FILL THE GAP

"I SOUGHT FOR A MAN AMONG THEM THAT SHOULD...STAND IN THE GAP BEFORE ME FOR THE LAND..." Ezekiel 22:30

"TELLING THE UNTOLD" **"TEACHING THE UNTAUGHT"** **"TRAINING THE UNTRAINED"**

THE PURPOSE OF THE CONQUEST OF THE MIND

by Elbert Willis

God has commissioned you and me to bring our minds under control of the Word of God and submit them to the control of the Holy Spirit of the Living God, that we might live and walk in the victory that God has ordained before the foundation of the world. You and I are not just children of man, we are children of God; and God actually lives in us in the presence of Jesus Christ, His Son, enabling us to have our minds renewed, to talk different, walk different, think different, and act different in everything.

CONQUEST OF THE MIND

I. ERASE SATAN'S PROGRAMMING. One of the purposes of this reprogramming is to ERASE SATAN'S PROGRAMMING. Romans 8:7, ***"THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD."*** Romans 12:2 must come into existence if you are going to prove what is the good, and acceptable, and the perfect will of God. You will never find it for your life unless your mind is renewed by the Word of God. The carnal mind, the fleshly mind, the earthly mind, is enmity to God. The first time I read Philippians 4:4 where it says, ***"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAY,"*** my mind was at enmity against God. Any time your mind will not accept the Word of God, and wants to argue with it and debate it and discuss it and water it down, that means your mind is the enemy of God and it ought not be that way. God has placed His mighty Spirit in you to help you endure. We have to erase Satan's programming.

II. DESTROY SATAN'S CONTROL ABILITY. The purpose of the conquest of the mind is to enable you to DESTROY SATAN'S CONTROL ABILITY THROUGH PRIOR PROGRAMMING AND SENSE STIMULATION. You need to destroy his ability to control you. Do you know Satan can still control most people with anger? Do you know that he can use fear today and shake up most Christians? He can stimulate them with a mere accident. He can stimulate them with the thought of the loss of a job and take them over and cause them to begin to speak death and think death. He can stimulate them by having somebody say something against them that touches their feelings and causes them to get angry. He can stimulate them with frustration and confusion, and thereby control them. But saints of God, you have the power in you to destroy Satan's ability to control you. I John 4:4 says, ***"GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD."***

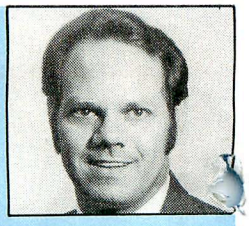
III. ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATION LANGUAGE. The Bible is the language of God, and as long as your mind is filled with the language of the world, the language of society, then you don't have the language of the Holy Spirit of God to communicate the truth to you. God will always speak to you in line with His Word.

IV. INCREASE YOUR ABILITY TO OBEY THE WORD OF GOD. James 2:17 says, ***"FAITH, IF IT HATH NOT WORKS, IS DEAD, BEING ALONE."*** The reason why so many times you can't obey the Word of God and can't follow through with it is because your mind has not been renewed by the Word of God. God will give you some instructions that are so peculiar, if you don't know the Word of God you will not be able to obey them. If you don't know how to recognize His voice, you can't obey it.

V. FREES YOU FROM CONDEMNATION. Romans 8:1 says, ***"THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT."*** Many Christians quote this Scripture that there is no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus. SATAN CONDEMNS, BUT GOD CONVICTS.

Continued on page 3

FEEDING THE HEART



by Don Corder —Bible Teacher • Editor, Fill the Gap • Bible College Instructor

At the present time there seems to be a great emphasis upon watching what we speak with our mouth, and well we should; but what is the root cause of why we speak the things we do? The words we speak — just don't happen to sneak out!

Jesus made a profound statement concerning this very thought in Luke 6:45: ***"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his MOUTH speaketh."*** *This agrees with the words of Proverbs 23:7,* ***"For as he (mankind) thinketh in his heart, so is he . . ."***

As a result of Scriptures such as these, we can make the following observation: ***The heart brings forth in the form of WORDS what has been stored there, as a result of what it has been fed.*** *Proverbs 4:23 states,* ***"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*** ***WHAT YOU SPEAK BEGINS WITH WHAT YOU THINK.*** *There is no such thing as a "slip of the tongue." Remember - "of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."*

What we, as Christians, need to realize is our speaking is rooted in our thinking. Our thought life is extremely important. ***Are you aware that everything begins with a thought?*** *When your alarm clock beckons to you in the early hours of the day—a thought races through your groggy mind, "I'll turn it off and sleep a few more minutes."* ***Every word spoken is premeditated in the thought life. Thoughts feed the heart.***

Is what I think about daily important? Yes, extremely so. The outward action of your thought life is channeled through your heart (your inner man, the center of your spiritual being) and is birthed by ***WORDS*** *or* ***ACTION.*** *A good example is the actions created by a motion picture a few years ago. The theme of the movie was the hijacking of a jet airliner. I remember that soon after that movie reached popularity, many hijackings began to occur. Why? The movie had portrayed hijacking an airliner as an exciting thing to do. Why did individuals, seemingly normal in their behavior at other times, all at once determine to become hijackers? They spent time THINKING about what the movie portrayed.* ***If you THINK about something long enough, you will probably end up doing it!***

I believe you are beginning to see the reality of guarding our thought life.

Jesus said some other very interesting things in Matthew 15:18-20, ***". . . those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man (woman, boy or girl). For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man . . ."*** *What was Jesus saying? It is not what you eat that hurts you, but what you think.* ***You will always do what is in your heart.*** *The Scripture is plain concerning this fact.*

Satan attempts to control your thought life by injecting his rotten or even deceptive thoughts. You might ask—What do I do? Good question, because EVERYONE has been attacked by the enemy in the same way—the thoughts. Now let's answer the question. Every thought that comes to your mind should be compared to the Word of God, to see if it is from God or Satan. The Apostle Paul, in Philippians 4:8, gives us a ***THOUGHT LIFE CHECKLIST: "Whatsoever things are TRUE . . . HONEST . . . JUST . . . PURE . . . LOVELY . . . GOOD REPORT . . . VIRTUE and PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS."*** *We have established the fact that* ***whatever you think will eventually come out of your MOUTH in WORDS.*** *Plant good treasure - good treasure comes forth. Plant evil treasure -and evil treasure will come forth (remember Luke 6:45).* ***Only thoughts that are in agreement with the Word of God are usable for the Christian.***

Practicing Philippians 4:8 will transform your thought life. When you begin to realize that ***EVERY THOUGHT must by TRUE and HONEST and JUST and PURE and LOVELY and of GOOD REPORT and VIRTUE and PRAISE;*** *if it is not all of these -YOU CAN'T THINK ON IT - cast it down in the name of Jesus.*

The Apostle Paul says in II Corinthians 10:5, ***"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ."***

Christian friend, examine your thought life, and as a result of bringing your thoughts into captivity -you can live in real freedom, bringing forth good treasure out of your good heart. The Psalmist David declares in Psalm 51:10, ***"Create in me a clean heart, O God . . ." Clean thoughts = clean heart = clean words = clean life . . .*** *It all begins with* ***THINKING IN LINE WITH THE WORD OF GOD.*** ●

Continued from page one

Many times the reason why people are under condemnation is GOD CONVICTED THEM TO DO IT, AND THEY DISOBEYED HIM; then they opened the door for the devil to condemn them. God says, ***"HE WHO PUTS HIS HAND TO THE PLOW AND LOOKS BACK, IS NOT FIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD"*** *(Luke 9:62). So before you get your hand set on the plow real good, you better consider.*

VI. IT ELIMINATES DEMON EFFECTIVENESS. *If your mind is not renewed with the Word of God, and you don't understand the Word of God and you're not meditating and studying the Word of God, you are an open door for demonic influence. Beloved, there is victory in Jesus for you through the renewal of the mind. You cannot be under condemnation when you have victory.*

VII. DECREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF DECEPTION. *When your mind is renewed by the Word of God you have so much Word in your mind that every time the devil comes against you, you quote a Scripture back at him. A knowledge of the word of God will decrease the possibility of deception.*

VIII. INCREASES GUIDANCE. *Remember, we are considering the purpose of renewal, or conquest, of the mind. II Peter 2:9 says,* ***"THE LORD KNOWETH HOW TO DELIVER THE GODLY OUT OF TEMPTATIONS."*** *That is guidance. As your mind is renewed by the Word of God and you come to a deeper understanding of it, you will receive more from God. Meditate on it, and as you begin to learn the mind of God, you place yourself in a position where God can lead you and guide you more.*

IX. PROPER JUDGMENTS. *The Word of God—not the five senses—determines who you are, what you are to do, your blessings, etc. II Corinthians 2:15 says, "HE THAT IS SPIRITUAL JUDGETH ALL THINGS, YET HE HIMSELF IS JUDGED OF NO MAN." When your mind is renewd by the Word of God, you have proper judgment. You will not judge things by your senses: by what you see, or what you feel, or what you hear, your taste or your touch. You will judge everything by the Word of God.*

X. IT ENABLES YOU TO ENDURE BOMBARDMENT OF THE MIND *by the devil, demons, people and situations. If your mind is not renewed by the Word of God, the devil will bombard you, the demons will bombard you, people will bombard you, and circumstances and situations will put so much pressure on you, you will not be able to stand. Hebrews 12:3 says,* ***"CONSIDER HIM (Jesus) THAT ENDURED SUCH CONTRADICTION OF SINNERS AGAINST HIMSELF, LEST YE BE WEARIED AND FAINT IN YOUR MINDS."*** *Your mind must be renewed by the Word of God, you must learn the Word and how to hold to the Word, because if your mind is not renewed by the Word of God the devil and his demons will come against you and cause you to be defeated. If your mind is renewed by the Word of God, the devil and the demons, people, circumstances and situations can put pressure on you, but you make the proper judgment. You say, "Praise God, He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world; I'm more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus.*

(This article is an excerpt from The Study Guide — "Conquest Of The Mind.") ●

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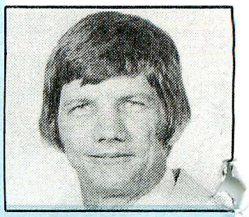
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GIRD UP YOUR MIND

by Glenn Ford —Bible Teacher • Bible College Instructor



I Peter 1:13, ***"Wherefore GIRD UP the loins of your MIND . . ."*** This truth which Peter shares with us is timeless and precious. Christians today, as in other times, must go to work on their minds. People today are oppressed, lonely, bitter, and in error because of their MIND. Romans 12:2 does not tell us to be transformed by the "removing" of our mind, but by the "RENEWING" of our mind. Our mind is with us, like it or not, and our mind WILL be active. We cannot move off into some blissful state of non-thinking.

Peter tells us to GIRD UP the loins of our mind. This was a term used in his day concerning a manner of handling long, flowing robes which people then wore. Those robes were awkward to run or work in, so they would roll up the bottom of the robe and tuck it into a belt or girdle to get it out of the way of work; or more specifically, to CONTROL the robe so it would not interfere with work. The robe was still there, still used, but it had a CONTROL placed upon it. This would be analogous to our rolling up our shirtsleeves to go to work. If Peter were writing today, he might say, "Roll up the shirtsleeves of your mind and prepare to do some serious labor." Renewing our minds surely is labor. It is serious, and certain things need to be dealt with ("girded up") in order for us to perform that work.

Right thinking is work, and vitally important work. Proverbs 23:7 says, ***"For as he THINKETH in his heart, SO IS HE . . ."*** But for so many, even Christians, their thoughts are dominated by Satan. People continually think, "I'm no good"; "No one loves me"; "I'm just a failure, always will be"; "If only they wouldn't. . . ."; "If only he hadn't. . . "; "Why bother."

Get hold of this! ***Those thoughts CAN NOT HURT YOU IF YOU REFUSE TO THINK ABOUT THEM!*** Realize, loneliness can't hurt me if I refuse to think thoughts of loneliness. Bitterness cannot hurt me if I refuse to think thoughts of bitterness. TEMPTATION CANNOT HURT ME IF I REFUSE TO THINK THOUGHTS OF TEMPTATION! But if I continue to think thoughts of loneliness, bitterness, or some sin, that is the way I will BE, for as a person thinks in his heart, SO IS HE.

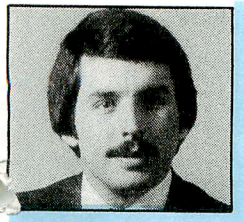
Isaiah 26:3, in the Amplified Bible, says God ***"will guard him, and KEEP HIM IN PERFECT and CONSTANT PEACE whose MIND (both its inclination and character) is STAYED ON YOU, because he commits himself to You, leans on You and hopes confidently in You."*** Our mind was never intended to be a vacuum. It was intended to have its thoughts stayed on God. We are to replace depressing, carnal, sinful thoughts with thoughts of God and His Word. I Chronicles 16:15 says, ***"Be ye MINDFUL (we could say MIND FULL) ALWAYS OF HIS COVENANT . . ."*** It is important to have our minds FULL of the covenant, the Word of God.

This takes labor, effort, sweat, study, determination, patience, grit, diligence, will power. But it yields the blessed fruit of peace, power, joy, freedom, clarity of purpose, release, and well-being. There is really nothing like the peace of God which passes all understanding.

But sometimes the attack of Satan on our mind is so strong we find indeed it is much labor to gird up the loins of our mind. Personally, I have experienced times when Satan would be beating and punishing my mind with so much pressure it seemed impossible but to think what he would be forcing against me. Sometimes I have had to just pick up my Bible and read through clenched teeth: ***"Nay, in ALL these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"; "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ"; "There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"; "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: NO GOOD THING WILL HE WITHHOLD FROM THEM THAT WALK UPRIGHTLY"; "YEA, the Lord SHALL GIVE THAT WHICH IS GOOD"; "There shall NO EVIL befall thee, neither shall ANY PLAGUE come nigh thy dwelling"; "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I SHALL NOT BE MOVED"; "What time I am afraid, I WILL TRUST IN THEE"; "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and HE SHALL SUSTAIN THEE: he shall NEVER SUFFER THE RIGHTEOUS TO BE MOVED"; "The Lord is my STRENGTH and SONG, and IS BECOME MY SALVATION."***

Though at times I literally must FORCE my mind to think God's thoughts instead of Satan's thoughts, it is never long before I find my mind is cleared of all his trash, and I move into a welcomed realization of God's loving, power-filled presence and begin to worship and praise Him in an attitude of victory.

Renewing our mind is work, but the blessings that follow make it all well worthwhile. ●



Renewed To The Life Of God

by Ron Langlinais —Bible Teacher • Bible College Instructor

As one takes a look at the Body of Jesus Christ today, he cannot help but ask the question, "Since God is no respecter of persons, why is there so much variance among God's people?" Truly, God is not a respecter of people, but He is a respecter of faith. If there appears any inequality among believers, let it be known and settled that the problem does not lie with the Lord God but with each individual. The Word of God reveals in Romans 12:2 that by renewing your mind you may prove or demonstrate God's will in your life—not prove out the will of God, it is forever settled; but renew your mind in order to demonstrate His will in your individual life.

Just because a person is an heir to vast riches does not mean the riches will be enjoyed by him. The heir must appropriate what is rightfully his. He must come forward and legally claim his inheritance.

The majority of God's people are not living in victory and partaking of their inheritance in Christ Jesus because their minds are unrenewed with God's Word; therefore they have no legal claim on the promises of the covenant.

What would you think about a man who wanted to be the best worker on the job but he did not know what work he was to do? Or a woman who desired to be a fine cook but did not have a single recipe? Most would agree neither could attain their goal. Yet the fact of the matter is some of God's people are just like this man or woman—a lot of desire but no knowledge. If you desire to see the lost come to Jesus, the sick healed, the oppressed set free, you need to renew your mind with the Word of God. Desire is not enough; you must receive God's knowledge on the subject. To try to seek first the kingdom of God according to how you think, or according to your natural knowledge, is vanity.

The Holy Spirit used the man Paul to relay life changing truths to Christians, enabling them to walk correctly in this world. In Ephesians 4:17,18 it is written, ***"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."***

Here the Word commands us not to live as the world does, walking in the vanity of their mind. Vanity means emptiness, or that which does not lead to the goal. This does not mean there is nothing in their mind (quite the contrary), but means what is there brings them to nothing. By walking in the vanity of their mind their understanding is darkened (lacks the light of the Word) and they are separated from the life of God. You must have the Word, to have the life of God.

Jesus is saying to you today, Stop living according to how you think, how you feel; do not let ignorance of God's Word keep you from being a partaker of the life of God. Do not let blindness of your heart prevent you from being a partaker of God's divine nature. Basically, two factors are required for vision: the sight and the light. The Bible says in Matthew 13:16 God has given you eyes to see, and in Psalm 119:105 it says His Word is the light. You have the responsibility to use these two gifts to renew your mind.

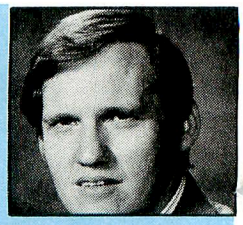
Ephesians 4:22-24 reveals what you should do. ***"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."***

Repent is the ***first*** thing you should do, if you have been living conformed to this world or your own thinking. The Word says "put off" the conduct or behavior of the old man, i.e. the doing of things the way you did before knowing Jesus. Before a dirty mechanic can properly put on his new three piece suit, he must take off the old clothes and clean up. Realize doing things your own way is rebellion to God. Make a quality decision to think, talk, and walk according to what God says, not leaning to your own understanding. ***Secondly,*** you should begin to study and confess God's Word, allowing the cleansing water of the Word to wash and make new (or renew) your mind.

Thirdly, you must choose to act in accordance with what the Scripture says. The book of James tells us, ***"Faith without works is dead."*** A vital part of mind renewal is your "putting on" of the new man—begin to do or act on the Word you know. To simply read and confess and confess and read gains nothing but intellectual knowledge, and the Bible says knowledge puffs up.

You do not instantly become like Jesus — you grow and mature unto the fulness. The renewal of your mind will take diligence and time, but Father has given you His Son Jesus, the Word, and the Holy Spirit to enable you to ***"put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*** ●

The Mind: Satan's Battleground



by Eugene May —Bible Teacher • Bible College Dean and Instructor

The basic source of Satan's victory is FEAR. *Fear is a "mind job." Satan speaks in the mind to bring fear concerning what might happen — sickness, death, poverty, failure. Job, of old, experienced great loss from the attack of Satan, and yet he revealed the door by which the enemy entered with these words,* ***". . . the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me . . ."*** *(Job 3:25) He feared the loss of family, health, and possessions. That fear came but from one source, Satan, as he sowed fear within the mind.*

Fear and its entrance point, the confused mind, are not the will of God. Paul said, ***"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a SOUND MIND"*** *(2 Timothy 1:7). The Christian is not to allow the attacks of Satan which come against his mind to bring forth fear, which in turn brings forth problems. That is characteristic of the "old man," not the "new man" of faith. You may ask, "Is it possible to keep Satan from attacking my mind?" The answer must be "NO!" Nothing in the Bible tells us that Christians are immune from attack. To quote an old Arkansas saying, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from making nests in your hair." You do not have to allow his attacks to affect you.*

Paul specifically outlines the areas of Satan's attack on the mind in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. ***"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowlege of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ . . ."*** *These areas are IMAGINATIONS, HIGH THINGS EXALTED AGAINST THE KNOWLEGE OF GOD, and THOUGHTS.*

IMAGINATIONS have to do with mental pictures. It is good for Christians to have good, Holy Ghost led, imaginations. ***The believer must be able to see himself healed, prosperous, and victorious.*** *However, Satan knows how to give imaginations concerning evil tidings. He knows how to send mental pictures of sickness, death, and destruction. He is expert in the field of showing the worst in any situation. Paul instructs us to "cast down" all imaginations which do not align themselves with the Word of God.*

HIGH THINGS EXALTED AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD have to do with things which challenge the truthfulness of God. This is the very area in which most Christians fall in relation to error.

Most error begins very subtly. Satan knows that most Christians will not accept an open denial of the Word; therefore, he starts like this, "God said . . . but this is what it REALLY means." The proper attitude of the Christian is to "cast down" anything which challenges the truthfulness of God.

THOUGHTS are closely related to IMAGINATIONS, and have to do with word impressions in the mind. All people think and form ideas in the mind. The problem arises when thoughts go contrary to the Word of God. Satan enjoys bombarding the Christian's mind with thoughts of unworthiness, uselessness, disease, poverty, destruction, and death. Many times Satan has spoken to me with words like these, "You are going to get sick." "You are going to have an accident." "Your child (or wife) is going to be hurt." "The bills are not going to be paid." These are common words of attack, and as such should be recognized and "taken captive . . . to the obedience of Christ."

God gives us the keys to victory over the fear generated in the mind. ***First,*** *the Christian must have his mind renewed. Paul said,* ***". . . be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God"*** *(Romans 12:2). We have been taught certain things from birth which contradict the Word of God. We must take the Word and allow it to replace all of the rotten information of the world.*

Second, *the Christian must learn to cast all cares on Jesus. Peter said,* ***"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"*** *(1 Peter 5:7). We must not attempt to carry the burdens Jesus has already carried. Jesus took every attack Satan could conceivably bring against us, and won.*

Third, *the Christian must learn the power of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah said,* ***"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him"*** *(Isaiah 59:19). God has given us the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, along with the accompanying sign of speaking in tongues. When we pray in the Spirit (tongues) Satan is overcome.*

Remember, FEAR is a mind job and comes through IMAGINATIONS, HIGH THINGS EXALTED AGAINST THE KNOWLEGE OF GOD, and THOUGHTS. Also remember this promise, ***"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"*** *(Isaiah 26:3).*

A Study Guide to the CONQUEST OF THE MIND by Elbert Willis

This indepth study guide to mind renewal gives the keys to renewing the mind with the Word of God. This book is the first in a series, providing sound Biblical answers to the perplexing problems facing Christians today.

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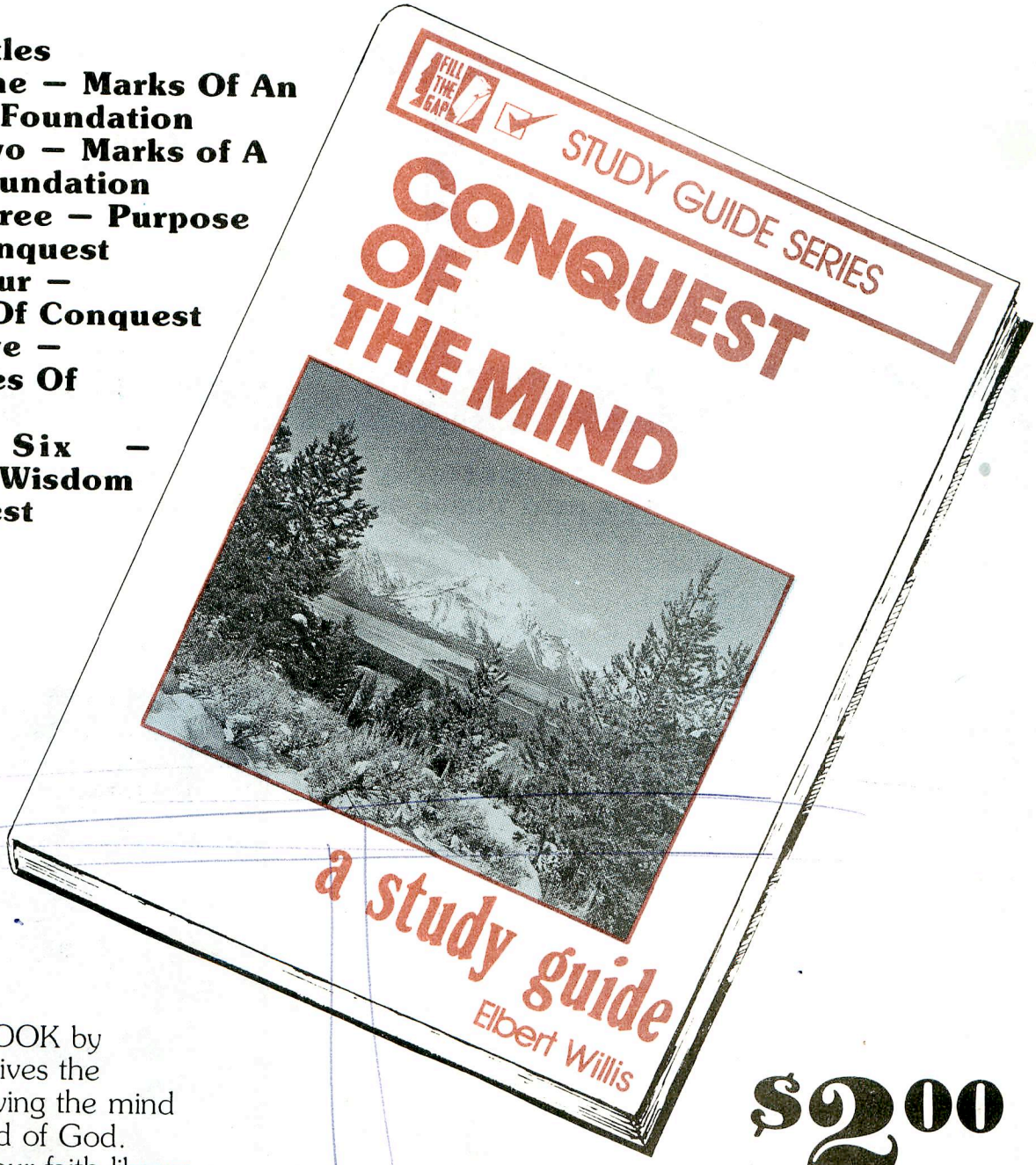
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