

# UNAFRAID

## TAKE OUT THE TRASH!

Friends, like it or not, we were born on a battlefield of good and evil, with ZERO middle ground. There is a 3-headed enemy that works around the clock to keep you from the goodness of what Jesus did on the cross. That enemy is your flesh (you), the world (society), and the devil. You can disagree, not believe, or play the plausible deniability game all you want, BUT it will not change the truth of our reality. We must be proactive in our walk with The Lord, who protects and guides us and our family's lives.

The TRUTH we should seek is God's truth, not our own or our neighbors. Everyone has their own version of truth, but the truth of God (Most High) is absolute. It is not faulty, fake, sugar-coated, changing, or incomplete. It is whole and complete and is what we need throughout this walk we call life. He is the constant that we can take all things to verify, correct, and learn the way.

### LET'S GET AFTER IT!

#### The Mission:

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." -2 Corinthians 5:17*

This verse provides a good snapshot of how we should live once we accept Christ as our Savior. Our old self has (*or should have*) passed away, and we are made new; new as in, we live differently than before. If we conduct, believe, talk, think, and live our lives the same way, expecting a different outcome, then we have defined insanity.

The truth sometimes feels like a hammer to the face, or someone just took the last piece of pie you were craving, but the truth is - that is what we desperately need to properly grow in what we are called. Truth feels like that hammer because this world is comfortable with talking and acting in a sugarcoated, fake way. Jesus said, *"And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."* (Matthew 11:6). We can agree that today's society is just about offended with everything regardless of the heart's intentions. We are quick to go, point fingers, and conform to the easiest way to walk in faith. Christians, yes, this is for you.

Generally speaking, modern-day churches design their method to bring unbelievers into the church to encounter The Lord, which is great and needed. The problem is that the desire seems to be numbers: how many people raised their hands, how many baptisms, and how many life groups we have. We lack mature Christians to lead, stand firm, and wield a sword to fight. Instead, we have a church on the sidelines participating in the spirit team and cheerleading (all talk, no walk), with little to no authority over our ever-real and present enemy (*Ephesians 6:12*).

Why? There is a lack of willingness, obedience, and fruits of the spirit (*Galatians 5:22-24*).

The church, like society, is softening, coddling, and fooling both non-believers and believers so a lost culture can accept them and not focus on the truth, which is Jesus and the word of God. The word "manipulating" would be acceptable here. This is why mental illness, anxiety, and inability to deal with trauma are on the rise. We are not being adequately taught and given the full truth by church leaders, pastors, and teachers - and we are not seeing examples from these same individuals in their actions. You will know them by their fruit!

\*\*\* Leaders, pastors, teachers, mentors - if the shoe fits, wear it. Repent and get back to God's alignment, not your alignment or society's. You were, or should have been, called for higher for His purpose and will.

We should not be conforming to this fallen world, but should be renewing our minds as we are told in (*Romans 12:2*). We must equip, grow, and strengthen our walk with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit if we want this so-called "change" many speak of. One way to enhance this is to eliminate the filth in our lives. That is right; if we choose to live and walk righteously and not conform to the world, it requires some housekeeping. We need to take out the trash and remove any things in our lives that go against God, Jesus, or grieve the Holy Spirit.

This may sound like a lot, but feeling overwhelmed is unnecessary. God knows exactly where you are, and He will guide you as the son or daughter you are. Just like we should correct our children, we patiently point out the wrong, discipline if necessary, and teach the correct way. Our Father does the same but with much more love, mercy, grace, and understanding. For those who live and trust in Him, He is our place of safety, rescue, shelter, and protection. (*Psalms 91*).

So, what do we need to attack? What is this filth we are discussing?

**Filth - something that tends to corrupt or defile, foul.**

So, what in your life would be considered filth? If you were sitting down having coffee with Jesus (picture it), what would He say you needed to remove or cleanse? The things that would be mentioned are the same things that bring you down.

### **-BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF-**

Things that may need to be removed:

**People** - Chances are, there are people in your life who are not the best influencers or do not push you to grow. They can bring you down by constant gossip or talking negatively, focusing more on the storm than the solution or positives we can all choose to focus on. When you are with them, you end up doing the same thing over and over again that you regret, which can lead to follow-up problems or get you in trouble.

A good question to ask yourself is - "Is this person an asset in my life or a liability?"

Some examples can be certain church groups you are involved in, men's groups, friendships, sexually immoral relationships (God sees all), colleagues from work, drinking buddies, immoral people, etc.

On the flip side - If you are the one who brings these negative traits on others, then you must walk in a new direction and be the one that others get refined just by being in your presence.

**Places** - Are there places that you go that you shouldn't? You know the places. You know in your heart and soul that it sucks you dry, or bad habits and attitudes manifest when you frequent these places.

Some examples that the Holy Spirit revealed to me that I distanced myself from were mainstream gyms, bars, certain counselors, and certain churches. Everyone will be different based on their wrongful desires, struggles, and God's will.

**Things** - Are there things in your possessions that you should not have?

Here are some examples of things I had to eliminate that had to go for one reason or another. The reason could be that I made it an idol; it makes my mind go to a place it shouldn't, it is evil, it does not glorify God but glorifies man or the devil. OR, yes, it is tied to witchcraft, divination, occult practices, or unclean spirits.

I was led to get rid of the following:

- My SEAL Team patches - Idolatry.
- A gold cross passed down from my grandmother - Cursed by the maker.
- A framed American Flag - Given to me by a grandfather framed by an ex of mine.
- Any shirts I had that had death, destruction, or skulls (there were a lot).
- All pictures on my phone, laptop, and desktop that contained anything that was not of good nature.
- Certain music, TV shows, movies, books, etc.
- I removed all social media apps from all my devices.

There was a lot more, but this will serve as an example. The Holy Spirit will reveal these things for those who earnestly seek answers; it is on you to be obedient in walking out how you are led. One may laugh, roll their eyes, mock, and say that getting rid of these things is ridiculous. Those individuals are most likely the ones believing lies and being influenced by an unseen enemy, and they don't even know it because they DO NOT know or comprehend the goodness of The Lord.

We need to pause right here so we can be reminded that God's ways ARE NOT the same as ours. He sees ALL, so we must trust in the guidance He gives.

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, declares 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*

**Headspace** (Thoughts/Beliefs/Attitudes/Desires) - This is a big one! You will be blown away if you do a simple Google search of how many thoughts we have in a day. It's a lot! Out of those thousands and thousands of thoughts, many of those are negative. We have our fleshly thoughts, thoughts influenced by a filthy world, thoughts from our Lord, and thoughts GIVEN to us from an unseen enemy (evil).

Do you complain, grumble, have ill thoughts towards others, speak negatively to others in your head, plan revenge, think you are unworthy, get anxious, fantasize, plan out hateful retaliatory comments, etc.?

We must NOT allow wrong attitudes, false beliefs, wrongful desires, or "stronghold thinking" (self-erected walls) to consume our minds. If we do, we are not thinking the way we should. These thoughts will consume, influence our actions, give the devil a foothold, and allow tormentors into our world.

We are told to take our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ.

*"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,"  
-2 Corinthians 10:5*

For those who may be dealing with depression, anxiety, and other mental issues - this is a huge reason. You are allowing negative thoughts to consume your world, which will consume your actions, and this is one of the enemy's tactics - attacking your mind.

We are reminded to put on God's full armor and stand firm! Many people walk around as easy targets because they do not properly suit up. When I deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, I would not have hit a target (mission) without my gear. I needed my body armor, helmet, pistol, extra ammo, night vision, rifle, and other gear to protect me and take out the enemy.

Remember, this is a spiritual battle; we must use divine weapons (prayer, scripture, obedience) that destroy the schemes and deception of the devil, our flesh, and man.

*"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds." -2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

Something that immensely helped me in attacking these wrong attitudes and thoughts was binding my mind to the mind of Christ and the will of God and destroying any wrong attitudes, desires, beliefs, or thoughts. I made it my mission to take every thought captive and give it to Jesus. I was tired of a faulty world, and the enemy controlling my thought life, which stole good attitudes from me, my wife, and my kids. After a short time, my mind started to operate differently. This is a constant walk! I cannot remove the filth from this world; it's everywhere, but I can control what thoughts I choose to chew on. I have been on both sides - the evil and now the good. I prefer Jesus' way!



We must proactively attack ANY negative thoughts, false beliefs, wrong attitudes, wrongful desires, or negative thinking. These thought processes WILL affect your actions and hinder your relationship with your loved ones, work, neighbors, and the Lord.

Ask the Holy Spirit - **Yes!** Ask for this filth to be shown. Some you already know, and some you may not, so we ask an all-knowing God to reveal these things to us. If it is shown, it will require your submission and obedience to do whatever is given. It may mean staying away from this person, not going there, or throwing something in the trash (literally).

Back to being a new creation in Christ. You cannot have Jesus in you and be the same person. You will see things differently, you will not want to do the things you did before, you will not be tempted to do the same things, and you will see things the way that Jesus does. You will see the world for what it truly is and notice if things are from your fleshly self or if it's of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:16-24*). **It is not religion; it is a relationship.**

Please allow me to be blunt - Many who claim to be "Christians" are not walking as new creations in Christ because Christ is not in them. The majority are all talk and lack an actual life change. Unfortunately, they set a poor example for new Christians. This is happening throughout the modern-day church, which hinders our prayers and the miracles that Jesus did and still does for His people who walk in **obedience**.

Through this relationship-building process, you will feel true **FREEDOM** in Christ.

**YOU** - YOU are responsible for changes in your life! You do not get to point fingers at others and play the victim or blame game. Take responsibility for your actions, clean up the filth, and watch the awesomeness of our Lord purify. Do not doubt, do not complain BUT do TRUST!

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares 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

**NOW, CLEAN HOUSE AND EXPERIENCE HOW THE LORD HEALS AND SETS CAPTIVES FREE!**

## Helpful Scripture(s):



*"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever."*

*-1 John 2:15-17*



*"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." -Ephesians 5:11*



*"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls." -James 1:21*



*"to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." -Ephesians 4:22-24*



*"So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech." -1 Peter 2:1*



*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," -Hebrews 12:1*



*"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." -1 Corinthians 6:9-11*