

How many personal UNtruths do we have to deal with?

This is an issue complicated by our lifelong tendency to sin; therefore, it is not *fully* applicable to Jesus' experience.

As we have discussed in F101, there are any number of possible *variations* of the personal UNtruths which Satan can use to attack us. However, the unconscious mind's tendency to create habits means that Satan typically uses only a couple core personal UNtruths against us. Those few, however, are all it takes for Satan to wage effective war against God within us if we do not do our part to transform our hearts and renew our minds in Christ during trials!

On the one hand, the unconscious mind tends to follow certain habits and this can aid Satan in his attacks. But on the other hand, the unconscious tendency to form habits is part of what makes our old selves somewhat predictable. At least it makes it easier to discern our old self patterns. Because of this, we can identify patterns in Satan's attacks and in our old self responses. That is another thing to discern in trials and be thankful for when it comes to fighting trials for Christ!

When we are young, Satan attacks and we often experience impressionable events that are trials. Sometimes we consciously remember those events; sometimes not. The unconscious does remember them, and they are critical to how the unconscious comes to think the way it does for a person! During our trials as youngsters, the unconscious is forming its understanding of the world and who we are. This is why psychologists often call our youth "the formative years." The unconscious mind is forming its sense of self-identity. As time goes on and we get older, the unconscious begins to have little need to expand its self-identity further. In other words, at some point in life the unconscious no longer considers it important to continue to expand our deepest sense of self-identity.

We said that Satan often attacks according to certain patterns. The patterns we mean are in terms of a false self-image thought (personal UNtruth). Each time Satan attacks and we sin, the unconscious recognizes the underlying self-image thought and puts a big emphasis on it. So, part of the reason the unconscious stops seeking to modify its self-image thought(s) as we grow older is because so many of our trials and experiences confirm the "validity" of the false self-identity that Satan provides to the unconscious during trials! The unconscious does not connect the fact that that its self-identity is from Satan because the heart has to play a key role in discerning that information. In the end, the unconscious regularly embraces a self-identity thought that makes sense to it... all based on its own past experiences of life, including Satan's attacks in trials!

Later on (teen years and on), when a person (even a believer) becomes "set in his ways," it is because the unconscious has become very "satisfied" with the self-image it has embraced. In other words, the unconscious unwittingly accepts Satan's lies about who we are or can be in Christ. If one of Satan's main attacks is the self-image thought, "I am not good enough," then the trials in that believer's life will repeatedly lead the person's unconscious to interpret trials as meaning he isn't good enough. This will influence a person's responses to a trial. In this way, the unconscious "validates" its false thought (based on Satan's lies, personal UNtruths), even though it is contrary to who we are or can be in Christ. This becomes a big part of the trap or deception that leads to actions in sin.

The unconscious may periodically embrace more than one personal UNtruth, but it will be very closely linked to Satan's regular attacks. Remember, when a trial begins and a heart disturbance arises, from the unconscious' point of view, the self-image is accurate and is

"working well" with the life you are experiencing. Unless you transform your heart in Christ during a trial, the unconscious will not be able to think any differently on its own.

Having said all this, whenever you are recording a trial on your Painful Pattern Tool or 7 *Spiritual Principles* Record, never ever assume that Satan's attack deals with the same old self-identity lie. Always approach each trial as if it is going to reveal a brand new attack by Satan. Remember, the idea is not that you are figuring it out, but that you are seeking to allow the Spirit to reveal it to your heart; don't let your mind take over your heart's job!!