

The War Against the Mind

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Our bodies are amazing creations of God. Each of us could be classified as a walking colony of cells. Specialized groups of cells form organs that function as systems—many members in one body, each supplying and receiving from every other part.

God has made man in His image. Throughout His Word, God uses the human body to illustrate specific truth about our relationship to Him and each other. As with everything in creation, there is an established order that must be followed for maximum efficiency in the body's operation. "Command central" is the brain, which controls the central nervous system and is necessary for the function of every other system. For this reason, Christians must be in tune with the mind of Christ so that our responses and reactions are governed by the Holy Spirit.

It should surprise none of us that Satan constantly attacks us in an effort to disrupt the

chemical structure within us. According to Romans 6:12, the sin nature is in the cells of the body. The devil's object is to have Christians establish connections with the old sin nature of Adam and maintain old patterns of thinking and reaction. But these connections need not rule over us.

This booklet examines the connection between our minds and our bodies and how necessary it is for us to agree daily with what the Word of God says about us. When our minds are rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ's Finished Work, we can live in the power of His victory at Calvary.

Chapter One

CONSIDER GOD'S
MARVELLOUS WORK

For all of the vast amount of information processed in the human brain each day, we lose so much content from our memory centers. This is true for even the most disciplined thinkers. None of us knows anything as we ought to know it (1 Corinthians 8:2).

Satan hates God, but because of arrogance and the fact that he was created in a higher angelic race, he has little regard for the human race. Still, the devil knows that the best way to attack the Creator is to attack His people, who are the objects of Christ's redemption.

That is why so much of the warfare being waged against individuals is related to the chemical structure of the body. I have studied scientific data, medical books, and dictionaries along with the Word of God, and research indicates that of all the problems and illnesses said

to stem from chemical imbalance, most are not present at birth. There are rare exceptions which must be carefully diagnosed, but most of the problems we face are not primarily genetic: they are neither defects nor inherited traits that we are “stuck” with, rather they are acquired through choices that become attachments to the old sin nature.

God has designed our bodies with a marvelous and intricate system of stimulus and response called the central nervous system, which includes the brain and all the connected nerve tissue throughout the body. The specialized cells in this system are called *neurons*. Every neuron is comprised of a cell body, hair-like strands called *axons*, and conductors to the cell body called *dendrites*. The place where these nerve fibers connect is called a *synapse*, which is primarily a gap where chemicals called *neurotransmitters* send electrical impulses from one cell to another in a chain process.

Making the Right Connections

Thousands of potential connections are made between individual cells and groups of cells through the production and release of chemicals at the synapse. The mind processes

these communications, dictating our responses and reactions physically (motor fibers), mentally and emotionally (sensory fibers).*

Understanding this process, we can see how habits are formed through chemical activity that stimulates the cells, involving experiences and affecting learning, lifestyles, temperaments, dispositions, and moods.

Imbalance and Weariness

In Matthew 13:13, Jesus speaks of those who “hearing, they hear not” and “seeing, they see not.” This is the masterpiece of Satan. Why do some people become dull of hearing? Because when there is a chemical imbalance in the body, electric charges are disturbed, causing the cells to become weary, tired, and in a sense, mistreated. The source of the imbalance may be illness that robs vital nutrients, unusual physical stress, or anxiety from external threats that cause an overproduction of some chemicals. The cells of the central nervous system—which initiate and respond to impulses between sensory input (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste, plus spiritual senses in the believer) and the cerebral hemisphere—become weary.

We must understand that our bodies are

made up of billions of cells and every cell needs connections. For instance, when a woman's nerve impulses connect with her Adam nature, her body produces a chemical imbalance and she may want to stay locked in her room two to three days at a time. When a man makes this connection to Adam, he may start drinking or taking drugs. His disposition becomes strange.

John 8:31-32 says, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

When attachments are made to your Adam nature, you will live in uncontrolled biblical knowledge and as much as you want to change, you can't. You could complete seven years of Bible college, come to rap sessions once or twice a week, and attend every church service and still not change. You may not do "bad" things, but you are in Adam. Your cells have the wrong connection, producing adamic responses in the chemistry of your body. As a result, you will be moody. Women will have problems with their monthly cycles. Some men will make statements such as, "My moods swings are normal." But the truth is, these problems come from chemical reactions in minds that are not protected.

Connections with Adam

“For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death” (Romans 7:5). The fruit is unto death. I could come to the altar, cry a bucket of tears, and plead and scream for forgiveness. Then I could hang around Christians and act as if I’m doing great. But two days later, I haven’t changed one iota. I have wrong connections and the wrong chemistry, and even the best message in the world will not change me.

Romans 6:12 says, “Let not sin therefore reign in [the cells of] your mortal body.” Remember, billions of neurons are continually receiving and transmitting chemical and electrical stimuli as connections are being made and repeated. Any interference to normal brain cell activity can cause problems—disconnection, blocked connections, or wrong connections—that will ultimately affect the balance of the whole organism. Some cells react independently and others react in organized groups, but there must always be a connection.

If I am not Spirit-filled today, my cells are connected to the old lines in my Adam nature.

My nerve fibers send signals in the power of the old sin nature. The formation and repetition of habits and experiences are all based upon the information I receive and the choices I make.

Breaking Adam's Dominion

In all of this complexity, God has given a great provision. The Word and the Spirit come in to control the chemical connections. Daily, the Cross alleviates the dominion of the old sin nature. The cells are then connected by *zoe* life—the very life of God. With the Spirit's balance and energy controlling my chemical structure, I enter into the right program. Now I have the proper foundation for a brand-new life with new habits and new patterns of response.

Now I don't need to experience extreme mood swings. I don't have to retreat to my room, crying and saying, "I don't know why I feel this way, but I do. It's been this way all my life." I did not inherit that from my mother. As a rule, it does not come through genetics. It comes from wrong choices, wrong influences, and wrong thinking which eventually produce a chemical imbalance. When those problems develop, they are not merely subjective; they are *real*. But so is the life of Jesus Christ! He has the power to con-

trol the colonies of cells and connect them with the Word of Life and the Holy Spirit.

The Chemistry of Stress

Everyone experiences measures of stress. Just as the stress of resistance in weight training builds strong muscles, a certain amount of stress increases strength in our mental and spiritual capacities (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9). But when we live under constant stress with little relief, we may feel tired even when there is no apparent reason. Sometimes, we may experience no feelings at all—just a sense of numbness. We may become reactionary, angry, anxious, defensive, or troubled. The body works harder when there is an imbalance in the system. A person may try to rest, but to no avail. He may try to cover up his old sin nature, but he can't. All of this happens because the Word and the Spirit are not controlling his central nervous system nor the cells of his body. The imbalance is revealed in his behavior, which is mostly reactionary and in the flesh.

But when we receive the Word of God with meekness and allow it to be engrafted into our souls (James 1:21), then our cells can develop connections that respond to the mind of Christ

immediately and to the power of the life of Christ consistently. Attachments to the old sin nature are changed as we submit to the Word and to godly initiations. New lines and new habits are established through the energy of God as He controls the network of cells in the body that He created to begin with.

This is why it is so crucial for the Word and the Spirit to control the soil of our hearts. When this happens, a man like Moses who once struggled with anger can go forty years without being angry.

**This process was discussed at length in a message called "My Cross," included in Hallmarks from the Heart, Volume Two, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1997.*

Chapter Two

PRESENT YOUR BODY

Some Christians attribute their problems to the type of family they were raised in—but that doesn't make any difference in the new creation because we belong to the family of God. Our troubles have nothing to do with the past. We are hid in *this* family, and for us to live is Christ. Instead of the *bios* life of the natural man, we now receive *zoe* life. Resurrection power is sent through the central nervous system into the brain where all the functions of thinking and reasoning occur. As Resurrection life flows in, even on the worst day, we are controlled by godly processes. Even when we are legitimately tired and in need of sleep, we can be quiet about it. We have nothing to cover up.

The cells of our body are so willing to respond to new life! If we cooperate with God and make good decisions, healing comes into the entire network of cells, affecting all the patterns of

initiation and response.

As a result, the circulatory system begins to function more efficiently because the imbalance of stress is relieved. This influences the endocrine system and the glands secrete properly throughout the body. Satanic attacks against women's emotions due to hormonal imbalance can be dramatically relieved as God's power and life takes care of them.

"I wish above everything else that you would prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers" (see 3 John 2). There it is! If you can get your soul filled with God's life, your *body* will prosper and be in good health.

Still, many Christian men and women struggle with problems related to their body chemistry. Though they may know how to cover it up, but they can become extremely angry or terribly depressed. When this happens, the chemicals that induce stress increase and the body can't handle it.

Love Established in the Inward Parts

For this reason, Paul wrote in Romans 12:1, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice." He addressed the presentation of the body before he mentioned the transformation of the mind. If we

try to receive the Word of God without presenting our bodies, the Word won't have the desired effect because of the natural processes that go on in the body. First, we reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God through Christ (Romans 6:11).

Let God break up the soil of your heart every morning (Hosea 10:12, Lamentations 3:22-23). God desires to give us His love in our inward parts. He wants truth and wisdom to lodge there. He takes care of the human spirit, the soul, and body through new cell connections. Grace, faith, and love enter in through a beautiful process of humility and meekness.

We can't separate ourselves from the chemical processes within us. Some people *know* the truth, but the truth doesn't set them free. They are unable to change because their bodies are not receiving God's redeeming life. His mercies are new every morning; His compassions fail not. This truth makes us disciples of the Word of God and it sets us free. If Christians understood this, they would seldom (if ever) need counseling.

Operating in the Finished Work

"If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Corinthians 8:2).

Any time you hear a Christian tell you that he knows something, he's proud. The older a man of God gets, the less he confesses to "know" something. Instead, he confesses that he is just beginning to understand things little by little. But so many people become familiar with the Holy Spirit and familiar with God's omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.

When you hear a passage of Scripture, even if you've read it over and over through the years, you do not know that verse unless it's operating 100 percent in the cells of your body and in the soul and heart of your being.

As I have traveled throughout the world, I have found that there are only a handful of people who remotely understand how to operate in the Finished Work of Jesus Christ. Even after hearing messages for fifteen years, they cannot walk in a Finished Work life. Why? They don't *know* it.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Only when a person is humble and broken will the times of refreshing come to him from the presence of God.

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not

consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him" (Lamentations 3:22-24). I cannot comprehend the truth of these verses. I have retained them in my memory center for forty-five years, but I do not know them as I should. Those verses go beyond salvation. They go beyond relationships, thoughts, emotions, details of life, or the worst problem we could have. We need to internalize the words of Scripture deep within our souls through the process of faith.

His Thoughts Are Not Our Thoughts

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ...For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:10, 14).

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

God is telling us, "My viewpoint is never like yours, and your viewpoint is never like mine." The only way any of us can be normal is

if our cells are connected to the right source with every cell receiving, responding to, and transmitting the proper initiations. Of the billions of cells that make up each individual, each separate cell makes vital connections with other cells to function in highly specialized groups. By God's incomparable workmanship, He created this extraordinary architecture of cells with masses of tiny fibers and chemicals that connect in a definite order.

Through this process, messages are sent to and from the human brain throughout the entire body. This establishes a proper distribution of categorical initiations and connections, affecting our thinking, responses, feelings, self-consciousness, conscience, motivation, volition, and energy.

It is no wonder that with all that is going on inside our bodies, God said through the apostle Paul, "I want you to present your body (of cells) so that it can be quickened. And do not be conformed to this world, but be renewed by the Holy Spirit. Experience the transformation of your mind through a measure of faith so you can prove what is My good, acceptable and perfect will. I want the chemicals of *your body* to be controlled by Me!"

Chemical Imbalances

If the mind and body and their chemical production are not controlled by Jesus Christ, we will be prone to mood swings. Even a pastor or a pastor's wife could feel strange and off-balance at times because the cells are not functioning properly. Generally, this imbalance is not something people are born with, but it develops through the environment and the choices they make.

The repetition of choices and experiences ultimately forms habits. If my thought processes are off, I could come from the best family in the world and still have problems. I could attend the best church and still act strange. I could be a Hollywood success and still go crazy with my millions of dollars.

People use liquor and drugs (which are chemicals), trying to "help" their troubled cells by making connections through sublimation with worldly forces of pleasure in an effort to find emotional tranquillity. When the entire being, which includes the cell structure, is not rightly connected to God, the majority of people will suffer very strange chemical problems and become incompatible with life's problems and

challenges.

Satan attacks the mind by going straight to the place that connects the human soul to the Adam-nature. The devil wants to establish an attachment to *Adam*. When I am connected with Adam, I can live in human good, but I'm going to have problems due to chemical imbalances. Some react worse than others, but everyone experiences measures of these problems through the connections to the old sin nature.

Connection to Victory

When I finally make a connection to Christ's mind, I no longer live independently, discharging unhealthy measures of chemical reactions. My thought processes are renewed through a repetition of categories of love, grace, peace, forgiveness, cleansing and purging (Philippians 4:8). I receive the life of Christ for every situation, then I purpose to meditate on categories of doctrine to be firmly established in the work God has done.*

At that point, the mind of Jesus Christ governs my heart and motives. *All of my cells are connected to Calvary!* Gone are the electrically charged chemical problems that make some people so moody, inconsistent, and reactionary.

These people may love you on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, but don't care to speak to you on Thursday. Their chemicals are going wild and they say things such as, "I don't care because I feel awful." And in reality, they do feel awful. It is not subjective, it is *real*.

"Let not sin therefore reign in [the cells of] your mortal body" (Romans 6:12). Jesus is saying, "Don't you know that your body was crucified with Me? The body of sin should not have dominion because the old man is crucified" (See Romans 6:6).

He tells us to reckon ourselves dead unto the old sin nature, so that we can be renewed in our mind and in the cells of our body. In Romans 6:13, He says, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead." This is speaking of brand-new connections through identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

**Read Categorical Meditation: The One Answer to All Problems, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

Chapter Three

RECEIVE YOUR PORTION

God's mercies are new every morning, and because of this we are not consumed. In other words, we are not consumed by our body's transactions and transmissions. We have a connection with the mind of Christ. Psalm 16:6 says, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." We establish good habits as our thought processes, decisions, and experiences are established in Him. This controls the volition and brings consistency to our emotions, consciousness, and self-consciousness.

Not only are His mercies new every morning and not only do His compassions fail not, but "the Lord is the portion of my soul: therefore will I hope in him" (Lamentations 3:24).

Hebrews 10:10 and 14 says, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all...By one offer-

ing we are perfected for ever." *Those who are sanctified have been perfected forever by the once-and-for-all offering of Jesus Christ.* In Hebrews 10:10, the word "sanctified" is a perfect middle participle in the Greek text, meaning that our sanctification happened in the past and has continuing results. The middle voice, not the passive, is used, because God caused us to be sanctified as a truth from His own heart. The fourteenth verse refers to an action that happened in the past with the results that go on forever. *Nothing can ever stop your perfection in Christ.*

The Absolutes of the Finished Work

"If ye then be risen with Christ" (Colossians 3:1a) is a first-class condition meaning you *are* risen. "Risen" is in the passive voice, which means you have received the action of being raised with Him. "Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1b-2). "Affection" is *phroneo* in the Greek, which speaks of an exercise of the mind. "Set your [mind] on things above..."—it is an absolute. Verse three says that the Father produced the action of hiding your life with Christ. We are hid with Christ in God—

that is an absolute.

The Finished Work is the *Finished Work*. Only seek those things that are above. Only think on the absolutes of the Finished Work—absolute love, absolute grace, absolute mercy, absolute forgiveness, absolute blood sacrifice, absolute power, absolute kindness, absolute freedom in Christ, absolute liberty, and absolute joy!

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:2-5). “Mortify” means we put to death the things which are connected to the earth. We are to put them to death by believing and reckoning that those connections are dead. *That is an absolute.*

Sanctified Once and For All

“Do you want to know about your life?” God asks.

“I’ve sanctified you once and for all. You’re perfected forever. You’re hid with Christ in God. You have mercies that are new every morning. My compassions cannot fail.”

“Do you want to know about your life?”

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:17-18).

A boy in one of our churches in Europe saw his father kill his mother and then commit suicide. The boy had to stand there and watch. Every cell in his being was torn apart by that scene, even after he had been attending a Bible-believing church for five years. Then one night during a seminar, he was totally delivered and he just sobbed and sobbed. What had happened? He received brand-new connections—the cells of his memory center and the five parts of his soul along with his body became connected to Christ. *“Let this mind be in you, which was also was in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5).

Our Debts: Blotted Out, Wiped Away

It is so important that we absolutely understand the difference between the Greek words *exeleiphein* and *chiazein*. From historical accounts, we know that in ancient times when a debt was paid to a creditor, it was common practice to

draw an X across the document that detailed the debt. If Charlie Jones owes me a debt of five hundred dollars, when the debt is paid, an X is marked across the record and it is filed away. Anyone, however, could look up Charlie's file and see that he once had a debt. It's all paid, but the record can be seen by anyone at any time. That is an example of *chiazein*.

Contrast that with what God does in the spiritual realm. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, *that your sins may be blotted out*, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). "Blotted out" is *ex-eleiphein*. It means that where there once was a mark, now there is none: no name, no sin, no X—*nothing*. You are perfected and sanctified forever. His mercies are new every morning. His compassions fail not. Christ is the portion of your life, therefore you have hope in God.

Now, even if I wanted to look up your sins, I couldn't. You may have committed three million sins, but Jesus paid the debt and blotted out the record. He has wiped away the past forever in the same way that He will wipe away the tears, according to Revelation 21:4 and 7:17. Your sins—past, present and future—have been wiped away.

Exeleiphein means that our sins were judged once and for all when Christ took our judgment on His body on the tree. His soul was poured out as an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:10*b*). His soul was poured out unto death (Isaiah 53:12*b*). Therefore, God cannot remember one single sin anymore (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17).

God now says, "When I look at your life, I see you hid with Christ in Me."

"That's it?"

"That's it. I see that you are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. By that one offering, I see you as sanctified forever. Those are My thoughts toward you. Now do you want to change My thoughts? Go ahead and try, but you can't do it. My thoughts are My thoughts. And by the way, I wrote on your document that mercy rejoices against judgment (James 2:13). In My handwriting, I wrote that no one could ever bring up your sin or bring a charge against you (Romans 8:33)."

Walled In with Christ

God wants us to know that there is a place for us within His walls (Isaiah 56:5). There, we have an "everlasting" name. "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy

walls are continually before me” (Isaiah 49:16).

“If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar” (Song of Solomon 8:9). If you have a wall of fire (Zechariah 2:5), which speaks of positional truth in categorical thinking (including wisdom, faith, forgiveness, kindness, and patience), then palaces of silver will be built upon you. And if you have a door that will let this truth in, allowing Jesus to be your wall of fire, you will be enclosed with boards of cedar, which was a very extravagant, expensive wood.

Satan also builds walls—walls of pride, of self-exaltation against Calvary and against truth. But God promises “the fortress of the high fort of thy walls shall he bring down” (Isaiah 25:12) and “salvation will God appoint for walls” (Isaiah 26:1). Every Christian has positional truth with categorical doctrines, grace upon grace (John 1:16), and mercy rejoicing against judgment. The fact is that God says He can’t remember our sins. Let’s agree with God! For two cannot walk together except they be agreed (Amos 3:3).

CONCLUSION

Let's agree with *exeleiphein*. Thank God He hasn't just put an X across our record of sin. He blotted it out and washed it away forever. Let's agree with God that the sin issue is gone forever. Jesus Christ dealt with it once and for all.

Let's agree that Jesus Christ has perfected forever them that are sanctified positionally. Let's agree that we're hid with Christ in God. Let's agree that we're seated above. God doesn't know us after the flesh; He only knows us after the Blood of the Lamb in the New Covenant.

Everything is new every morning. We have a new mind with new connections and a new supply of grace. Old things are passed away and all things become new, moment by moment. We are kept moment by moment (Isaiah 27:3). We are new creatures living in His New Creation.

Our minds and our bodies no longer have to be rooted in Adam. We don't have to live in the law of sin that is warring within us. Instead, we

can delight in the law of God inwardly (Romans 7:20-25) for we are hid with Christ in God in the Spirit of life.