

THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART

Years ago, Charles Capps wrote a book titled, “Kicking Over Sacred Cows”. In it he said, “many of the people in India worship cows, but would not dare eat them. The very thing God provided for food holds them in bondage. The blessing becomes a curse when they refuse to partake of it.” He went on to say, “there are some sacred cow scriptures in the Bible that are holding many people in bondage. The Word of God was given to fulfill the needs in our life. But when people worship the scripture and wouldn’t dare partake of the Bread of Life, then it holds them in bondage. These are certain preconceived ideas that become a curse because people don’t rightly divide the Word of God.”¹

Every denominational group has some area of belief that aren't totally Scriptural and hold some [believers] in prison - bondage - in various degrees. Due to a lack of full or exact knowledge, we have partial knowledge, and that part of a truth, without the "rest of the story," can be a hindrance or stumbling block to our growth and further walk with the Lord.

Jesus told us to “take heed *what* you hear” (Mark 4:24), and He also told us to “take heed *how* we hear” (Luke 8:18). The Word tells us to “receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). And it also encourages us to search the scriptures daily to see if those things we hear are true (Acts 17:11).

The word “meekness” means to remain teachable. A teachable person has the attitude that he doesn’t know it all and can, or is capable of, learning more if he or she is presented with more to learn. It doesn’t mean what they currently know is necessarily wrong, but the meek person knows that he/she isn’t all-knowing and could be wrong or, possibly, learn more concerning the subject under consideration.

Let’s look at a particular scripture that is familiar to a lot of us – Mark 11:23...

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

In the Greek language, there is what is called, the *active* voice and the *passive* voice. The difference between these is that the *active* voice produces the action; whereas, the *passive* voice receives the action. Example: “Larry threw the ball.” Larry, here, produced the action (threw the ball). This would be *active* voice. “Larry caught the ball.” This time, Larry received the action (caught the ball) – this would be in the *passive* voice.

In the Greek, the word in the above scripture, translated as “doubt” is in the *passive* voice and it could be translated as “... shall not *receive* doubt in his heart...”

Good news: doubt doesn’t originate in your heart.

Doubt is the temptation to *not believe*; and temptation is not sin.

Ever notice that right after you believe a promise of God, doubt comes immediately to question that promise?

This should be nothing new, for the scripture tells us in Mark 4:15:

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Satan comes ***immediately*** to take away the word (promise) that was sown in their heart.

Example: You have a bill arrive, and you are a little short in your check-book to make the payment. You know the Word says that He meets your need, and that the Lord is your Shepherd; that you do not lack. (Philippians 4:19 and Psalm 23:1)

Now comes a nagging thought that keeps hammering you, trying to make you doubt the promise of God meeting your need. *“Who do you think you are that God would take care of your bills? You’re the one who made the bill. It’s your fault that you have it to begin with! And you think God is going to meet that bill? How’s He going to do it?”*

And on and on it goes. Doubts come from the outside... not within. Sure, you *hear* them within, but they did not *originate* from within. Doubts come from the outside and you do not have to receive them...

³*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* 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 every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...*
2 Corinthians 10:3- 5

“...bringing into captivity every thought...” You are the understood subject of this passage. You do it. If HE tells us to do something, then we can do whatever it is that He has told us to do. Every thought that would come against the obedience of Christ, or the knowledge of Christ, or the authority of Christ (*which is His Word*), we are to cast down and bring into captivity (submission) to that authority (*His Word*).

Let me ask you a question. Is God’s Word true? Does God watch over His Word to ensure that it comes to pass, or is the Bible just a book of dreamy ideas that someone thought up for good story readings?

It’s true, of course. And that is the first step for ANY promise of God coming to pass in your life: you must believe the Word to be true – and consider every person, every circumstance, and every need to the contrary, to be in opposition to the reality of that truth.

Romans 3:3 and 4 states:

For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...

The foundation of ALL the promises of God is: ***the Word of God is true.***

Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) and as such, he is limited. He is **not** omnipresent, as God is; he is **not** omnipotent; he is **not** omniscient; he is **not**, in any shape or form, equal in **any** degree to God. Man has elevated him, maybe with Satan’s influence... but he is **not** GOD. Too much power is given to him. He can not do anything without man’s cooperation. Either willingly, or unwillingly, Satan has used ignorance on them and, for the most part, mankind doesn’t even know it! But once the mask is off, man can rise to the ascendancy of which he was created, and blow Satan’s complete scheme down the cesspool where it belongs. He’s no match to the man or woman who has been born-again and has their mind renewed with the Word of Truth. Satan knows it and that, my friends, is why he is continually fighting the same fight with the same weapons, and in the same way:

[hissing] “hast God said?”

Getting back to Mark 11:23 - *“...shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe...”*

Here is a “Sacred Cow” that I find in the “Word of Faith” arena. (By no means am I saying that every person holds to this, but I noticed a lot do – especially some of the leaders. I am part of this movement / group, and am responsible for my own belief. I can learn from others {and I do – positive and negative}, but I must examine all that I hear/see with the Word of God. Ultimately, I am the one that will stand before God and give an account of my life. There will be no excuse, pointing a finger at so-and-so leader/teacher for my beliefs. I will answer for myself, just as you will answer for your self...)

There seems to be a blanket statement that is made and/or taught, that when you find the word “heart” in the scriptures, it means “spirit” – spirit of man, in this case. But there are times that the Word of God points in another direction.

I’m told that one must take into consideration the context of the scripture where “heart” is found and from that, determine if it means “spirit” or if it means “soul” (mind). But that leaves the Word of God open to {individual} interpretation, and scripture warns us against that (2 Pet. 1:20).

If ‘heart’ means spirit, then why are there two different Greek and Hebrew words used? There is a definite Greek word for “spirit” (*pneuma*) and for heart (*kardia*). Why do you find both words mentioned in the same sentence?

Think of this: If heart means spirit, can I doubt in my spirit? Is doubt a sin?

“*Believe in his heart...*” Belief, or ‘to believe’, is faith in action. The temptation to doubt is not sin. BUT if you do doubt, then it becomes sin for the scripture says, “... whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23).

Can I sin in my spirit? No. For we know 1 John 3:9 informs us, “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*”

So, can I doubt in my spirit if doubt is a sin? No. I doubt in my mind, which is part of my soul. This is where the battle is... in my mind – in my thought-life. (Jerry Savelle has a terrific book on this subject: *THOUGHTS – The Battle Between Your Ears* ² – which I highly recommend for your reading.)

Let’s look at Ezekiel 36:26. “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you...*”

Look at Mark 2:8, and notice that the heart can reason – “*And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?*”

Look at this scripture – “*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*” (Hebrews 3:12)

To whom is Hebrews written? To sinners, or to Christians? It is written to Christians – those that have been born-again.

If ‘heart’ means ‘spirit’, then this is saying, that my spirit can be evil... but my heart cannot sin, therefore, my heart cannot be evil, and thus, this cannot be referring to spirit.

I believe there is an actual meaning that is universal in scriptures called “heart”.

Hebrews 4:12 uses all three words (spirit, soul and heart):

“*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

1 Peter 3:4 tells us: “*But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible...*” Here, the spirit is defined as the “hidden man” OF the heart. The spirit isn’t the heart; it is part *of* the heart. The heart is made up of both spirit and soul.

Doubting and believing can come from the heart. But they come from different parts within the heart.

From 1 Thessalonians 5:23 we know that man is a three-part being: spirit, soul and body, and these three work in communion with one another.

The Word of God will divide asunder
SOUL and SPIRIT
JOINTS and MARROW

Why is the soul compared with “joints”? Joints join two things (parts) together. The link between your spirit and your body is your soul.

Consider this:

Do you know your spirit doesn't just grab your body and make it move? Even when you pray in the spirit, you have to WILL to do it. *“I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding...”* (1 Corinthians 14:15) You “will” to speak with the spirit and you “will” to speak with the understanding. Your “will” comes from the soulish part of you.

By “renewing” the mind (Romans 12:2), you develop into spiritual maturity. Proverbs 23:7 says, *“As a man thinketh in his heart so is he...”*

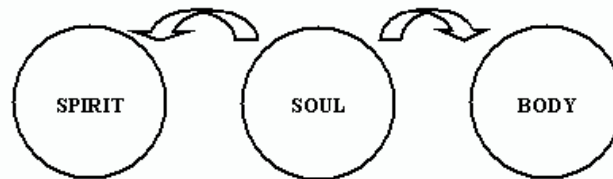
In the heart, man thinks. Thinking (meditation) is in the soul. You reason in your heart – within your soul part. This is the part where “renewing of the mind” takes place.

Sometimes the Bible calls us a three-part being (spirit, soul, and body), but sometimes it refers to us as a two-part being. These two-parts are the *inner-man* and *outer-man*. The inner-man is your heart, consisting of **both** spirit and soul.

Spirit and Soul cannot be divided **except** by the Word of God. Even when you leave your body, your spirit and soul will go together.

Proverbs 3:5, 6 says, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

Your soul links your spirit and body like a joint. When your soul is teamed up with your spirit, you are spiritual. But when your soul is teamed up with your body, you are carnal. The soul is the hinge that swings itself either way – according to your will. You choose. You can choose to be spiritual, or you can choose to be carnal. You choose, via the soul. (See Deuteronomy 30:19, God says “*you choose*”).



This is why the devil attacks the soul (mind). If he can get you to swing toward the body (flesh), then he's got ya!

The doubts he presents (remember, doubts do not originate IN you), are presented only to cause you to back off of the promises of God. He cannot stop the Word of God from coming to pass within a believer that will hold fast to that promise, thus he paints all kinds of negative pictures and scenarios for one purpose:

TO GET YOU TO BACK OFF OF GOD'S WORD.

Going back to Hebrews 4:12... *“...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

The Greek word translated “discerner” is *kritikos* and means “a judge” or an “umpire”; we get our word “critic” from it. It is “one who rules in a court case between guilty or not guilty; a judge, or a critic.”

The critic does the same thing as the sword does – it divides or separates.

Now with this final part of Hebrews 4:12, we have the following:

The Word of God will divide asunder:

SOUL and SPIRIT
JOINTS and MARROW

And is a discerner of the THOUGHTS and INTENTS **OF THE HEART** †

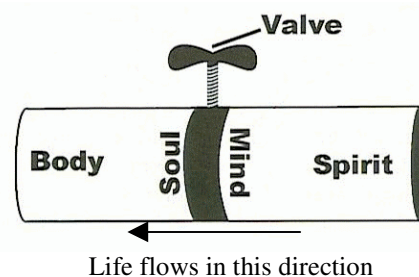
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DOUBLE MINDEDNESS

By understanding that “heart” contains *both* soul and spirit, we can better understand James 1:8 that says, “A *double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*”

1st Corinthians tells us that we “have the mind of Christ.” This is obviously referring to the mind of our spirit and not our natural mind. Our natural mind is in the process of being renewed to the things of the spirit. There are portions of our natural mind that are not yet renewed (programmed) to the things of God. That’s the purpose of the process: to get our thinking (Proverbs 23:7) in line with God’s thoughts and God’s ways – doing the work of His ministry with excellence, because it is being done HIS way.

Take a look at this diagram*.



On the right side, we have the spirit-man. Life and knowledge flows from right to left as depicted in here. The word “Mind” represents the mind of Christ – the Mind of the new creation, the mind of the born-again child of God.

The first obstacle, or thing, the Life-force encounters is the Soul. The Valve represents the opening of the soul (natural mind) to that Life-force. It’s the process of renewing the (natural) mind. The mind of the spirit (mind of Christ – 1st Corinthians 2:16) doesn’t need renewing; it is renewed *fully* – for it’s HIS mind.

When one is born-again, he/she is instantly changed. His/her spirit is totally new, and is given the mind of Christ.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God... 2nd Corinthians 5:17, 18a

You are one with Jesus Christ right now. “*But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit*” (1st Corinthians 6:17). The Greek word translated “one” here means “a singular one to the exclusion of another.” It’s much deeper than mere similarity (i.e., being joined together as “one” in purpose); this speaks of complete union. If there are molecules and atoms in the spirit realm, then you are molecule-for-molecule and atom-for-atom identical to Jesus. *As he (Jesus) is, so are we in this world...* (1st John 4:17b). Your born-again spirit, is completely one with Him!

When a portion of our natural mind is renewed, we call it “revelation knowledge.” Your soul can be transformed to the degree you renew your mind, change your attitudes, and conform your values to the Word of God. You have to allow that transformation to take place. It’s not enough to be ever learning and not coming (walking) in the knowledge of that truth (2nd Timothy 3:7).

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind! (Romans 12:2)

“Transformed” in the Greek is the same word we derive “metamorphosis” from. It’s the picture of a little worm spinning a cocoon, then coming out as a butterfly. The way you change, metamorphose, be transformed, from being bitter, hurtful, sick, and defeated into the loving, healed, healthy, and victorious person that God created you to be, is through renewing your mind.

It’s called “putting on Christ” – working out your salvation. Living, demonstrating, and witnessing to the reality of God’s Word that is working (breathing) in you.

Your spirit is already changed, and your body is basically your soul’s caboose. Whatever you think in your soul (natural mind), your body will just go along for the ride. Therefore, it’s your mind, your thoughts, and your attitudes that determine if you experience victory and the Life of God that’s in your spirit, or if you experience life of the natural realm – that is, what the unrenewed mind continues to dictate to you.

Renewing your mind to the Word facilitates your transformation!

OPEN THAT VALVE!

The more one “opens the valve”, the more Light floods their soul. Psalm 119:130 – *The entrance of Thy Word gives Light...* His Word gives to us understanding – revelation of Truth. Our spirit mind knows truth; it’s our soulish mind that must get understanding. The avenue that God has chosen to accomplish this is His Word.

Much like Venetian blinds that open the inside room to the light outside, our soul opens (and shuts) such “blinds” to the light available, and allows the Light of the Glorious Gospel to shine forth into it, lighting the dark areas – that is, the unrenewed, or unenlightened, parts of our earthly being.

These two minds are constantly working with, or against, one another. That’s why James talks about the double-mindedness, and Paul talks about casting down every thought and imagination that rises up against the knowledge of God and bringing those “anti” thoughts and imaginations to the obedience of Christ (*the Word*):

⁵If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
2nd Corinthians 10:5

It is the mind of Christ – our spirit mind – that is constantly confirming the Word of God as Truth. Our natural mind, until it is renewed, will balk, or hesitate, at the *reality* of that Truth, coming up with all kinds of reasons and excuses why God’s Word doesn’t work, or won’t work, in our behalf.

When Peter walked on the water, he operated above the natural. He stepped out of the boat because he had a Word from God (Jesus: “Come”). He allowed, for a short time, his natural mind to receive within itself the power of Jesus’ word; and with that word, walked on the water. But as soon as his natural mind took over, by seeing the wind and the waves (contrary information), down he went. He stopped further miraculous power of the word “Come” to sustain him in the midst of contrary circumstances. His focus was changed. His soulish “valve” shut off the Life-force of Jesus’ “Come” and allowed natural circumstances to exalt itself above the Word.

He became double-minded. One mind focused on “Come,” whereas the other focused on circumstances. The double-minded person cannot receive any thing of the Lord for he is unstable in his ways (James 1:7,8). Double mindedness will cause you to be unstable in your walk with the Lord.

The battle is between your ears – in your natural mind. When you become single-minded, you’ll reap the reward of that single-mindedness: walking on the water. But as soon as that valve is closed... you will make a splash every time! *How can two walk together (harmonize) if they do not agree* – Amos 3:3.

Our warfare is not with one another, but in the mind, to the pulling down of thoughts, imaginations, and every thing (circumstances) that would exalt itself / themselves above, or mightier than, the Word of God.

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Jesus: Mark 11:23 & 24

“Shall not doubt in his heart...” Where do you doubt? In your soul – your mind. I can believe in my spirit and doubt in my soul – and do that at the same time! But when there is unity between my spirit and soul, there is power available such that I can walk on the water of His Word – even in the face of circumstances, opinions, or reasonings that are contrary.

If we are to do the impossible, we are going to have to see the invisible!

All things are possible to him that believes – Mark 9:23.

What’s possible for me is based upon my capacity to believe – it may not be possible for someone else, but it is possible for me because I can believe it. So what is restricting me is not on the outside, but on the inside. It is a programming issue. Preformed walls – limiting walls – have to be torn down and new walls – based upon the Word of God – have to be built. This is the process of renewing the mind.

I know, that I know, that I know (fully persuaded) – 2 Timothy 1:12: *I know whom I have believed and am [fully] persuaded...*

Take a look at Abraham in Romans 4:18-21...

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham looked past the thinking or physical limitations of himself. He meditated upon God’s ability to bring the promise to pass, and the rest is history: Isaac was born.

When he and Sarah got impatient and reasoned together, an Ishmael was born, and problems were released to the generations to come. Today, we still see the result of that fleshly, natural decision (Ishmael) in the Mid-East conflict.

How many “Ishmaels” have we created because of our impatience?

Hebrew 10:22 & 23 – *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

Hebrew 10:36 – *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

Hebrew 6:12 – *That ye be not slothful, but [be] followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

We inherit the promise of God – how? Through faith and patience...

James 1:4 – *But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect [mature, or without blame] and entire [complete], wanting [lacking] nothing. (Brackets added by author.)*

I can overcome any and all situations contrary to God’s Word by believing those promises in my heart – both parts: **soul and spirit**. To the degree I renew my mind, is the degree that I really honestly, believe. Unbelief is fear of the promises of God not coming to pass.

Your belief, or your unbelief, WILL determine the fruit of, or the lack thereof, the promises of God being manifested in your life.

Choose ye this day, which you will serve, for the one you serve is the one that you make master of your life.

Faith isn’t the ability to believe what you see. It’s the ability to see what you believe – fully, in both your soul and your spirit.

*All things are possible to him
that believes. †*

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* Diagram from Andrew Wommack’s book: *Spirit, Soul & Body*

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THE WORD

Logos –vs- Rhema

In the last two newsletters, we found out that the heart of man is made up of the soul and the spirit of man; these two parts, together, are also called the inner man.

Your spirit is the real you. You are a spirit; you have a soul and live in a body. You, the real man – the spirit, is the person who is born again. Your soul (mind, will and emotions) and your body (earth suit) are not the part of you that is born again. God started the process of the Kingdom Living IN you – that is, IN your spirit – by causing the new birth (born from above) to take place. WHOSOEVER receives His Son, acknowledging the substitutionary sacrifice of that Son in their behalf, God gives the New Birth to.

John 1:12, 13

...as many as received him [Jesus], to them [those who receive him] gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. [brackets added]

This brings us to a question: HOW does one come to the place of receiving Jesus as one's personal saviour?

There are two words in the Greek that are translated as "word" in the New Testament. Both have different meanings.

The first is Logos, pronounced *log'-os*. This is the written, or the general Word of God. We read the Logos; we hear the Logos – preached and taught.

Example: The Bible says, *If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart man believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* (Romans 10:9, 10)

This has been heard many times throughout many Churches. It is God's Word, and it is true. But the reality of that truth is not alive within many of the hearts of those attending those Churches. This is where the other Greek translation of "word" comes in.

This other Greek word is Rhema, pronounced *hray'-mah*, with the "h" silent.

Rhema goes beyond the *Logos* in that it springs to life within the heart of the person that is hearing or is reading that *Logos*.

Revelation Knowledge:
THE Word becoming A
Word to you personally.

When one hears the *logos* of God concerning salvation, and that *logos* suddenly becomes *rhema* – that *rhema* word comes alive inside the person and results in the new birth – being born again.

The Process

Peter talks about being born from the incorruptible seed – the Word (*logos*) of God (1 Peter 1:23). It is the *logos* of God that one hears; and it is the *logos* of God that enters the heart of man by way of his/her soul – their mind. That *logos*, if allowed to remain by continuing to be thought upon (called *meditation* in the Bible) will cause the new birth to take place. The new birth is the *logos* becoming *rhema* to that person.

There are certain verses or passages in the Bible that you've read before, but suddenly, it seems like that verse – that passage – leaps off the page to you. You “see” it and you know that you know.

What happened was the familiarity with the verse or passage, was only *logos* to you. It was the Word and you probably would even tell others that it was true, but you didn't have the assurance that it was really true. You held onto it hoping that it was true... you clung to it, speaking it over and over to yourself, that it was true. Then one day, as you're reading once more that verse or passage, or you're thinking about it again, it suddenly takes on a new dimension – you know that you know it is (indeed) true.

That's the process of *logos* becoming *rhema*. It is called *revelation knowledge*: **THE** Word becoming **A** word to you personally. The *logos* becoming *rhema* to you.

It is the *rhema* of God – that Word that you know that you know – it's *that* type of Word that Satan can not defeat. He has no power against the man or woman that operates in that type of [revelation] knowledge.

He will throw all kind of doubts and accusations at you in his attempt to cause you to back off of *that* Word. But if you will use that Word like Jesus did and stick him with it... he will flee. James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

How do you resist the devil? Is it by you gritting your teeth and bearing it? No! You resist the devil the same way Jesus did: By the *rhema* of God (the Sword of the spirit – Eph. 6:17). You “stick” the devil with the sword and he will flee!

It was the *rhema* of God that Jesus used in His temptation with Satan in the wilderness.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

It is [that] *rhema* that will cause your house to stand when the enemy of life comes your way.

The same weapon (the spoken Word IN us and THROUGH us) will give us our victories in our battles with the devil and his attacks in every realm of our lives.

That is how we resist the devil – by submitting ourselves to God (receiving His Word IN us) and, then, with that received Word (*rhema*) testifying to the reality of that Word. “... *they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...*” Rev. 12:11

The Blood of the Lamb, Jesus, **obtained** my redemption. I, by the *rhema* of God, **maintain** it.

Man shall live by the rhema of God... not just use the *rhema* to bail yourself out of troubles (although, that IS included), but we are to LIVE every day, every moment, by the *rhema* of God.

We can cause the devil to flee by speaking the Word of God to him. He cannot win against the Word... God watches over His Word to ensure that it comes to pass. (Isa. 55:10, 11; Jere. 1:12)

“They went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following.” Mark 16:20

The word “them” is italicized in the King James Version. Meaning it isn't in the original Greek, but added by the translators; if they can add a word, then I should be able to remove that word.

Take it out and re-read that verse. *“They went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with and confirming the word with signs following.”*

God works with His Word and watches over (confirms) His Word with signs following. All we need to do is to appropriate that Word IN us and, as we do, the result flowing OUT of us will come to pass. It is the *rhema* of God spoken by us that will cause the mountains in our lives to move out of the way.

Too often, many are trying to move those mountains with the *logos* of God’s Word and that type of word will not produce the desired effect. Consequently, frustration and disillusionment set in, and then they scratch their heads saying, “That doesn’t work for me.”

What this person failed to do was to stay in the Word and meditate upon that word, allowing it to become *rhema* for them. It’s a process called renewing the mind.

It is bringing the natural mind into agreement with the mind of Christ – which you have NOW, if you’re born-again. This mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) comes with the new birth. You do not get one without the other. It’s a packaged deal.

This is why James tells us that a double-minded person is unstable in all his ways and cannot receive anything of the Lord (James 1:6-8).

***You resist the devil
the same way Jesus did:
by speaking
the Word to him!***

His natural mind isn’t agreeing with his mind of Christ. We have two minds and they are contrary to one another until you “renew” it (Romans 12:2).

It is the “single-minded” person, the one who has enlightened his natural mind to the reality of the Word, who can endure because he knows that he knows. *The entrance of His Word gives understanding...* the Psalmist declares (Ps. 119:130)

This single mindedness is both of your minds harmonizing in agreement with one another.

The degree to which you have renewed your [natural] mind and are bringing every imagination, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God [the Word of God], and are bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of [the mind of] Christ – to that degree, you will have great success in your walk as a Christian. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6 with brackets added by author)

Joshua was selected to replace Moses upon his death. After Moses died, God came to encourage Joshua, and give him instructions on how to lead the Israelites to, and through, the Promised Land.

We read in Joshua 1:8 these words: *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

God instructed Joshua to meditate in the Word day and night. The reason? So “...that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein...”

When you do, and this is the KEY – When you do all that is written therein – THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have good success.

You do not get the prosperity, nor the good success, until you observe to do all that is written therein.

The New Testament counterpart of this scripture is found in 3 John, verse 2: *Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.*

“Even as your soul prospers...” To the degree you renew your mind, so shall you prosper and be in health; you can not bypass the process. You renew your mind, and that renewing will bring with it prosperity and health. (Compare Proverbs 4:20-23)

All things are possible to you

IF you will believe. †
