

Liberating Your Mind From 'Destructive, Little Foxes' That Block Your Healing

"Why is it that when I get physically hurt, I can receive healing right away, but emotional hurts hang on for months?" my friend Jill asked me. I answered with a question: "What do you do when you need a physical healing?"

Jill thought for a while. "When my father was visiting me," she replied, I made the mistake of mounting one of the horses while we were in the barn. The horse reared up, and I fell off. Then the horse fell on me, and the horn of the western saddle dug into my stomach."

"What did you do, I asked?" I asked. "I immediately began to praise and thank the Lord for my healing," Jill said. "I could feel pain, but I didn't allow any negative thoughts to enter my mind. I kept praising Jesus and looking to Him, and within a few minutes all the pain left, and I was totally OK."

Jill told me that she had experienced similar healings in the past, so her faith was built up in the area of physical healing. I asked her about the problem she was having with receiving inward, emotional healing.

Before she could respond, the Holy Spirit began to show me what the problem was. "You receive the inner healing when you pray, don't you?" I asked. "But then negative thoughts come and you start to dwell on them, right?" Jill thought for a few minutes and agreed that this was what happened whenever she was hurt emotionally.

Jill's difficulty is a widespread one in the body of Christ today. Many of us have had physical or emotional healings or even visions and words from the Lord that we received and

believed at the time. Then after a while negative thoughts began to come and fight against the healing or vision. As we entertained the thoughts, they got a stronger hold, and then we became double-minded.

The apostle James tells us that a person who is double-minded is "unstable in ALL his ways" (James 1:8, emphasis added). He also says that we are to "Ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (v. 6) and is unlikely to "receive anything from the Lord" (v.7).

No wonder the devil wants us to entertain negative thoughts that war against our faith! No wonder we are told to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5)!

Thoughts can be very positive and build our faith, or they can become the means of aborting our vision. The devil doesn't want us to prove God and fulfill our destiny, so he continually throws thoughts into our minds like arrows. If we are not on guard against them, the arrows will enter and bring unbelief, doubt, fear and even depression and defeat. Remember, God is not a yes and no God! The Bible says that "ALL the promises of God in [Christ Jesus] are YES, and in Him, AMEN, to the glory of God through us" (2 Cor. 1:20, emphasis added).

Our first battle is in the mind. This is why Paul instructs us to "Gird up the loins of [our] mind[s]" (1 Pet.1:13). To "gird," according to Webster's dictionary, means "to encircle, bind, to surround, to prepare oneself for a trial ahead, to provide, equip or invest with power."

Paul is saying there is a preparation we need to make concerning our minds. In the book of Ephesians he tells us what it is: putting on the pieces of armor, particularly the helmet of salvation, that are given to us to equip us for

battle. What is the helmet for? It covers the mind.

Sometimes we get so busy wielding the sword that we forget to put on our helmets and “gird up the loins of our minds.” Then Satan has a field day. Remember, his ministry is the same today as it was in the beginning—to plant doubt in the in mind of God’s people by asking, “Has God indeed said?” (Gen. 3:1).

When God gives you a word or a vision, or gives you direction for your life and calling, you receive it and are excited. But then Satan, that sly, old fox, sends all his little foxes out to capture your thoughts, generally before you’ve had the opportunity to lay hold of your vision. Just as in the natural foxes come to steal the farmers’ chickens, in the spiritual realm Satan’s cohorts come to steal God’s word out of your heart and mind by causing you to doubt. Many of God’s children have almost given up their “word” or the vision that God imparted because of these destructive little foxes that come in the guise of negative thoughts.

The negative thoughts are particularly destructive when they play on past disappointment. If if the enemy can get us to dwell on all the times when we didn’t receive what we hoped or believed for, he will lead us into certain defeat. Don’t allow past disappointments to affect your present faith! Instead, look to Jesus, the “author and finisher of [your] faith” (Heb. 12:2).

God wants us to walk in faith to receive the things we need to do His work. We must be filled with the Spirit and with faith in order to bring healing and deliverance and dwell in the wisdom of God, not just for our own lives but for others’ also. So put on your helmet of salvation, and when you see those foxes advancing, send them packing by taking every thought captive and trusting Jesus to increase your faith.

Prayer Power for Week of Feb. 26, 2017

As you pray this week, remember God’s Word and believe what He

has promised on your behalf (2 Cor.1:20). Claim the Scriptures for the salvation of your loved ones, the furtherance of the gospel, and the establishment of His kingdom on earth. Continue to pray for worldwide revival, and especially for our own nation. Remember our government and spiritual leaders and ask the Lord to give them wisdom, grace and protection (1 Tim. 2:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Cor. 10:5).