

A black silhouette of a wolf's head and shoulders is positioned on the left side of the frame. The wolf is facing left and has its mouth open in a howl. The background is a dark, moody sky with soft, out-of-focus clouds in shades of green and grey. The word "INTERRUPTED" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the wolf's silhouette.

INTERRUPTED

JASON CRUISE
A WILD & KINGDOM PUBLISHED WORK

11 Minutes 17 Seconds.

That's the amount of time you'll invest in reading **INTERRUPTED.**

For what it's worth the experience is far better on an iPad or Desktop.

My belief is that the next 11 minutes could re-route your journey with God.

See you on the other side.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Jason H." with a stylized flourish.

BEING BORN.

From the moment a man leaves the birth canal he's faced with a harsh environment. Naked. Cold. Loud. And when the umbilical is severed the fight for survival begins.

Later, much later, a man will face an even harsher adversary. The reality that he's being pursued.

Here's the thing. I don't think any man, reborn in the Spirit, would deny the simple reality that there's a devil.

The issue, from my experience, is that most men walk cavalierly through hostile territory.

Satan is better at lying than you are. Satan is better at being a Con Man than you are. Satan is the best deceiver in world history. And like any thief, he's patient.



Satan is playing to win.

And the stakes of the game start with a man's perception of reality.

Battles start in the mind.

The mind is the battlefield and you've got to learn how to win there.

How you go about navigating your thought life ... and your ability to spot lies as they come your way ... is the ballgame.

There's a narrative being formed against you every day.

And you've got to learn how to interrupt that narrative and replace it with the truth.

Do it and you'll walk in freedom.

Don't do it and you simply play the game to the rules the enemy sets.



LIFE OUTSIDE THE WIRE.



Years ago I was in the process of writing a book on life in spiritually hostile territory, and in perfect timing, I had a sobering conversation with a buddy of mine who was a combat chaplain for a Special Forces group.

Brad told me that the operating base where he was stationed had a perimeter around it in the form of wire fences.

He said that when the soldiers had to go on a mission outside of the small base, they referred to it as *"going outside the wire."*

As their combat chaplain, Brad would go with them.

INTERRUPTED





The look in his eyes told a tougher story as I saw him recall how it felt. He said that as you're sitting in the HumVee driving up to the gate you could hear the radio explode with enemy conversation from spotters.

They knew as soldiers that from the moment they left the wire they were in enemy-occupied territory.

That conversation stayed on my mind like a fog for days.

We live and operate daily in enemy-occupied territory.



**THE THIEF COMES
ONLY TO STEAL AND
KILL AND DESTROY;
I CAME THAT THEY
MAY HAVE LIFE, AND
HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.**

JOHN 10:10

Jesus told us up front that the stakes are real.

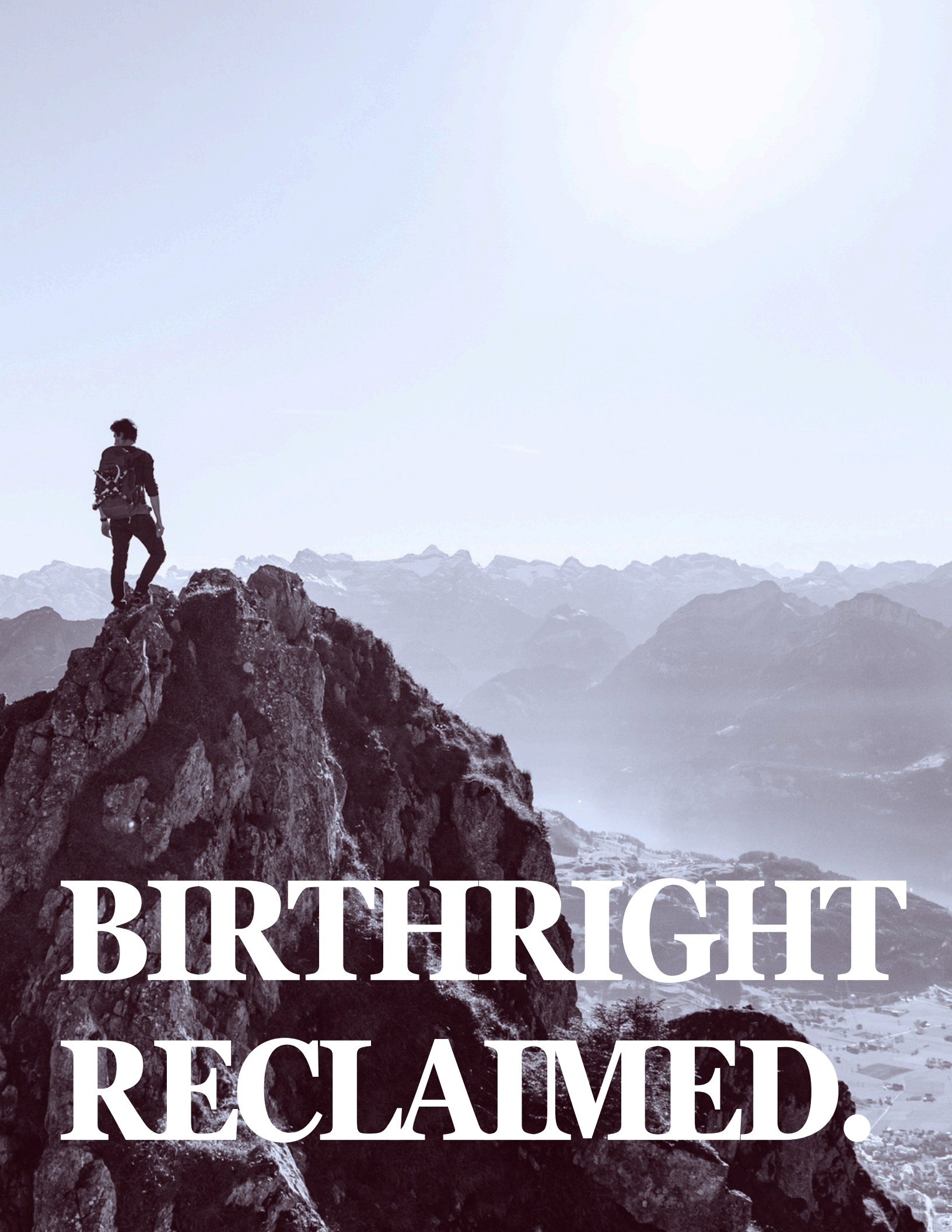
That first part got me.

The thief comes ...

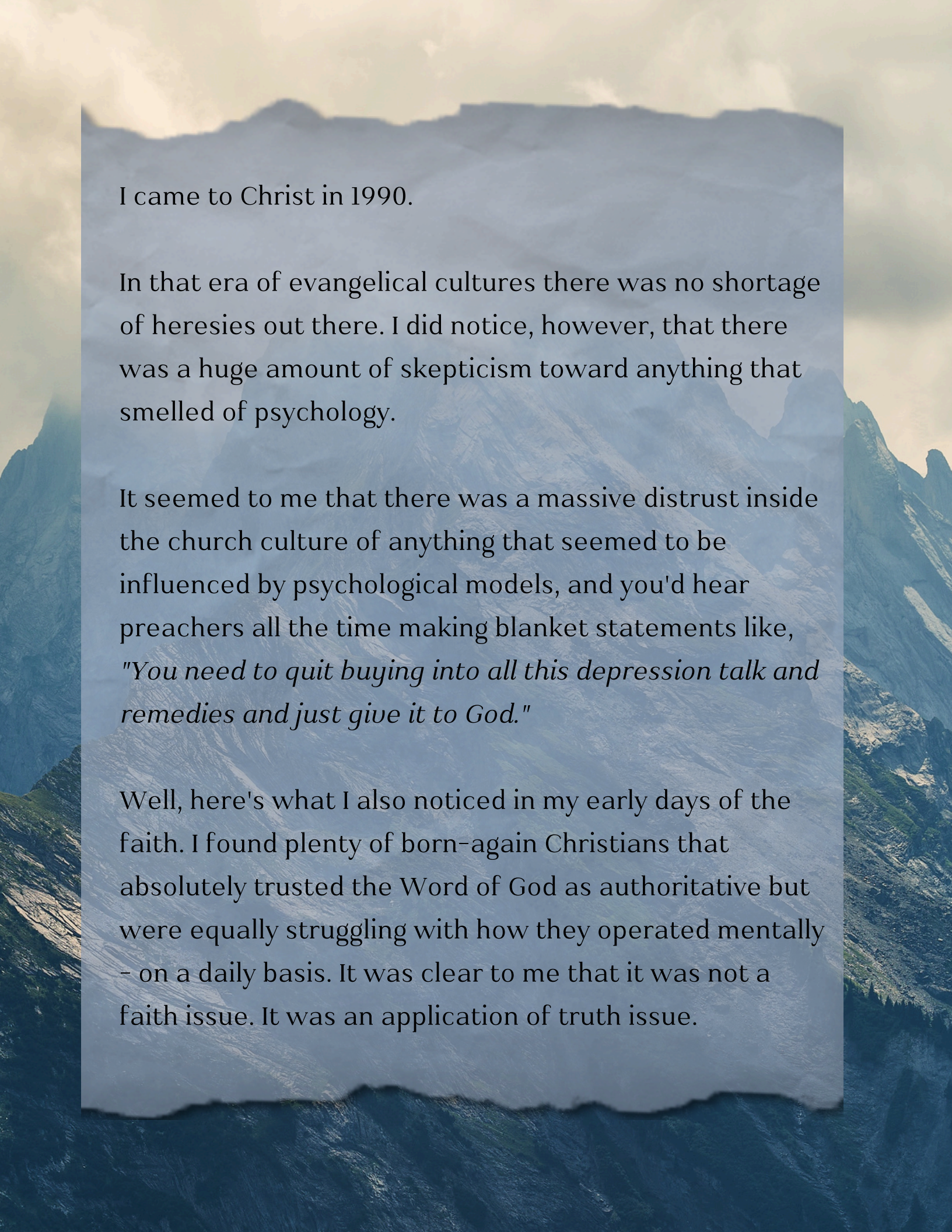
Whether you want him to or not – he's coming for you.

No man can opt out of this hostile situation.

When we live outside the wire, there's just never a time that we are immune to mental warfare. That's not to say that we have to be looking for the demonic at every turn. It simply means that we live our lives aware of the reality that Satan's strategic playbook almost always starts with an offensive strategy aimed at the way a man thinks, or what he allows himself to think, about any given situation.



**BIRTHRIGHT
RECLAIMED.**



I came to Christ in 1990.

In that era of evangelical cultures there was no shortage of heresies out there. I did notice, however, that there was a huge amount of skepticism toward anything that smelled of psychology.

It seemed to me that there was a massive distrust inside the church culture of anything that seemed to be influenced by psychological models, and you'd hear preachers all the time making blanket statements like, *"You need to quit buying into all this depression talk and remedies and just give it to God."*

Well, here's what I also noticed in my early days of the faith. I found plenty of born-again Christians that absolutely trusted the Word of God as authoritative but were equally struggling with how they operated mentally - on a daily basis. It was clear to me that it was not a faith issue. It was an application of truth issue.

Listen, brother ... pop culture did not create tools for possessing a mind that honors God and aids the sanctification process. And neither did a group of college professors working off an endowment from the American Psychological Association.

Proper psychology and the dispensation of truth tools for mental health originated far earlier in the human experience, dating back to ancient philosophers.

However, if you view Scripture as the only eternal authority, and I certainly do, well, then, the most famous Christian psychologist was the Apostle Paul.

Like much of everything else, pop culture took something given to us from God ... and polluted it with heresy.

God's Word is constantly giving us New Testament tools to shape our minds towards truth in living life outside the wire.

But those God-born tools cannot work if we approach them with skepticism.





**YOU DON'T DEFEAT SATAN BY
FOCUSING ON HIM.
YOU DEFEAT HIM BY
FOCUSING ON THE TRUTH.
NEIL T. ANDERSON**

Jesus said the Holy Spirit is an living being. The Spirit is Christ. In you.

The Spirit has a ministry. And part of that ministry is that He is the "spirit of truth."

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

If Christ is alive in me, I have a built-in lie detector, if I choose to employ it.

As a reborn, Spirit-filled believer, you don't overpower the devil by just trying to block him, you out truth him.



**KNOWING
YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY**

It was a freeing day for me when I realized that God had given me tools to use - but that it was my responsibility to use them. And that realization came in the form of discovering what the Word of God actually said.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Colossians 3:1-2

As a redeemed saint, God has given you a commandment in this verse.

Did you spot it?

Whose responsibility is it to "set" the mind on things above? Is that on you, or on God?

It's on you. You have the dominion.

INTERRUPTED





So what does it mean for me to
renew my mind?

God left that for me to do.

It starts with what it means to
"take thoughts captive."

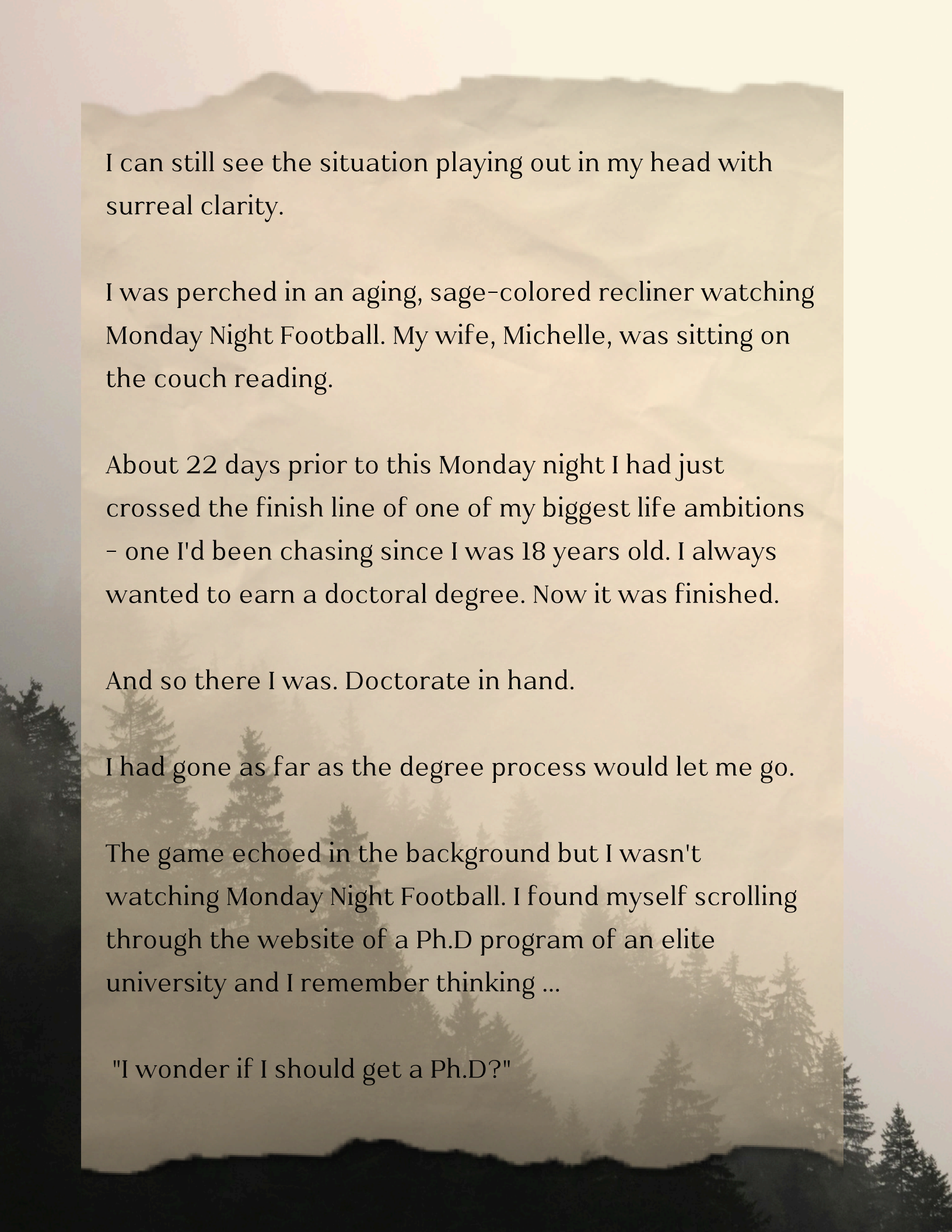
And this, brother, is one of the most
misunderstood and poorly applied
verses in the New Testament.

Let's move into how to start the
renewal process and what it means
to take thoughts captive.

***And do not be conformed
to this world, but be
transformed by the
renewing of your mind, so
that you may prove what
the will of God is, that
which is good and
acceptable and perfect.***

Romans 12:2





I can still see the situation playing out in my head with surreal clarity.

I was perched in an aging, sage-colored recliner watching Monday Night Football. My wife, Michelle, was sitting on the couch reading.

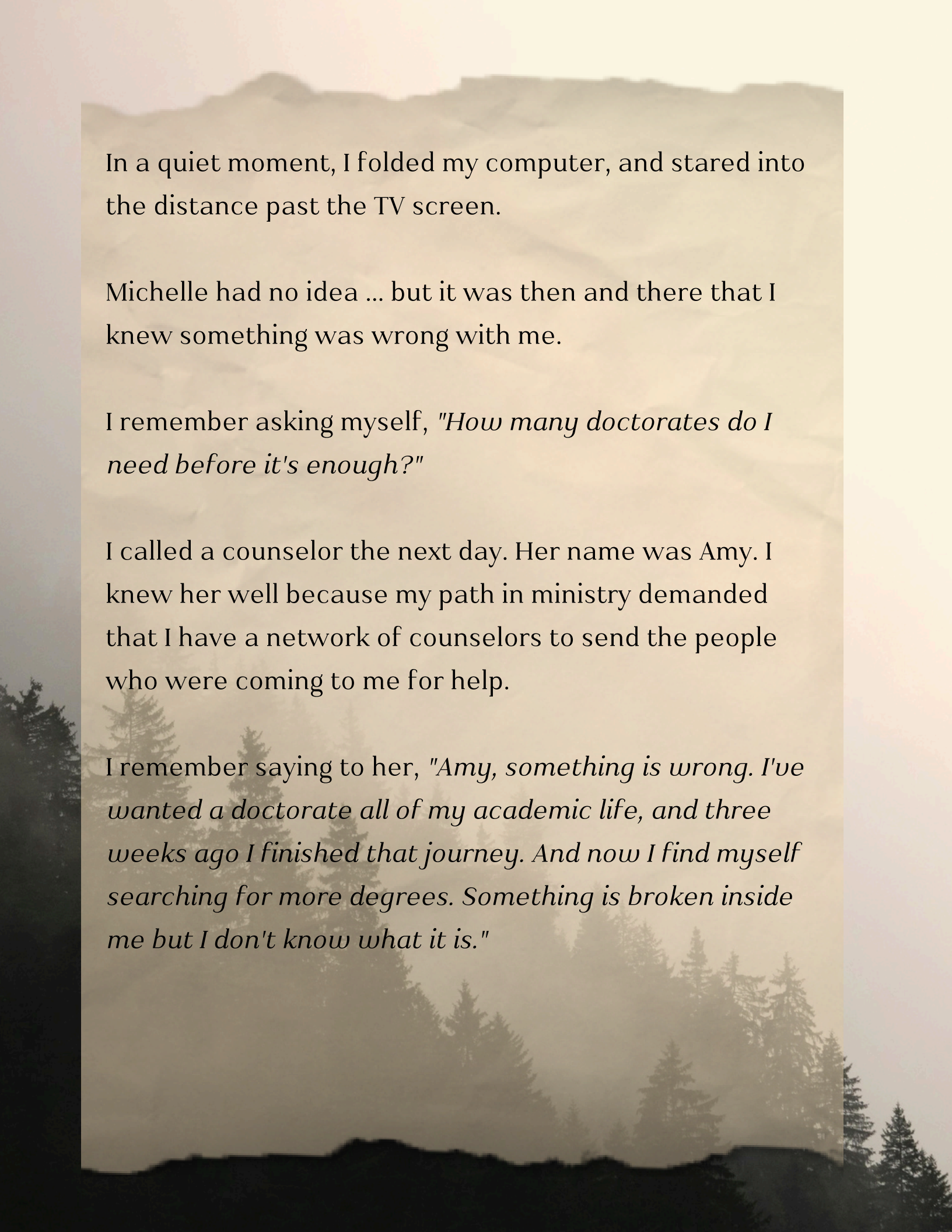
About 22 days prior to this Monday night I had just crossed the finish line of one of my biggest life ambitions - one I'd been chasing since I was 18 years old. I always wanted to earn a doctoral degree. Now it was finished.

And so there I was. Doctorate in hand.

I had gone as far as the degree process would let me go.

The game echoed in the background but I wasn't watching Monday Night Football. I found myself scrolling through the website of a Ph.D program of an elite university and I remember thinking ...

"I wonder if I should get a Ph.D?"



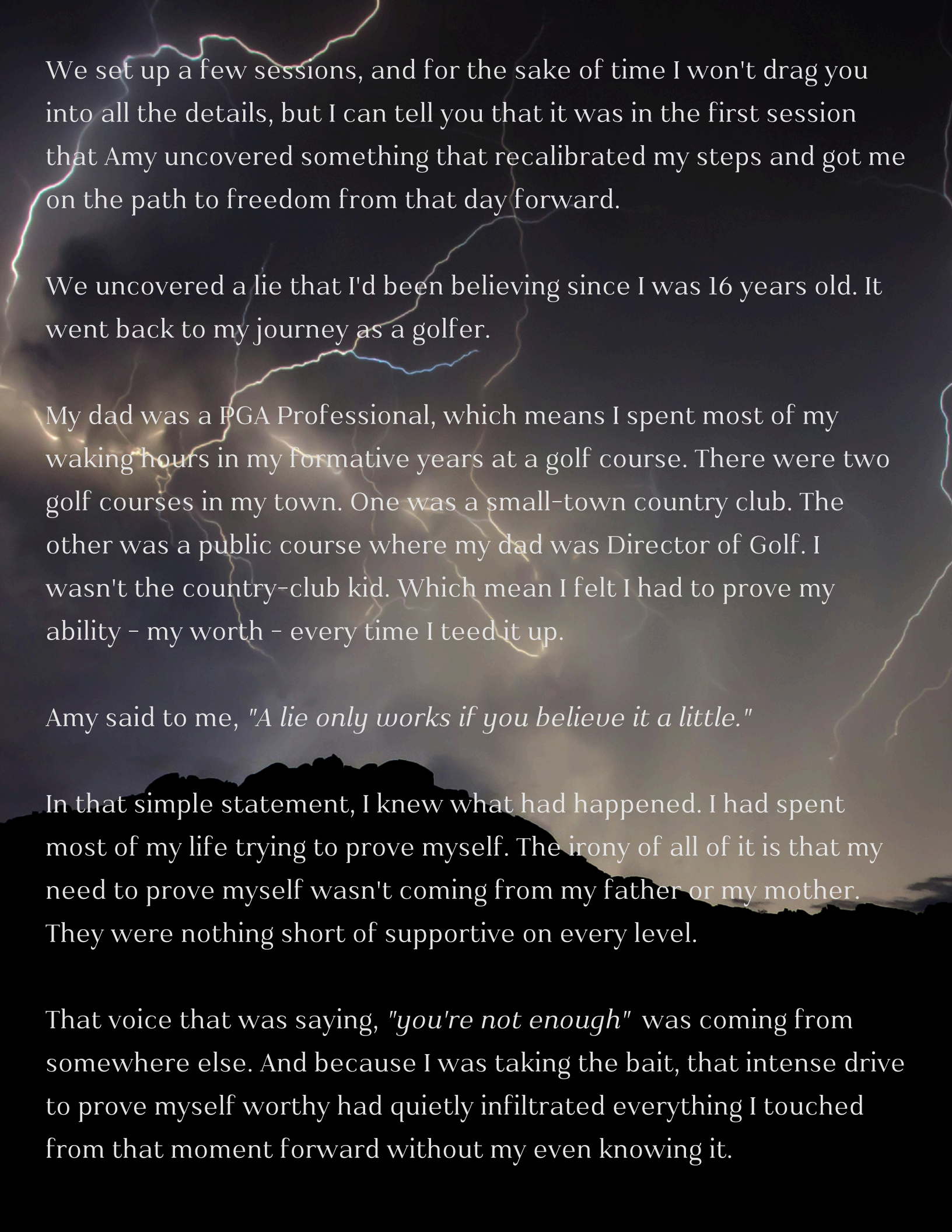
In a quiet moment, I folded my computer, and stared into the distance past the TV screen.

Michelle had no idea ... but it was then and there that I knew something was wrong with me.

I remember asking myself, *"How many doctorates do I need before it's enough?"*

I called a counselor the next day. Her name was Amy. I knew her well because my path in ministry demanded that I have a network of counselors to send the people who were coming to me for help.

I remember saying to her, *"Amy, something is wrong. I've wanted a doctorate all of my academic life, and three weeks ago I finished that journey. And now I find myself searching for more degrees. Something is broken inside me but I don't know what it is."*



We set up a few sessions, and for the sake of time I won't drag you into all the details, but I can tell you that it was in the first session that Amy uncovered something that recalibrated my steps and got me on the path to freedom from that day forward.

We uncovered a lie that I'd been believing since I was 16 years old. It went back to my journey as a golfer.

My dad was a PGA Professional, which means I spent most of my waking hours in my formative years at a golf course. There were two golf courses in my town. One was a small-town country club. The other was a public course where my dad was Director of Golf. I wasn't the country-club kid. Which mean I felt I had to prove my ability - my worth - every time I teed it up.

Amy said to me, *"A lie only works if you believe it a little."*

In that simple statement, I knew what had happened. I had spent most of my life trying to prove myself. The irony of all of it is that my need to prove myself wasn't coming from my father or my mother. They were nothing short of supportive on every level.

That voice that was saying, *"you're not enough"* was coming from somewhere else. And because I was taking the bait, that intense drive to prove myself worthy had quietly infiltrated everything I touched from that moment forward without my even knowing it.



**THE
SPIRIT
OPTION.**



**YOU ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL,
AND YOU WANT TO DO THE DESIRES
OF YOUR FATHER. HE WAS A
MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING,
AND DOES NOT STAND IN THE TRUTH
BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM.
WHENEVER HE SPEAKS A LIE, HE
SPEAKS FROM HIS OWN NATURE, FOR
HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIES.**
JOHN 8:44

In railing against the Pharisees, which was one of His favorite things to do, Jesus reveals that the nature of Satan is that of a liar.

So how do you defeat a liar? You out truth him!

And it starts with knowing how to navigate the inner space - that place where you and the Holy Spirit have a deep relationship.

I think there's a tool you can watch instead of read.

At Wild & Kingdom we released an episode about the role of the soul in hearing the voice of God. Do yourself a solid and watch this - then come back - and let's start unpacking the tools God gave you to thrive in life outside the wire.





WE ARE DESTROYING SPECULATIONS AND EVERY LOFTY THING RAISED UP AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND WE ARE TAKING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST ... [2 CORINTHIANS 10:5]

The most potent and equally foundational tool you have working on your behalf is what it means to actually use the Holy Spirit to tell you the truth about any given situation.

You have the weaponry of using the Spirit that resides inside you to be the truth teller. But it is NOT about resisting the lie!

So how, exactly, does a man do that? That's the bigger question.



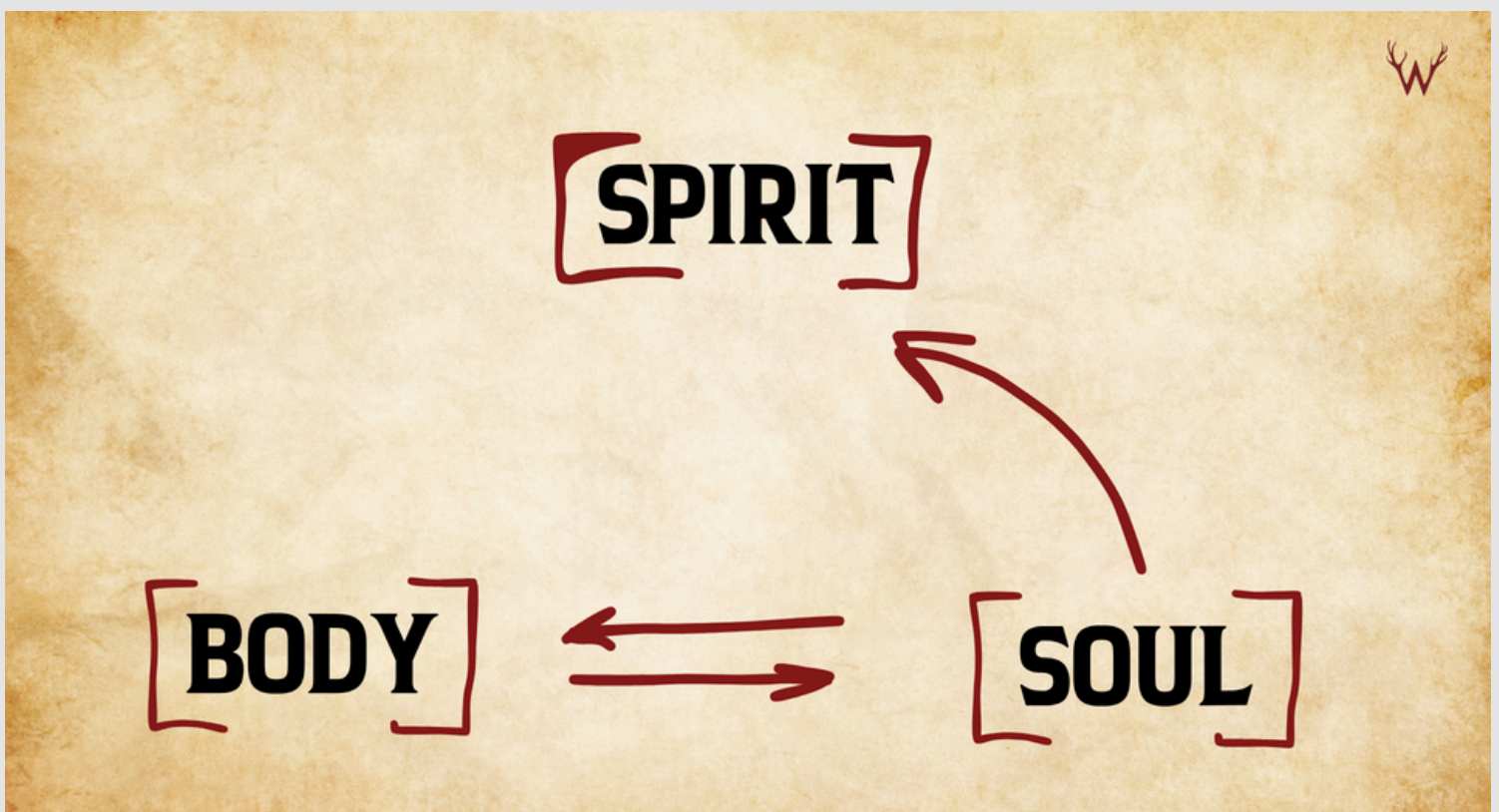
Most Christians are familiar with Paul's statement about "taking thoughts captive" in 2 Corinthians 10:5. My experience is that people simply don't understand how that works.

Take a look at this visual below.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Every person has a physical body. Every person was born with a soul. Not every person has the Spirit of Christ. On the saints possess that.

So what most people do - even the redeemed - is they end up living life bouncing. They bounce between reacting to what they experience and how they feel about it. Caught in a purely emotional reaction loop.



This is a truth you have to master: your emotions are real but they are not the truth.

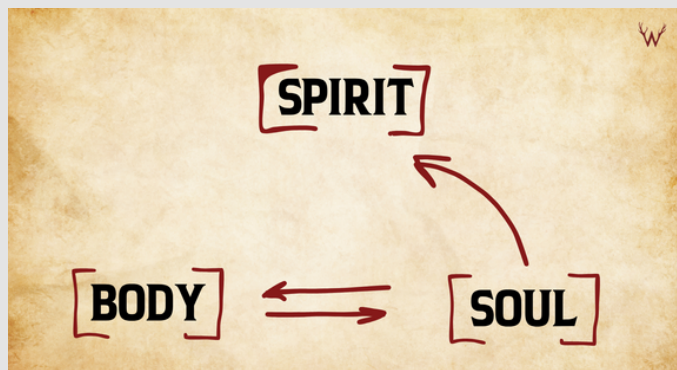
Said another way, your emotions are real but not always reliable.

A boss making you feel lesser than? Always pressuring you for more performance? Threatening your job? You can take those angry thoughts of resentment, and walk them over to the Father, and let the Spirit remind you that His sovereignty controls your future, not your boss.

Own a business? Revenue down? Panic starting to set in? You can walk that panic over to the Truth Teller. Let the Spirit remind you that wisdom and peace are part of your inheritance in Christ. You can let the Spirit guide you to truths that can get you out of the situation.

Are you a golfer who felt like you always had to prove your worth through your tournament record? When that pressure mounts on the first tee and you feel like you're about to puke ... you can walk that pressure over to the Father, and let the Spirit remind you that you are secure in your identity with Christ and you have nothing to prove.

You can install just about any emotion you face into this model - because it's biblical.



So by grabbing any emotion, you have literal Spirit-power, to grab that emotion and walk it over to the Spirit.

The greatest deception about "taking thoughts captive" is that you should push back on lies.

No ... you don't block lies.
It's exhausting your soul to do that.



Once you capture the thought ... what are you supposed to do with it?

Hold it? Carry it forever? Look at it and analyze it? No.

Most Christians approach their thought life just fighting and resisting.

Fighting bad thoughts.

Fighting unrighteous reactions.

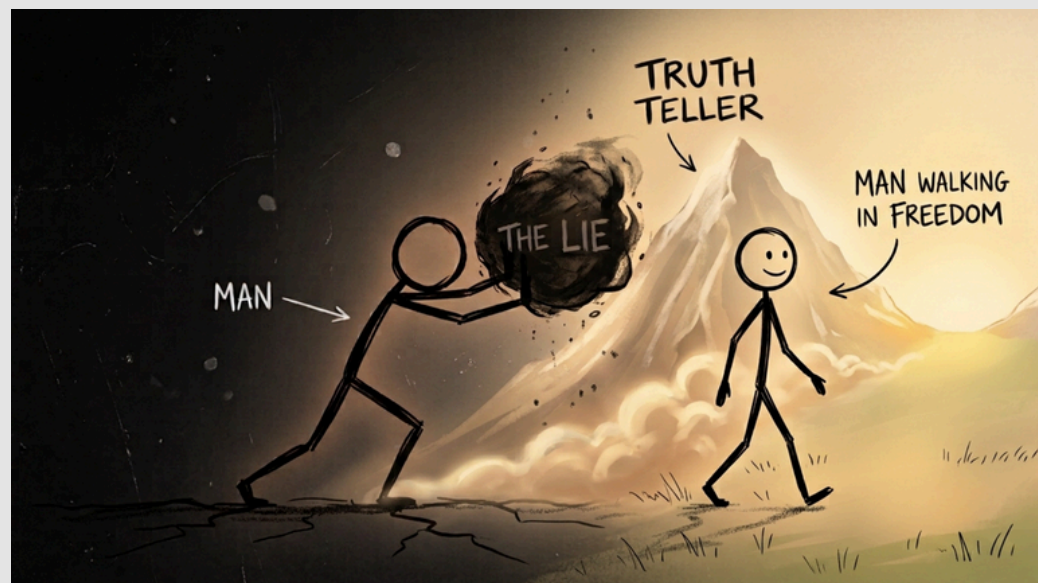
Fighting to block the enemy.

It's a game of strength in trying to hold off the forces coming at you.

You don't block lies ... you carry them to the Truth Teller!!!

Taking thoughts captive
means you grab them then
walk them over to the Truth
Teller. And then you go on
with your journey, brother.

You carry the lie to the Truth
Teller ... and you walk on!



A high-contrast, black and white image featuring a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. The person is facing slightly to the right, with their mouth wide open in a shout or scream. The background is a dark, moody sky with swirling, lighter-colored clouds, suggesting a storm or a dramatic, turbulent atmosphere. The overall tone is somber and intense.

INTERRUPTED

INTERRUPTED.

So why the title Interrupted?

As I see it, it comes down to dominion.

Colossians 3:1-2 tells you that God gave you ownership of where you "set your mind." Those messages and those bombarding attacks on the soul are coming at you all the time ... until you interrupt them. It's on you to redirect the narrative you're believing.

Jesus was fulfilling a promise when He sent the Holy Spirit.

He said, *"I will not leave you orphans."* [John 14]

God gave each one of His children the ability to detect the enemy. *"My sheep hear my voice ..."* is what Jesus said.

He deposited into us the weaponry needed and sufficient to interrupt the hostile things.

We are not left powerless.

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. [2 Corinthians 10:4]





This work was written that
men might be empowered in
Christ alone.

As outdoorsmen we have
many men in our camp that
need healing.

Be a digital missionary. Share
this work with a few men in
your camp.

The logo for 'Wild & Kingdom' is displayed in a white, serif font against a dark background. The word 'WILD' is smaller and positioned above '&', which is above 'KINGDOM'. The 'K' in 'KINGDOM' is particularly large and stylized. In the background, there is a large, dark footprint of a bear or similar animal, with the word 'WILD' partially overlapping it.

WILD &
KINGDOM

WILDANDKINGDOM.COM



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