



Take back your mind and win the war

If you have received Christ as your Savior, then you have an enemy. Did you know that? I know some people feel uncomfortable talking about the devil, but he is real and it's important for us to face the truth about him so we can have a victorious life in Christ.

Now, we don't need to be afraid of him because as believers in Jesus, the Holy Spirit who lives in us is greater than our enemy in the world (1 John 4:4). But we can't ignore the enemy's

attacks and overcome him. And the Word of God tells us how to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12 AMP) using the weapon of the Word.

We Are in a War

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) says, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness..." And 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV) says, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling

down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

There is a battle raging and the battlefield is the mind. That's why it is critical for us to learn how to renew our minds with the weapon of God's Word.

Romans 12:2 exhorts us to "not be conformed to this world...but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind..." (AMPC). The Word of God is the most powerful thing on the earth, and if we will really learn the truth in it, then the power of the Word will literally transform our lives by "pulling down strongholds" in our minds.

Know Your Enemy

The Bible teaches us that the devil "is a liar [himself] and the father of lies" (John 8:44 AMPC). He comes against us by bombarding our

minds with cleverly devised patterns of nagging thoughts that lead to suspicion, doubt, fear, reasoning and theories that refute the truth of God's Word. When these thoughts get rooted in our minds, then we have strongholds that give the enemy control.

A stronghold is an area where the enemy entrenches himself and takes control. So when the Bible talks about strongholds in our mind, it's referring to areas where the enemy has become entrenched in our thoughts, causing us to believe something that's absolutely not true, but because we believe it's true, it has become a reality for us.

Before I learned about being transformed by the renewing of my mind according to God's Word, I believed things that weren't true, and they created a mess in my life.

I remember thinking things like, "Nobody cares about me or loves me. Nothing good is going to happen in my life, so

I might as well not expect anything good. I'm always going to have a second-class life because I was abused by my father and I'm damaged goods."

It's taken years of diligently studying God's Word and prayer, but God has set me free from those strongholds and I have come to the place where I can live in His righteousness, peace and joy every day. And like John 8:32 says, the truth has set me free!

Wield Your Sword

Let's go back to Ephesians 6. Verses 12-18 tell us who our enemy is and that we need to put on the armor of God so we can stand our ground and resist him. Verse 17 says to "take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God" (AMPC).

So how do we "wield the Word"?

It's simple: When we hear the Word, speak the Word, meditate on the Word and sing praises from the Word of God,

we are doing spiritual warfare. And as we study the Word, it becomes a filter in our mind that reveals the lies of the enemy and gives us the truth. That's why the devil will do everything he can to distract us from spending time with God and studying the Word.

I want to encourage you today to make a determined decision to keep your relationship with God and His Word your number one priority. Look up every scripture you can find about renewing the mind, then meditate on those scriptures and say them out loud. Ask God to reveal any strongholds in your mind and help you tear them down with His Word. Then, when the enemy comes against you, you won't be deceived. And like me, your testimony will be: Thank You, God! Your Truth has set me free.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.

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Celebrate candlelight service, new beginnings

Today, on Christmas Eve, at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF), there will be a candlelight service led by the Rev. Ruth Miller from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. with stories, carols and holiday snacks.

Christmas morning, starting at 10 a.m., there will be a potluck brunch with baked ham

and spiced cider provided. Please feel welcome to attend.

New Year is a time of new beginnings.

In recognition and celebration, "New Beginnings" will take participants on a journey to release last year's kaleidoscope of experiences while opening awareness to the glory in today.

On New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31, beginning at 5 p.m., the "New Beginnings" labyrinth will be drawn inside FUUF.

All are invited to share in drawing and walking the labyrinth. Chanting and drumming will culminate in joyous celebration of 2017 at 9 p.m.

Then on New Year's Day,

Sunday, Jan. 1, seating will be arranged around the labyrinth as Larry and Linda Addison share new beginnings in stories and metaphors.

FUUF is located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road and is wheelchair accessible.

Visit www.florenceuuf.org for more information.

Call to quilt artists for March show in Yachats

YACHATS—Polly Plumb Productions Board Member, Ruth Bass announces a call to artists for the Ocean Artistry Art Quilt Show to be held at the Yachats Commons, Yachats, Oregon, on March 10-12, 2017.

This juried show will accept art pieces from local, regional, and international art quilters.

The theme of this inaugural show will be "Gems of the Ocean."

Details of the call to artists can be found at www.oceanartistry.com.

Quilt entries will be accepted between Dec. 15, 2016 and Jan. 15, 2017, and will be decided by Feb. 1.

Final judging will be made

by a five-person panel of artists and dignitaries during the show.

All selected entries will be on display during the Ocean Artistry Art Quilt show running March 10-12 at the Yachats Commons in the multi-purpose room.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"One of the goals of the show is to introduce art quilting to both locals and visitors to the area," said Bass. "We thought the ocean theme would allow artists to explore the

beauty of this area and make interpretations based on their own whimsy."

The new art show has already received financial support from both the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund and the City of Yachats' New Event Fund.

"We're delighted to bring this type of show to Yachats. This will brighten up the town and we welcome everyone to experience an art quilt show," said Bass.

For more information, visit info@oceanartistry.org.

Elks Community Appreciation Dinner

December 25, 2016
12:00 - 3:00 pm

The Officers and Members of
Florence Elks Lodge #1858
Appreciate the Florence Community for
Supporting our Lodge.

As a token of our appreciation,
please join us for a
Complimentary Dinner
At the Lodge, 1686 12th Street, Florence
On Christmas Day from
Noon to 3:00 pm.

River Cities Taxi will be providing free transportation
for those that need it, inside the Florence City Limits
Please call 541-997-8520

Fraternally,
Joyce Middleton, Exalted Ruler
Elks Care-Elks Share

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280 Hwy. 101 ♥ 541-997-8996

Reminder to pick up your Crabs before 3pm today.

Stock the stuffings with
canned tunas in all flavors!

Have a very happy holiday
from all of us at the Krab Kettle.

Nominate businesses, people for Siuslaw Awards

The ninth annual Siuslaw Awards event is fast approaching. The awards banquet, sponsored by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, will happen Feb. 8, at the FEC.

This prestigious event recognizes excellence in the local business community by naming recipients for awards in Excellence in Customer Service, Curb Appeal, NonProfit Achievement, Community Caring, Innovation in Business and the Stu Johnston Business of the Year Award.

Two outstanding individuals in the community will be honored with the Future First Citizen Award and the First Citizen Award.

Florence Area Chamber of

Commerce will also recognize an individual or business that has selflessly given of their time and efforts in supporting the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and its efforts with the Distinguished Service Award.

Anyone can choose to nominate their own or another business for the Siuslaw Awards.

Applications are available now either at the Florence Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center or online at www.florencechamber.com.

Nominations must be submitted to the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce by Dec. 30.

For more information, call Florence Area Chamber of Commerce at 541-997-3128.

Siuslaw News Photo of the Week: By Claudia Wittenberg



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