



Series: ðWholesome Thinkingö

Study #3

Wholesome Thinking And Spiritual Warfare

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds . . .” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

In January of 2012, the Indian Army presented Bishnu Shresta with three awards for gallantry and bravery. Riding a train home upon his retirement from the army, a gang of 30 thugs stopped the train and began looting the passengers. When they attacked a young woman and attempted to rape her, Shresta responded with his Khukuri knife and killed three of the gang, wounded eight others, and sent the remainder of them away, fearing for their lives.

As the soldier thought he was out of the army, but found himself facing new enemies, so the believer sometimes thinks that his battle with the devil is over. Yet, new enemies, even thoughts from within, rise up and attack the life of faith. One should not expect to develop wholesome thoughts without fierce battles with the enemy. His devices are multiple in attempting to turn spiritual thoughts to thoughts of vanity.

For the sake of emphasis, let’s read all three verses from which this meditation springs. ðFor though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christö (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

In relationship to wholesome thinking, we must be aware of the reality of spiritual warfare! The actuality of inward battles is strongly asserted in the first of these three verses. Paul wrote, ðFor though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the fleshö (10:3). The indication is that the war in which Christians are engaged is of a spiritual nature. Yet, the battleground is real; the enemy is real; and, the war is real. It is all as real as the flesh on one’s bones.

In regard to wholesome thinking, we must be armed with the resources of spiritual warfare! The soldiers in Christ’s army are not called to use ðcarnalö weapons such as swords, spears, and shields. Rather, they are given spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles. Whether it is faith, hope, righteousness, intercessions, divine promises, or other resources, these weapons are ðmighty through Godö (10:4); that is, these spiritual instruments are channels of His strength and power.

In regard to wholesome thinking, we must be alerted to the rewards of spiritual warfare! In Christ, through Christ, and by Christ, God’s people are associated with triumph. Strongholds are pulled down; imaginations are cast down; walls of pride are torn down; and ðevery thoughtö is brought into ðcaptivity . . . to the obedience of Christö (10:5). May God help us to better understand these truths and to be good soldiers in this arena.

