

## THE MIND OF CHRIST

*Is. 26:3 [ESV]. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.*

The mind is the battlefield where the victory will be won or lost (**Prov. 23:7a**).

The battle for the mind began in the Garden of Eden (**2 Cor. 11:3**).

Salvation imparts a new nature – a changed mind – the result of repentance (**Mk. 5:15**). The Holy Spirit renews the mind from obeying sinful thoughts (**Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10**).

Still, Satan fires sinful thoughts like darts toward the mind (**1 Pet. 5:8**). These thoughts include: fear, worry, insecurity, condemnation, doubt, negativity, envy, pride, impurity, grudges, anger, resentment, arguments, a judgmental spirit, or unforgiveness.

The Spirit of Christ within a believer convinces that all of these sinful thoughts oppose the mind of Christ (**1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5**).

### I. Recognize sinful thoughts (**Rom. 7:23, 25**)

Sinful thoughts do not originate from God (**Jas. 1:13**) or from the nature renewed by the Holy Spirit (**Neh. 6:8**).

### II. Refuse sinful thoughts (**Is. 55:7-8**)

God provides the armor, but believers must put it on (**Eph. 6:16-17; 2 Cor. 10:4-5**).

Believers can exercise control over what is intentionally allowed to enter the mind (**Prov. 4:23**).

### III. Resist sinful thoughts (**Mk. 8:33**)

Be occupied with Christ, not in trying not to sin (**Gal. 5:16; Col. 3:1-3**).

Meditate on Scripture. Fill the mind with the Word of God (**Jos. 1:8; Ps. 1:2, 119:97**).

Scripture memory is the weapon of a Christian's offense (**Eph. 6:17**). Jesus memorized Scripture ahead of the temptation by the devil (**Mt. 4:4; Ps. 119:11**).

Sinful thoughts will be resisted when believers become saturated with the love of God (**Mk. 12:30-31**).

### IV. Replace sinful thoughts (**Rom. 8:5**)

Replace unhealthy thoughts by exchanging them for those pleasing to Christ (**Rom. 12:2**).

*Phil. 4:8 [ESV]. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

A. Whatever is true (**1 Cor. 13:6; 1 Jn. 2:27**)

B. Whatever is sacred (*honorable, noble*; **Tit. 2:7**)

C. Whatever is righteous (**1 Pet. 3:12**)

D. Whatever is pure (*sacred, clean*; **Jas. 3:17**)

E. Whatever is beautiful (*pleasing, agreeable*)

F. Whatever is good to say (**2 Cor. 6:8**; *good report, conversation*)

G. Whatever is excellent (**2 Pet. 1:3-5**; *virtue, moral excellence*)

H. Whatever is praise-worthy (**Phil. 1:11**– *fruit of righteousness*)

*Ps. 139:23-24 [ESV]. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!  
24. And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*