

THE ENEMY'S MIND GAMES

Introduction:

This spring - Series on Mind Games. Pastor Alan sharing on renewing our mind. Watch what we feed our minds. Put positive thing in our minds

*Tonight: The Enemy's Mind games
Someone play mind games with you? Joyce every now and again.*

Ill. White Water Rafting (Youth Pastors)

How to Take our thoughts captive and not play the enemy's mind games.

- *Come out of church - evil or bad thought*
- *Driving down the highway - evil or bad thought*

Ill. The Strangest Secret

Farmer - Minds are like the Land

Plant Corn

Plant Nightshade - deadly poison

The land produces what is planted

Mind doesn't care what we plant

What we plant will return to us

What you feed your mind will Grow

Grows into a Belief that Belief transfers to an action

What you Think - Believe - Action

- **Boss**
- **Job**
- **Spouse**
- **Kids**
- **God**
- **Yourself**
- **Your future**

TEXT:

*For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does. 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 10:3-5

Do not Wage War as the world does = Spiritual Warfare

strateia (strat-i'-ah); military warfare, fighting with guided strategy.

kathaireo (kath-ahee-reh'-o); to lower (or with violence) demolish.

STRONGHOLDS

ochuroma (okh-oo'-ro-mah); to fortify, a strong castle, a prisoner locked by deception.

A STRONGHOLD IS:

- **A PLACE OF STRENGTH – WHERE EVIL IS ENTRENCHED.**
- **NOT OUT IN THE OPEN – OR EASILY EXPOSED.**
- **WELL DEFENDED AND DIFFICULT TO ATTACK.**

A lingering Addiction or Habit : Work, Alcohol, Sexual, pornography, Cheating
It has a grip on you. HARD to defeat in your own strength

Why Attack Strongholds?

Do not want to pass stronghold to the one's you love

Whatever area you have a stronghold - Locked by deception is fertile ground for the Evil one to pass to the next generation

Don't pass it - break it.

III. My Family Tree

Do you ever feel you are under an attack? Something is happening to us or around us beyond the normal everyday life problems or temptations or struggles.

Ephesians 6: 10-11

Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your **stand against the devil's schemes**.

Against - Feel something is coming against you? Marriage, kids, mind

Devil - Liar and schemer

His methods , tricks, strategy, deceptions against us.

Enemy against our souls?

You have to decide if you believe that?

Stand - take a firm stance Ill. Basketball stance

CS. Lewis - We overestimate or underestimate Spiritual warfare. Everything is the Devil or nothing is the Devil.

- The dry cleaning is lost - The devil stole my dry cleaning
- Lost my money in soda machine - devil in soda machine

The Devil likes it when we under believe or over believe as long as we don't bible believe.

THE RENEWED MIND DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

1) RECOGNIZE THE ENEMY'S LIES.

The devil: *When he (the devil) lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* John 8:44

A LIE BELIEVED AS TRUTH WILL AFFECT YOUR LIFE AS IF IT WERE TRUE.

What Lies have you believed.

What Lies hold us hostage? Big Lie?

Ill. Our Finances - Never get out of debt

- **LIES ABOUT YOURSELF.**

- My worth is determined by what I do and what others think of me.
- You will never succeed
- You won't amount to anything
- Lazy - Always will be lazy
- Dumb - Math
- Never get married
- I am the way I am; I can't change.
- If I had a new job - make me happy
- If I have a new Boss - like my job
- If my spouse will change - then I'll be happy
- If I had a new spouse - then I'd be happy

2) RESIST THE ENEMY'S LIES

James 4:7 Resist the devil , and he will flee from you.

Negative/Doubting thoughts will flood our minds
What do you do with those thoughts?

Resist - Refuse to give in.

Ill. Youth Pastor - guys would try to dunk me. Fight and refuse to get dunked. I made it as hard as possible.

Get Aggressive.

He flees when we fight back

Negative or wrong thought comes in our mind don't entertain it - refuse to think on it.

Ill. Stiff Arm in football. (Earl Campbell)

- He was in motion
- Took the would be tackler head on.
- Was not passive

3) **RENEW YOUR MIND WITH TRUTH.**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2a

- Word of God

Replace Lies/negative thoughts with God thoughts

Speak the word of God over your life - Agree with God

Speak Declarations / Truth over your situation

III. Our Faith Declaration - Finances

His word has power to change your situation

- Prayer

Prayer the Lord's prayer 5 times a day till you see the victory

Buddy system Begin to pray for someone else as soon as you have a wrong thought

Jesus: *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* John 8:32