

**CA 27 TFP2 OUR MENTAL ASSETS (formerly CA 29)**

PRAY AND PHONES OFF

**(Theme music)**

**FOSTER:** Would you be surprised if I said that there is a war going on right now. Probably not. Unfortunately wherever you may be in the world, there are battles, wars, rumors of wars, or the threat of attacks. But you may be surprised to hear that I’m not talking about a war *out there* in the world. I’m speaking about a vicious, take-no-prisoners war for our minds between God and Satan.

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. Today, we are going to look at the most important battlefield there is—our minds. This is a battle every man fights in, but which side are you on—God’s or Satan’s? We’ll look at the answer when we return to Champions Arise.

**Music Theme – 5 SECS.**

**FOSTER:** Kent, The apostle Paul wrote, *“I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.”* Those verses are from Romans 7 verses 22 and 23. I find the phrase “at war with my mind” a powerful phrase.

**KENT:** It is. But it’s true. And the Bible talks about our minds a lot

- Matthew 22:37 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your **mind**.” (NKJV)
- Mark chapter 5 tells us about the demon possessed man that lived in the tombs. And after Jesus healed him, it says *“Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in **his right mind**.”*
- Another example is when Jesus was telling the disciples about the Holy Spirit coming in John chapter 14. One of the things Jesus says is, *“I am leaving you with a gift—**peace of mind and heart**.”*

**FOSTER:** and it’s not just in the Bible either. I’m thinking about how, in America, when someone creates their will before they die, the will normally begin with the words “I, being of sound mind and body.”

**KENT:** A sound mind is important for all we do. And we’ve all seen people that don’t have a sound mind.

➤ **FOSTER:** like someone who has fallen in love...

**KENT:** oh yeah I’ve seen that.

**FOSTER:** I remember this one guy. He was logical and thought things through—always made rational decisions...until he met his girlfriend. And Kent, I'm telling you, it was like he turned his brain off.

**KENT:** I know. The sky is bluer. The flowers smell sweeter...

**FOSTER:** Yes except his girlfriend didn't have pure motives and, because he wasn't of "sound mind", he came very close to being deeply hurt.

**KENT:** That happens a lot.

**FOSTER:** So Kent, how do we know if we have a sound mind?

**KENT:** First we need to be clear that a sound mind is a Christian mind. Psalm 14:1 says, "*The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'*" And Paul wrote to Timothy warning about those who are "*always learning and never able to arrive at the knowledge of the truth.*" 2 Timothy 3:7.

The truth is Jesus Christ died for our sins, physically rose from the dead, and by confessing Him as our Lord, we can be saved from God's wrath and eternal damnation in Hell. **But** we can believe in Jesus and still live like we're not Christians if we aren't careful—if we don't guard our minds.

**FOSTER:** Which brings me back to my question: How do we know if we have a sound mind—a sound *Christian* mind?

**KENT:** In the book, "The Four Priorities" by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Krieger, they list five characteristics of a Christian mind—one that is focused on the ways of God and not the ways of the world.

**FOSTER:** And that's important if we want to be men of God.

**KENT:** Absolutely right. There's no room for men who are pretending to be godly men. Any more than you can have men who are pretending to be soldiers in battle. Our wives, kids, neighbors, need to see what a godly man is like so they can be drawn to the saving love of Jesus Christ.

**FOSTER:** So what is the first characteristic of a Christian mind?

**KENT:** The first characteristic is Christian minds think supernaturally. Basically that means we actively see God at work in our world and in our everyday lives. Proverbs 3 verses 5 and 6 say, "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*"

**FOSTER:** But Kent, I want to get a clearer picture of what you mean by seeing God in our world and everyday lives.

**KENT:** A few years ago I spent about 6 months unemployed—I had lost my job. For men, this is a very difficult time—and it was for me. God' calls men to be the providers for the family (when it is within our power to do so) and when we can't, it can be very stressful. So I had to choose to stand on two scriptures. One was Proverbs 3: 5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart." The

other verses were in Matthew 6 where Jesus says, don't worry about what you will eat, what you will wear.

I had a choice, trust in myself and worry or trust in Gods' faithfulness.

**FOSTER:** That's not easy though.

**KENT:** No it's not. Jesus never said it would be easy.

**FOSTER:** He just said it would be worth it.

**KENT:** Yes. But it takes a supernatural mindset—a God-focused mindset—when you are unemployed with a family to keep doing your best to find a job while believing what Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

And this supernatural mind is also necessary with illness, or with financial struggles, or with relationship troubles. As Christian men, we must trust the Lord with all our heart, and believe that He can direct our paths.

**FOSTER:** That's so important for us to understand, but before we discuss the second characteristic of a Christian mind, I'd like to remind our listeners that you are listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Today we are discussing the importance of having a sound mind—which really means having a Christian mind. We are looking at 5 characteristics of a Christian mind. Kent, what is number 2?

**KENT:** The second characteristic of a Christian mind, is it understands what evil is. To do this we need to know what the Bible says about good and evil. If we don't know what it says—what the standard is, we'll accept the world's definition of what is good and evil.

Isaiah Chapter 5 verse 20 says, “*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*” That was written 2700 years ago.

**FOSTER:** But it's amazing how that describes our world today perfectly—making good evil and evil good.

**KENT:** Foster, behavior, that twenty years ago was unthinkable, is now in the public square. No shame. No fear of sin before a holy God. The problem is many Christian men don't know what evil is, and are behaving more like unbelievers than believers.

We've all seen this. We've also witnessed that humans can be remarkably cruel to each other, to animals, and to the environment. But this is not a learned behavior. Every human is born with a sin nature—self-centered and selfish. And Satan takes advantage of our fallen nature and lures us to do evil.

**FOSTER:** And Satan makes evil look wonderful and harmless.

**KENT:** Good point. Proverbs 9 talks about this when it talks about the lure of the immoral woman.

*"She calls out to men going by who are minding their own business. "Come in with me," she urges the simple. To those who lack good judgment, she says, "Stolen water is refreshing; food eaten in secret tastes the best!" She's talking about sex outside of the marriage bed.*

And that's all we see today in movies, on TV, in the music we hear, on the computer. They all scream. "Men, it's not evil. It's ok. You deserve it. You work hard."

However, Proverbs 9:18 says:

*"But little do they know that the dead are there. Her guests are in the depths of the grave."*

**FOSTER:** Satan never shows that part of evil.

**KENT:** No but the Bible does and says to Flee evil.

**FOSTER:** So a Christian mind thinks supernaturally, and is aware of evil. What is the third characteristic of a Christian mind?

**KENT:** The third characteristic of a Christian mind is it focuses on truth.

in John 14:6, Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Jesus also said, *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* John 8:31-32.

It is very important for us not to be tricked by false truths. And that is easy to do. For example, a boy sees a movie and the hero is able to fly. It's a movie, but to a six-year-old boy, it can seem very real. His truth says that he can fly too.

➤ **FOSTER:** and if you're not careful, you many[**may**] find him standing on something high and wanting to jump off.

**KENT:** True, but his truth is false truth. People can't fly. But as grown men we can stop believing in truth as well. Is Jesus really the only way? Did Jesus say to avoid adultery? Did Jesus challenge us to die to self and live for Him? Was Jesus exaggerating when He said you can't love money and God?

If we **know**, and live by the truth, the truth will set us free from the consequences of the deceptions that lead to sin.

**FOSTER:** What is the fourth characteristic of a Christian mind?

**KENT:** The fourth characteristic is a Christian mind accepts God's authority.

**FOSTER:** Don't we do that automatically as Christians?

**KENT:** Unfortunately no. We have to choose to submit to God's authority. The same way our kids have to choose to obey us.

When a teenage boy goes out with his friends and is tempted to drink or do drugs or have sex, he has to decide whose authority he's under. His own? His friends? His parents? The actor on TV? God? Whose authority is he submitting to?

As men, we have the same choice every day. Are we going to submit to God's authority or our own?

**FOSTER:** And what is the fifth characteristic of a Christian mind?

**KENT:** A Christian mind has concern for the individual—for people.

This is a story about a man named Steve. When he was in college he had a deep passion for helping others. His Christian group would go into the community and help the elderly by cleaning up their lawns, or helping them with tasks. But, his favorite time was on the first Saturday of the month when his church group would invite kids from the neighborhood to come to the church for breakfast and games. Many of the kids were very poor so they loved these Saturday mornings and so did Steve.

But Steve graduated, moved to a new town, got a good job, was married and had two kids a couple years after that. He still went to church, but now he had business meetings and clubs. He played sports every Saturday morning, watched movies Saturday night, and rested on Sundays.

But one day Steve got a letter from one of the kids he used to play with on Saturdays back in college. The letter thanked him for sacrificing his time and said how much it meant to the child back then.

And that's when it hit him. He hadn't served others in years. Everything was focused on his own needs now.

A Christian mind has concern for individuals. We have to be very careful that we keep what is important to Jesus—people—important to us.

**FOSTER:** Thanks Kent, today we learned that a Christian mind sees things supernaturally, is aware of evil, focuses on the truth, submits to God's authority, and cares for the individual. Our prayer is you will commit to having a Christian mind today.

***Music Theme in***

**Program Close**

**FOSTER:** Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed the importance of having a Christian mind. This material was based on the book "The Four Priorities," by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider which is published by "The Gathering USA" in 2007 and used with permission. You can learn more about this book and listen to any of these programs at our website [championsarise.org](http://championsarise.org). I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

***Music Theme out***

***Music under***

Closing tag

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