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DEMONIC INFLUENCES: OPPRESSION

One of the ways Satan will attempt to control a person is through demonic oppression. What does that look like?

Oppress: To weigh down; to lie heavily upon; to burden; to press down by force; trample down; suppress

Oppression: the state of being oppressed or burdened; a heavy, weary feeling of the body or the mind (soul).

Oppressive: hard to bear; harsh; severe

Satan is a thief, a destroyer, and a tormentor. Demons are his spirit agents who are assigned to accomplish his works. With oppression, they tend to create circumstances of a negative sort to shift your focus away from the Lord and your faith on Him and to refocus on the problematic circumstances. If he can get you to focus on the problem instead of (by faith) the answer, then he can "beat you up" with it. It becomes a heavy burden to your own soul (mind, emotions, will). It can sap your strength or energy. If you do not look to the Lord for help, and you continue to let this "thing, matter, or issue" dominate your thoughts or feelings, it could eventually lead to depression.

The demon will haunt your mind (thoughts) or your emotions to get you down and keep you down. This means that you, the believer, are not walking in the victory we have in Christ if we continue to focus on the burdensome problem.

What might he (the demon) use to oppress you and to dominate your feelings or thoughts? It could be the death of a loved one, especially if the circumstances were unusual or traumatic. It could be a terrible financial situation. It could be a problem relating to a family member. It could be a feeling of uselessness or a lack of purpose for living. Whatever it is, demonic spirits will "beat you up" with those thoughts.

The solution is found in II Corinthians 10:5, ***"casting down imaginations (thoughts), and every high (strong) thing that exalts itself against the knowledge (and faith) of God, and bringing into captivity (control) every thought to the obedience (and faith) of Christ."***

When we refocus on Christ, we then must cast down thoughts and feelings that do not align with the Word of God. This is an act (or choice) of your free will. You must CHOOSE to put aside those thoughts. Then follow Philippians 4:8, ***"...whatsoever things (thoughts) are of good report...think on these things."*** Obedience to the Word will overcome oppression.

The "battlefield is your mind." Focus on the promise, not the problem. Focus on the Word, the Name, and the blood. Jesus is the answer.