

## Spiritual Warfare: Renewing Our Minds | Week 4 - Partnering With God in the Battle

### Big Idea

God invites us to partner with him so that our minds can be renewed and transformed to be more like Christ.

### Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:56-58, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, and Matthew 4:1-11

### Points to Keep In Mind

1. Sin, represented by disobedience to God's commands, brings spiritual death and separation from God. The consequences of death are profound, leading to both physical and eternal death. The law, which reveals God's standard of righteousness, highlights our sinful nature and inability to meet God's perfect standards. The good news is we do not have to try to do this on our own! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the power of death and sin has been overcome. Jesus bore the penalty of sin on the cross, fulfilling the requirements of the law on our behalf. His victory over sin and death provides the pathway of reconciliation for each of us and gives us the hope of eternal life with Christ. This is the way of grace through Jesus, so we need not fear trials and difficulties, for they are only temporary (2 Cor. 4:17).
2. In Romans 12:1-2, the word translated "world" in this passage means "this era" or "the present period of time." Paul's talking about the here and now, and he's saying, in this present era, let your mind be renewed with God's Truth and peace. Notice, we are to BE transformed. We are not the agents of this transformation; God is. Through his Spirit dwelling within us, he wants to transform our minds so that we will learn to think as God thinks, to spot the evil one's lies so that we can follow God in the way of His Truth. We can actively participate in renewing our minds by reading and memorizing scripture, by asking God to replace the enemy's lies with God's Truth in the battlefield of our minds, and by staying in community with our small groups and celebrating together on Sundays.
3. When we say yes to Jesus, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity (Eph. 1:13). The Holy Spirit guides, teaches, and reveals God's Truth to us. It is a gift from God that transforms and empowers us as Christ-followers to understand and experience spiritual realities that are beyond human comprehension. We then can enjoy and put into action the beautiful fruits of the Holy Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
4. Matthew 4:1-11 highlights how Jesus combated the enemy's lies with God's Truth. When we know God's Word well, we can more easily recognize and refute the lies and temptations the enemy throws at us.

### Additional Questions and Resources

*visit [communitychristian.org/nextsteps](http://communitychristian.org/nextsteps)*

1. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
2. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting [communitychristian.org/you/](http://communitychristian.org/you/)
3. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/support](http://communitychristian.org/support)