

DISMANTLING STRONGHOLDS

Part II

Three Characteristics and Strategies for Overcoming Strongholds

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God has given us absolute victory in our everyday thought life. Let's look at how we can maintain that victory.

1. *How does the enemy gain access to your thoughts?*

Let's look at the word Devil and what it means. It comes from the Latin root diabolos, which means to thrust through, like a rock. It's like the enemy is doing a David and Goliath on you. He's hitting and hammering you with thought patterns, circumstances, and emotions that create a framework of bondage and confusion within your brain and heart. The devil intends to break through the barrier of your will, your mind, and your emotions in order to penetrate your personality. These bents and inclinations toward fear, mistrust, abandonment, depression, and even suicide can be generational. Some of your battles didn't start with you.

2. *What can you do to combat this attack?*

Take every thought captive at the point of the spear (2 Corinthians 10:5). Interrogate your thought life to see if it lines up with what the spirit of God says. How do you know if a thought is coming from God or the Devil? How do you know if it's a stronghold? If it's not peace, if it's not energizing, if it's not love-it's not from the Lord.

3. *Are you making God your stronghold?*

David said he wanted to make the Lord his stronghold and his high tower (Psalm 61:3) A stronghold can work both ways. To build a Godly stronghold you must tear down what you have built that militates against Gods word. This is the warfare involved with renewing the mind-but it pays off in a new mind garrisoned with Gods way of thinking. Getting clear on who He is for you is one of the most important steps to freedom. We each have to begin the process of renewing our minds, by first recognizing that in many cases, the methods, or the roadway that the enemy planted in your life came before you knew what he was up to.

Test and discern your life according to the Holy Spirit to began to shut down those ramps and build up new highways that lead to victory, anointing, and deliverance.

What negative patterns is God revealing to you as you read this lesson. And what are some strategies you can employ to renew your mind daily.

Taking the truth
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- b) A stronghold is something that exerts an influence or leverage over the thought patterns that play in your mind. (They produce a harvest of consequences.) The Devil is trying to rob you and your children of God's inheritance. He does this by working to get you to compromise and bow your knee to unbelief, apathy, fear, lust, addiction, and depression.

What is God's goal for you?

- a) The spirit of God wants us to be thinking beings who operate out of freedom!- NOT robots. The Holy Spirit is busy right now setting us free from controlling spirits. This includes all addiction and compulsions.
- b) As a believer, we are not under the dominion of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). God created man in His image and in His likeness and gave him a territory called a garden. In that Sphere of influence man was in charge. He had authority over the snake. God has put us in the garden of our lives. He wants us to be free to flourish, create, and expand dominion. God made you and I in His image and wants your mind free to see, sense, discern, and judge.

How can you dismantle strongholds?

1. Strongholds are like fortresses that must be torn down one brick at a time.
2. Every thought that hits you needs to be countered by another thought! Lies need to be answered with TRUTH.
3. You need a proclamation in your mouth-there is an "IT IS WRITTEN!" For every battle.
4. These truths need to be meditated upon and literally "engrafted" into your soul

In this way God uses our warfare to do something that totally frustrates the enemy. It makes us stronger! This connects us to the lineage of over comers described by the writer of Hebrews who said: "Out of weakness they became strong!" (Hebrews 11:34)

What lies do you need to refute in your mind?

What truths do you need to stand on for daily victory in the spiritual realm?