan, you have no control over my mind. I command you, in the Name of Jesus, flee from my mind! I resist you now in the power of Almighty God that is within me. I reject every negative thought, every fear, doubt, and worry from my mind. It is written, that God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. I claim the peace of God over my mind right now, in the Name of Jesus."

**APRIL 30**  
**A MINDSET OF DESTINY**

Israel had a land promised to them by God, but they did not have the mindset to enter in with power and authority to claim their inheritance. God has given many promises regarding a sound mind, but you must act upon what you have learned this past month in order to take possession of the victorious mind He wants you to have.

For a moment, think about the circumstances you are facing right now. Have you allowed anger, resentment, unforgiveness, and self-pity to fill your heart and mind? Are you oppressed or depressed? Have you been deceived by Satan?

During this past month, you have learned powerful strategies which will enable you to be victorious over all of Satan's strategies, attacks, deceptions, and weapons which he deploys against your heart and mind. As we close out this month's devotions, let's summarize these in five steps:

- Offensive Strategy No. 1: Set your mind for victory.
- Offensive Strategy No. 2: Refuse to give Satan access to your heart and mind.
- Offensive Strategy No. 3: Arm yourself with the mind of Christ.
- Offensive Strategy No. 4: Strengthen your heart and mind for battle.
- Offensive Strategy No. 5: Guard your heart and mind.

Use these strategies in your life to defeat Satan's counterattack against you.

- Refuse to be intimidated.
- Be spiritually aggressive.
- Face every circumstance, every problem, every challenge, and every opportunity in the power of a one-hundred percent victorious mind.

The first time they came to the border of Canaan, Israel lost the battle of the heart and mind, then they lost the opportunity to enter their Promised Land. Don't let that happen to you.

Set your heart and mind for victory. Refuse to give Satan access to your heart and mind. Arm yourself with the mind of Christ and strengthen your mind for battle.

It has been said that it takes thirty days to develop a new habit. For the past thirty days, the Word of God regarding your heart and mind has been poured into your life. Now, it is time to act upon it knowing that you have the proper mindset to achieve your divine destiny!