

THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE TWO KINGDOMS

When you preach the gospel to people, you should touch their spirit; you should touch their **conscience**, which is the main part of their spirit. In your preaching, never argue with people. The more you argue, the more they will have something to say in response and the more their **minds** will be stirred up. When you argue with people, you strengthen their soul. It is impossible to convince sinners by arguing with them. Rather, by the grace and power of God, touch their **conscience**. Their conscience is a part of their spirit, and when you touch their conscience, their spirit will be moved. I have seen many cases of people who continued to argue with God in their mind but condemned themselves in their conscience. **In their mind they argued with God, but in their spirit they repented before God.** Whenever you are trying to help other people, **never touch their mentality**, because the human mind is the stronghold of Satan. The generals in an army know not to strike the enemy's strong point in a battle. They always attack the weak point. Do not touch a person's mind. If you touch his mind, the whole kingdom of Satan will rise up against you.

Suppose a husband and wife begin to argue and to exchange bitter words. Then afterward, the wife comes to you for help in solving their problems. It is not easy to listen to a sister talk about her husband without being stirred up in your mind or trapped by Satan. However, if you know the subtlety of the enemy, you would not approach the brother by touching his mind. You would not fight against the stronghold. You would take another way. You would turn to another side and touch a weak point. Do not touch the problem with his wife. Do not talk about his wife at all, because the problem with his wife is fully occupying his mind and filling his thoughts. The way to deal with him is to touch his spirit, to touch his conscience. Do not talk about his wife; talk about loving the Lord. His mind is filled with thoughts of his wife, and this is a very touchy, explosive issue. Talk to him about the Lord. Touch his spirit and his conscience. After ten minutes he may be able to pray. The more you pray with him, the more his spirit will be touched. Eventually, the Lord will have a way to come out of his spirit and spread into his mind. Then he will repent and confess, even weeping before the Lord about the way he has dealt with his wife.

THREE KINGDOMS

Since Satan has come into us and since the Lord Jesus has also come into us, it is possible for us to be in **three kingdoms**. If we live in our soul, we are certainly in the **human kingdom**. If we live according to the flesh, we become a part of the **satanic kingdom**. If we walk in the spirit and live according to the spirit, we are in the **kingdom of God**. However, it is very difficult for anyone to be in the human kingdom. The human kingdom in our soul has become very weak and fragile. With even a little smiting, it is broken and subdued. Thus, whenever we try to be human, we merely succeed in being devilish. Whenever we attempt to be good, we discover that we are bad. Whenever we try to be patient or kind and not to lose our temper, we inevitably lose our temper. Why is this? The evil one will not allow us to be a proper human being. Satan will always try to subdue us and have us under his control. It is difficult for the human kingdom to be independent. At best the human kingdom is a small colony in the satanic kingdom. The human kingdom is always under the control of the satanic kingdom. Practically speaking, there are actually only two kingdoms on the earth today: the kingdom of Satan, including the subdued human kingdom, and the kingdom of God.

CORRUPTED FROM THE SIMPLICITY

I like the word Paul used in **2 Corinthians 11:3**. Paul said that he was very concerned for the Corinthians lest their thoughts be corrupted from the simplicity toward Christ. Although I have been in the Lord's work for many years, I have yet to meet a person who is truly simple. Yet I would say that the most blessed persons are simple people—very simple and single. The word simplicity may also be translated into “singleness.” Most Christians today are not simple; they are very complicated because they have collected all kinds of doctrines. They think that the more doctrines they have, the better, but actually, the more doctrines they have, the more complicated they become.

The word corrupted here is very meaningful. Part of verse 3 can also be translated in this way: *“that your minds would be corrupted by being seduced from the simplicity.”* Whenever our thoughts are seduced from the simplicity and purity toward Christ, our mind will be corrupted. **It is easy to fill people with teaching, but it is a difficult task to empty them of their teaching.** It is easy to load people with teaching, but once the teaching has entered into them, it is exceedingly hard for anyone to unload it. However, as long as we keep the seducing teachings in our mind, our mind will be corrupted. For us to experience the riches of Christ and to enjoy Him, we all need to be simple. If we are not simple, we will be in our seduced and corrupted mentality. This is a dreadful condition. The spiritual warfare today is mainly to capture the mind, to cast down the strongholds in the mind. Spiritual warfare is primarily a matter of fighting the enemy in our mind.

THE LORD’S RECOVERY

We are in the Lord’s recovery. The Lord’s recovery is radically different from today’s Christianity. Regardless of how careful we are and how properly we behave ourselves, we can never avoid controversy. What shall we do? **Never argue, for argument never avails.** In the Lord’s recovery, our best course of action is to bind the strong man by **prayer**. If we will spend more time before the throne touching the highest authority, appealing to the highest authority, and asking the Lord to bind the strong man, we will certainly see something happen.

Today the controversy between the Lord’s recovery and Christianity is absolutely related to the **mind**. Many people **cling** to their doctrines. It was the same during the time of the Lord Jesus. If you reflect upon the situation that the Lord Jesus faced while He was on the earth as recorded in the four Gospels, you will see that there was a **continual controversy, a battling**, between the Lord Jesus and the Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers. All those people had acquired many doctrines and teachings, and they fought against the Lord Jesus with the Scriptures. There was a constant warfare between the Lord Jesus and all the religious people. In the four Gospels it is difficult to find a record of any Gentiles fighting against the Lord Jesus. Those who fought against Him were the people who held to their **Bible knowledge**. The battle was in their mind. Today the controversy between the Lord’s recovery and Christianity is the same. If we stay in the realm of knowledge, we can accomplish nothing. **Not one of the scribes, lawyers, or Pharisees was convinced by the Lord’s arguments.** The more we argue, the more we strengthen the stronghold of Satan and the satanic kingdom, which is in the human mind.

EXERCISING THE SPIRIT

However, we do have a way: **binding the strong man by exercising our spirit**. We must have the constant realization and awareness that Satan is in the human body controlling the human mind, and the Lord Jesus is in the human spirit, waiting for an opportunity to spread Himself into all the inward parts of the human soul. We must always cooperate with the Lord Jesus by exercising our spirit. The best way to exercise our spirit is to forget our thoughts and simply call, *“O Lord Jesus!”* Calling, *“O Lord Jesus”* will simplify you. The more you call on the Lord in this way, the more simple you will become. You will be simple, but you will have a strong spirit. Then you will no longer like to argue. When you touch the human mind, you touch the stronghold of Satan. If you touch that stronghold, you will suffer. Instead, turn to the spirit. When you turn to the spirit, Satan will tremble.

SETTING THE MIND ON THE SPIRIT

We are all familiar with Romans 8:6. To set the mind on the flesh is death. Death is a matter of the satanic kingdom. To set the mind on the spirit is life and peace. These are matters of the kingdom of God... Whether we remain in the kingdom of Satan or the kingdom of God depends absolutely on **where we set our mind...** If we set our mind on the flesh, all the demons will rise up and swarm. However, if we set our mind on the spirit, the demons will be gone. To set the mind on the spirit really casts out the demons. *“If I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you”* (Matt. 12:28). The practicality of the kingdom life is simply to set our mind on the spirit and to go along with the indwelling Spirit. We have a way to live the kingdom life. The practicality of the kingdom life is in the spirit. When we live the kingdom life, we take no thought, and we set our mind on the spirit.