

# Strongholds & Bondages

\*\*\*MY THOUGHTS ON TEACHING ON STRONGHOLDS

\*\*\*PROMOTE IH & D CLASS

#. Dictionary Defn: a well-fortified place; a fortress, fort or castle...a building or structure that is safe from attack.

#. Psalm 18:1-2 "I will love You, O Lord, my strength.  
The Lord is my rock & my fortress & my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield & the horn of my salvation, my STRONGHOLD.

#. HEBREW: a refuge, defense, a structure that is inaccessible to one's enemies.

HOWEVER, WHEN WE READ THE ONLY TIME THE WORD, "STRONGHOLD" IS IN THE NT, PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT THE DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS IN OUR SOUL!

- THE WAY WE THINK
- WHAT WE BELIEVE
- DECISION-MAKING PROCESS
- EMOTIONS
- CONSCIENCE

THESE STRONGHOLDS THAT ARE IN OUR MIND!!!

CONTEXT: Paul is defending his apostolic authority, appointed by Jesus, b/c some false apostles were jealous of his influence & what God was doing in Paul's life. So...they began falsely accusing him, saying, that Paul writes these bold, confronting letters; BUT, not so when face-to-face.

As a result, Paul is addressing their slanderous deceptions.

WHAT DOES HE DO?

The city of Corinth had a high hill a little over 1800 ft. high; and, on the top of this hill was a fortress. So, Paul decides to use this imagery as an illustration of the spiritual warfare that he waged with these false teachers, as well as with some Christians!

- causing division
- False accusations
- Deceitful workers 2 Cor. 11:13
- Disguising themselves as apostles for Christ
- Some continued to follow their old ways and false teachers

IF YOU REMEMBER, PAUL HAD TO CONFRONT THE CORINTHIANS IN HIS 1ST LETTER, B/C THEY WERE TOLERATING SINS SUCH AS SEX IMMORALITY...THAT WAS FROM THEIR PAGAN WORSHIP,  
THEY WERE DIVIDING OVER TEACHERS,  
TAKING COMMUNION IN AN UNGODLY MANNER,  
MIXING THEIR CULTURE WITH THE GOSPEL...

#. 2 Corinthians 10:1-2 NLT:

“Now I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ—though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. Well, I am begging you now so that when I come I won’t have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives.”

- Argue & Debate
- Create a coup

#. 2 Cor. 10:3-5: NASB2020

3. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle (war) according to the flesh,

4. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (carnal) BUT divinely powerful (mighty) in God...for PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS, CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS & EVERY HIGH THING (imagination)

5. THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.”

\*\*\*Paul is giving THE strategy & instructions on how to deal with the STRONGHOLD, BUT WHAT IS IT?

LIES & DECEPTIONS, UNBELIEF & UNGODLY MINDSETS ( is a habitual mental attitude that deter. how you will interpret and respond to situations)

Mind is set to believing a lie. Event that happened in wet cement

A way of thinking that goes so deep it becomes a part of us.

- THEY ARE BUILT ONE BRICK AT A TIME UNTIL IT IS STRONG, HIGH AND PROTECTIVE OF THE DEMONIC SH.

\*\*\*KEY: DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL A FOOTHOLD:

Ephesians 4:26-27. “Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.”

WE CALL THESE OPEN DOORS

OD is how devil get’s in...an intrusion

SH is a strong belief, emotion, conviction that is so embedded in you!

Fear, anger/rage, rejection, Shame, Depression, self-hatred

OD gives the devil permission

SH gives the devil protection

OD can be from sins of others

SH is rooted in your own sin

OD can be closed immed. Thru

#. 1 John 1:9

“If you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive you your sins and cleanse you from all wickedness.”

SH is usually...not always, broken over time

HOW DO WE GET THESE DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS?

- GENERATIONAL

Eg: I’m Japanese. What do you think is one of the Asians’ greatest stronghold is? SHAME

\*I believe it was passed down to me, and I just knew I had it.

\*I believed the lie that SHAME was a good thing, b/c it kept us from doing anything wrong that would shame our family.

\*I remember being ashamed that I didn’t look Japanese, b/c my mom was always ashamed when people commented that my siblings and I didn’t look Japanese.

\*I attended an inner healing class with 1st gen. Asians...WLI

- PAST EXPERIENCES: [Randal's claustrophobia]
- LIES WE BELIEVE THAT LEADS TO DECEPTION:

\*A lie is anything that contradicts the truth...GOD'S WORD

\*A lie BECOMES DECEPTION once you believe the lie to be true

\*Sometimes, these LIES are true or factual, meaning it is LOGICAL...but IT IS NOT TRUTH.

\*Not everything that is true is truth.

- NOT KNOWING GOD THROUGH HIS WORD, HIS WAYS AND INTIMACY!

AND, THE ENEMY USES THESE DECEPTIONS, 1/2 TRUTHS, & LOGICAL & ILLOGICAL THINKING TO IMPRISON US.

John 10:10 "The THIEF comes ONLY to steal and kill and destroy."

John 8:44. "He was a MURDERER from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is NO TRUTH in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a LIAR and the FATHER OF LIES."

1 Peter 5:8-9. "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a ROARING LION looking for someone to DEVOUR."

Rev. 12:10. "...for the ACCUSER of our brethren, who accused them..."

#. POINT 1: OUR WEAPONS TO OVERCOME DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS ARE NOT CARNAL, WORLDLY OR PHYSICAL WEAPONS TO KNOCK DOWN HUMAN REASONING.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle (war) according to the flesh."

-There is a spiritual battle for our soul...mind, will, emotions, conscience, decision-making process...& body.

-We are not to be carnal: led by your 5 senses.

WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.

- what we hear with our ears
- What we see with our eyes
- What we feel with our emotions/body
- What we taste with mouth or emotional appetite
- What you smell

ARE YOU CARNAL AND FIGHTING A WAGING WAR IN THE NATURAL?

- Positive thinking and confessions
- Behavior modification
- Dieting & medications
- Podcasts and self-help
- Religious hoops. eg. w/ speaker at AWMI

- #. POINT 2: OUR WEAPONS OF WARFARE ARE MIGHTY IN GOD...not self
- GOD'S WORD
  - PRAYER
  - PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT
  - PRAISE & WORSHIP
  - HUMILITY
  - KNOWING THAT THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST AND HIS BLOOD SET US FREE.
- HEARING HOLY SPIRIT'S VOICE
  - INTIMACY

HOW DO THESE SPIRITUAL WEAPONS FROM GOD BREAK THE DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS IN MY MIND AND BODY?

- #. POINT 3: PULLING THEM DOWN BY CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS AND IMAGINATIONS:

-CAST DOWN in the Greek= means to take down, disassemble bit by bit...or lie by lie. It can also be translated, to demolish, to destroy, to dismantle to throw down, knock down, to break up, to pull apart until there's nothing left standing. LEGOS OR JENGA

The idea of this word carries a strong commitment & determination to utterly annihilate the enemy's well-defended fortress.

IMAGINATIONS in the Greek = is where we get our word LOGIC...  
Logical Thinking.

SO, WHEN PAUL WAS TELLING THEM TO "CAST DOWN IMAGINATIONS," HE WAS TELLING THEM TO CAST DOWN EVEN LOGICAL THINKING.

"LOGICAL STRONGHOLDS" ARE MADE UP OF THOUGHTS & BELIEFS THAT MAKE LOGICAL SENSE...

BUT...THE PROBLEM IS WHEN IT CONTRADICTS THE WORD OF GOD.

WHY? B/c much of what we've been taught, told, modeled or experienced b4 us...even from doctors, teachers...CAN BE CONTRARY to God's word.

IT'S OKAY TO SEE A DR., THERAPIST, TEACHER, BUT IT IS NOT ABOVE GOD!

Kimo. 1 Cor. 14:18 "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."

Linda

"ILLOGICAL" STRONGHOLDS ARE FORTIFIED BY UNREALISTIC WORRIES AND FEARS THAT HAVE NO BASIS IN REALITY.

- The enemy just creates unrealistic scenarios in your mind and they become SHs

[Summer]

- #. POINT 4: PULL DOWN EVERY THOUGHT THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD...I-D-O-L-A-T-R-Y!!!

- Holy Spirit, what is the strong hold (fortress) of deception that the enemy has built in my mind and emotions...IT'S IN YOUR SOUL...IN YOUR MIND, EMOTIONS & BEING.

- What is God's word or truth in light of my stronghold?

[ Kimi ]

- #. Matt. 11:28-29. "Come to Me, all you who are weary & burdened, & I will give your rest. Take My yoke upon you & LEARN FROM ME; for I am gentle and humble in heart. And, you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy & my burden is light."

#. POINT 5: BRING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST:

"Bringing into captivity" in the Greek = has a picture of a soldier who has captured an enemy and leads him with the point of a sharpened spear thrust into the enemy's back.

- the captive DOES NOT dare to resist, but is silent, submissive and non-resistant.

KEY!!! YOU TAKE EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE AND PUT THE SPEAR OF GOD'S WORD IN THE BACK OF EVERY THOUGHT, MAKING IT OBEY GOD'S WORD.

HOW?

WE DO THIS BY SPEAKING TO OUR THOUGHTS & DIRECT THEM TO THE ENEMY—DO NOT LET THE ENEMY OR YOUR THOUGHTS SPEAK TO YOU!

WE ARE EITHER CAPTIVE TO OUR THOUGHTS-OR-WE KEEP OUR THOUGHTS CAPTIVE.

\*\*\*#. JOHN 8: 31-32. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you ABIDE IN MY WORD [continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then] you are truly My disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.