

### ***Fight the Thought***

*The love of God is the principle and end of all our good works.  
(John Wesley)*

The spiritual life, like a yard, needs constant attention if it is to be healthy and beautiful. Failing to consistently nurture your faith is the same as failing to cultivate your lawn, eventually weeds and bugs will consume and destroy it. Neglect is the worse form of abuse (Crandall Miller). The Apostle Paul, gives the following instructions to a young Pastor whom he was mentoring (Titus 3:8-10), “These things I want you to affirm constantly that those who have believed in God should maintain good works ... avoid foolish disputes ... and reject a divisive person after the first and second warning.”

Many people struggle in their spiritual lives because they entertain themselves with things which are not good for them. They put unhealthy things into their minds and then try to fight the thoughts that arise in their hearts. The children of Israel became entangled with this issue. Ezekiel 14:7-8 says, “Anyone ... who separates himself from Me [God] and ... puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity ... I will set My face against that person.” Don’t be guilty of emulating the behavior of the foolish Jews who did not make a priority of their faith in God; instead they focused on wrongdoing. Don’t fuel the dark side of your weak nature. We have a call to do good, as often as we have the power and the occasion (William Penn). We are susceptible to many things so resist and run from anything that has the potential of enticing you towards bad behavior. Run away from anything that stimulates youthful lusts (Paul). Psalms 101:3 says, “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes.” Choose carefully what you watch in movies, on your phone and computer screens. Spiritual growth does not just happen; we must work at it by narrowing our interests to the will of God and learning to be led by the Holy Spirit. Each of us was put here to help dilute the misery of the world (Dr. Karl Menninger).

Frank Lauback said, “Fellowship with God is ... like a tender infant or a delicate little plant, for long nurturing is the price of having it, while it vanishes in a second of time, the very moment ... one’s eyes ceases to be devoted or focused.” Do not feed your passions with that which you will one day have to fight.

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