



# SOTERIA

## THE BATTLEFIELD

7 September 2011, Stephen Smith

**What do a battlefield and a garden have in common? They're both in your heart.**

*The people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for God].*

**Daniel 11:32 (Amplified)**

*But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere.*

**2 Corinthians 2:14 (Amplified)**

Battles are real to life – but victory is even more real to believers! The best strategy for winning any battle is having a solid relationship with God. It is the battle plan that will guarantee your victory.

God is intent on caring for the soil of your heart so you'll bear much fruit.

Your purpose in life, your blessings on earth and your destiny depend on how you defend the battleground and tend to the soil of your heart.

When the Bible refers to your heart, it's actually talking about what makes you an individual. The heart overlays your decisions, meaning it influences your will. It's where your beliefs are rooted, so it affects your thoughts and feelings too.

***Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.***

**Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)**

God does much of the work with you. He sometimes prunes what's growing in your heart to make room for new growth.

You're marked by the Spirit, sealed as evidence of your eternal life in Christ. But you have other marks left by God's hand, revealing His work to sanctify your emotions and renew your mind with the Word.

**When you have God's mark on your heart you can make a mark in the world.**

If you want spiritual eyes to examine your heart, there are two things to watch.

**First, watch your mouth.**

***For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

**Luke 6:45 (NKJV)**

If faith-filled words aren't proceeding from your mouth, put some Word in your heart.

**The second way to see your heart with spiritual eyes is watching how you handle material wealth.**

**Matthew 6:21 (NKJV) declares, *for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

Account #1 is where God leads you to put your material wealth, and Account #2 is where your flesh wants to deposit it. Account #1 carries benefits and rewards beyond your imagination, but Account #2 might as well be a hole in the ground—there's no gain.

***The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.***

**1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)**

Tend to your heart and the result will be as described in **Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)**, ***you will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.***

God wants us to be something more than ordinary people. The only thing that God has for a man is to be extraordinary. When God takes hold of a man, He makes him extraordinary in personality, power, thought, and activity!

You will never reach ideal purposes in any way unless you become the living epistle of the Word by the power of the Holy Spirit! You become the living force of the revelation of God, the incarnation of the personality of His presence in the human soul. Then you know that you are a son of God!