

Satan doesn't want us to be sure. So he attacks our minds, and stirs up our emotions. Do we realize that the thoughts we have, which we often think are our own thoughts, may not be our thoughts? Do we realize that some of our thoughts, when they come to us, are not ours, but actually are sent by the flaming arrows of the evil one? He attacks our minds. Martyn Lloyd-Jones suggests the following possibilities.

When we think, "Who am I to think that I am a child of God? I am so unworthy, I am so aware of blackness and evil in myself."

When we think, "I must not be a true believer, since for various reasons right now I don't know for sure I am."

When we look at a past sin we committed, a horrendous act perhaps, and think, "God can't possibly forgive me for that. That is just too great a sin."

When we live in continual regret because we missed opportunities, and could have done this, or that for the kingdom instead of wasting time on other things.

When we think, "'Where was the blessedness I knew when first I sought the Lord?' I don't feel the joy anymore, I feel so very dry, it feels so dark. Aren't things supposed to be getting better for me as a believer?"

When others come to us to "comfort" us like Job's friends. They play the devil's game and make us think that our trials are come because we are presumptuous, proud, self-satisfied, and guilty of some secret sin.

When we think, "If God is so good, then why does he allow such evil in my life? Isn't he powerful, too? Why didn't he stop it?"

When we think, "Everyone around me has it so good, and yet for me things seem only to get worse. Did God really say that he loves me?"

Remember how Jesus fought his temptations from the devil always by referring to what is written in the Word? The word of God is the sword of the Spirit with which we can beat off these attacks (Eph 6:17). How? The old hymn gives guidance: "put on the gospel armour, each piece put on with prayer" (George Duffield, "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus"; see Eph 6:10-20). When we hear these accusations, pray that Jesus protect us from these evil thoughts, and make every thought captive to Christ (2 Cor 10:5).