

# THE WAR IN OUR MINDS

## THE WAR WITHIN

(Part 1)

Rom 7:21 NLT

I have discovered this principle of life--that **when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.** (COMMENT: *The war within is a Biblical principle of life. It is the war between doing right and doing wrong.*)

Rom 7:22 NLT

I love God's law with all my heart. (COMMENT: *As a true believer in Jesus, Paul loves the Bible and wants to do what God teaches him to do. This is the key to winning this war. If we do not want to do what God says, we need a change of the heart before we can win the battle over sin.*)

Rom 7:23 NLT

But **there is another power within me that is at war with my mind.** (COMMENT: *Notice this war is a war of the mind.*) This power makes me a slave to **the sin that is still within me.** (COMMENT: *As a believer we have been given the Holy Spirit to live within us and help us have victory over sin in how we live. However, the sinful nature we were all born with still resides inside all of us. It does not go away until we get to Heaven, and it is a constant source of trouble.*)

Rom 7:24 NLT

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

Rom 7:25 NLT

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Thank God! **The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.** So, you see how it is: **In my mind I really want to obey God's law,** but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

*(COMMENT: Even though we want to do what God says, we must fight our sinful nature and its desires every day. This is the war within!)*

So, what is this war really like? How can I better understand the enemy and the battlefield in order to win this war on a daily basis? To prepare us and help us to understand what the war is like, we will examine 4 characteristics of this war as described in the Bible. All of these are described for us by Paul in Romans chapter 7.

## IT'S A SPIRITUAL WAR

Romans 7:14

Rom 7:14 NLT

So, the trouble is not with the law, for **it is spiritual** and good. The **trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.** *(COMMENT: The law of God, the Bible, is a spiritual book with spiritual truth and that is taught to us by God's Holy Spirit.*

*1Co 2:13 NLT*

*When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, **we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.***

*1Co 2:14 NLT*

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*But **people who aren't spiritual** can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. **It all sounds foolish to them, and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.***

## TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW BECAUSE THIS IS A SPIRITUAL WAR:

*God must be involved if we are to win.*

Eph 6:10 KJV

Finally, my brethren, be **strong in the Lord**, and in **the power of his might**.

Eph 6:11 KJV

Put on **the whole armor of God**, that ye may be able to stand against **the wiles of the devil**. (COMMENT: From our introduction we learned from John 10:10 that the two main forces in this battle are God & Satan.)

Eph 6:12 KJV

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against **spiritual wickedness** in high places.

*Where do the attacks come from?*

## THE WORLD

The "World" the Bible is referring to is the global culture that is opposed to God and the Bible.

John describes this in 1 John 2:15-17.

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1Jo 2:15 NLT

**Do not love this world** nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

1Jo 2:16 NLT

For **the world offers** only a craving for physical pleasure, (*COMMENT: This is a lust for anything that satisfies us physically regardless of whether it is right or wrong*) a craving for everything we see, (*COMMENT: This is greed and a love of material things. Wanting things, more than we want to do what God says*) and pride in our achievements and possessions. (*COMMENT: This is simply thinking I did all of this by myself. Leaving God totally out of the equation, which is what Satan wants*). These are not from the Father but are from this world.

1Jo 2:17 NLT

And **this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave**. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. (*COMMENT: everything the world offers is temporal and will be gone one day*).

Jas 4:4 NLT

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: **If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.**

The attacks of this spiritual war are all around us every day through the philosophy of a humanistic world that is run by Satan and seeks to push God out.

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## THE DEVIL

The world and it's philosophy are influenced by Satan himself:

2Co 4:4 NLT

**Satan, who is the god of this world**, has **blinded the minds** of those who don't believe.

They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Gen 3:1 KJV

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Gen 3:2 KJV

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Gen 3:3 KJV

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Gen 3:4 KJV

And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:**

Gen 3:5 KJV

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

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Gen 3:6 KJV

And when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food** (*COMMENT: Physical pleasure*), and that it was **pleasant to the eyes** (*COMMENT: Wanting what we see*), and a tree to be desired to **make one wise** (*COMMENT: Proud of how smart they would be*), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Satan wants to destroy us:

John 10:10 NLT

**The thief's purpose** is to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

1Peter 5:8 NLT

Stay alert! Watch out for **your great enemy, the devil**. He prowls around like a roaring lion, **looking for someone to devour**.

## OUR SINFUL DESIRES (NATURE)

Gal 5:16 NLT

So, I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing **what your sinful nature craves**.

Gal 5:17 NLT

The **sinful nature wants to do evil**, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants.

And the Spirit gives us desires that are the **opposite of what the sinful nature desires**.

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These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

We have already talked about this so we won't spend any more time on it except to say that we all have these sinful desires inside of us and we will have to fight them until the day we get to heaven.

This war is a Spiritual War, not a physical one. If we are going to win the battle for our emotions God must be involved and we must understand where the attacks come from, The World, The Devil and our Sinful Desires.

Next time we will talk about the other three characteristics of this war.