

OVERCOMING IN AN UNDERMINING WORLD

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:17-26 (NIV)

❖ Our Conflict Within – Dealing With Emotions In Our HEAD:

For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7:22-25a (NIV)

1. Our inner conflicts begin in our MIND.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Colossians 1:21 (NIV)

2. We need to understand that, just because we THINK it, doesn't make it RIGHT.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

3. Some of our greatest struggles come from what we ALLOW into our MIND.

... for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14b (NIV)

... and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

❖ Our Conflict Without – Dealing With The Emotions Of The HEART:

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5 (NIV)

1. The seed that is planted in our MIND can eventually take root in our HEART.
"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
Matthew 5:28 (NIV)

 2. Whatever we allow to be PLANTED in our heart bears fruit in our LIFE.
"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."
Luke 6:45 (NIV)

 3. When we allow our EMOTIONS to take over our hearts, they can lead to DOUBT.
This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything."
1 John 3:19-20 (NIV)
- ❖ Our Conflict Control – Choosing To Allow God's HOLY SPIRIT To Lead You:
You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.
Romans 8:9 (NIV)
1. First step is to RECOGNIZE our unhealthy EMOTIONS and hand them over.
Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:24-25 (NIV)

 2. The next step is to REPENT of living in our own power and RELEASE to God's power.
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

 3. The third step is to daily RENEW our MIND by God's Word and through prayer.
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2 (NIV)
- "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*
John 14:27 (NIV)