

CAPTIVITY OF THE MIND

You can turn a wild hawk in a short time into an obedient falcon.

At the sound of a whistle, the bird would fly from its perch, rest on the man's arm, take food offered it, and on command return to its roost. When it was outdoors and free to escape, the hawk made no attempt to do so or return to its natural state.

This wild creature could be made to abandon its instinct, its normal behavior, its ancestry, and submit to the command of another who had deprived it of a normal life.

The hawk's complete transformation can be accomplished within three days after its removal from the wild. In that brief time it had become a voluntary prisoner, submissively doing the will of its captor and adapting to a strange and unnatural environment.

Can humans be mentally captured, removed from their natural state, subdued, and forced into a life-style totally alien to themselves and their role in the Kingdom of God?

In 1973, four bank employees in Stockholm, Sweden, were captured during a robbery and kept inside a vault. Strangely, within six days they became so devoted to their captors they not only resisted rescue but afterward refused to testify against the criminals. This psychological phenomenon became known as the Stockholm Syndrome and is identical to what happens to a hawk.

In extreme cases, it takes only 3-4 days for the Stockholm syndrome to emerge even when captive and captor are strangers.

According to psychologists, the victimized person bonds to the abuser as a means to endure the violence. A psychotherapist explains, "When someone threatens your life but doesn't kill you, the relief generates intense feelings of gratitude. This, coupled with fear, makes the captive reluctant to display negative feelings toward their captor. The victims' need to survive is stronger than his/her impulse to hate the person who has created the dilemma." The victim then comes to see the captor as a 'good guy', even a savior.

In 2002, Elizabeth Smart, a 14 year old girl was kept by her abductors for nine months. Elizabeth later showed Stockholm Syndrome effects when she made no attempt to escape though she had ample opportunity to do so. You can see this in the behavior of

some abused wives who voluntarily stay with a dangerous husband.

James warned twice about being "**double minded**"— a word which In Greek means "**two-souls**". We can see this condition in people who become captive to satan but refuse to escape his control—even when they have opportunity to do so.

How to convert a hawk in to an obedient falcon.

1. The hawk must be a grown but immature, inexperienced male.
2. The hawk is drawn to the trap with "**food**", usually a mouse or small animal that is under a clear but protective dome. When the hawk dives down to grab the prey, his feet become trapped in the snare and he is captured. By the way, he never gets the food that tempted him.
3. The hawk is immediately hooded, deprived of light, the ability to see, or the power to fly away.
4. For the next 24 to 72 hours, the hawk is kept awake on the falconer's heavily-gloved arm. Though the hawk is not allowed to sleep, it is periodically offered food, which, in the beginning, it refuses. The hawk associates sleep and accepting food with surrender so it desperately fights to stay awake and refuses to eat.
5. Deprived of light, food, and sleep, when the hawk finally eats and falls asleep, it psychologically acknowledges its' dependency on the captor and becomes "**bonded**" to him. From that time on, the bird may fly freely in the outdoors but will voluntarily return to its owner like a young bird returning to its parents' nest.
6. After bonding to the falconer and accepting its' **new identify**, many hawks revert to "**baby-bird chirping**". In humans, we call this "**arrested**" or "**reversed emotional development**". In effect, the falconer becomes a foster parent and the hawk, mentally returns to a state of infancy; at this point it begins making the "**baby bird**" sounds when it wants food or the falconer's attention.

Comparing The Hawk And The Human Problem Scripturally

1. **IMMATURITY: 1 Corinthians 14:20-21** "To be perfectly frank, I'm getting exasperated with your infantile thinking. How long before you grow up and use your head - your adult head? It's all right to have a childlike unfamiliarity with evil; a simple

no is all that's needed there. But there's far more to saying yes to something. Only mature and well-exercised intelligence can save you from falling into gullibility."

THE MESSAGE

2. **SNARED: Proverbs 7:21-23** "With her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life."

3. **BLINDED: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4** "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

4. **DEPRIVED OF REST: Matthew 11:28-30** "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." **THE MESSAGE**

5. **RETURN TO INFANTILE BEHAVIOR: 1 Corinthians 3:2** "I gave you **milk**, not solid food, because you were not yet ready for it. But you aren't ready for it now either!"

Hebrews 5:12 "For although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the very first principles of God's Word all over again! You need **milk**, not solid food!"

Hebrews 5:13 "Anyone who has to drink **milk** is still a baby, without experience in applying the Word about righteousness."

1 Peter 2:2 "and be like newborn babies, thirsty for the pure **milk** of the Word; so that by it, you may grow up into deliverance."

How do we avoid the captivity of our minds and escape if we are already ensnared?

Romans 12:1 "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. **2** Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." **THE MESSAGE**

Psalms 124:7 "Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped!" **NASB**

Scriptural References To The "Mind"

Romans 7:23 "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."

Mark 12:30 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment."

Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Ephesians 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Philippians 2:5 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:2 "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Remember that Jesus came to "set the captives free."

Mark 5:17 The maniac of Gadara. "the townspeople went out to see what it was that had happened and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind." What the devil had taken from him, Jesus had restored.