

Strongholds: *What are they and how to* *pull them down*

Principle: Spiritual strongholds are Satan's secret _____. It is through the sneaky use of strongholds that Satan controls the behavior of the Church. They must be identified and destroyed in order to regain control of the heavenlies.

Revelation 3:14-22

Revelation 12:11: They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. One element is constant, the remaining two being _____.

Satan's Arsenal: Satan has three main weapons.

1. The most obvious is _____. Satan is known as the tempter (Matt. 4:3). The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

2. The second weapon is a passive one. Like a trap, it is sneaky set up for you to fall into. It is called "_____." Satan is described in the Bible as the accuser of the brethren (Job 1:6-12; Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10) We are forgiven, but he reminds of every sin we have committed. Even though we are protected by the One who has said "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Heb. 13:5)

3. Satan's third weapon is the most dangerous. This particular weapon is virtually unknown to the average Christian. It is neither active nor passive, but _____. Like an underwater mine, it can be planted and left undetected, waiting for the ideal moment to be activated. This devastating weapon is called "_____"

STRONGHOLDS—THE SECRET _____ AREA

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses (or strongholds). We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
The efficiency of strongholds depends on their _____. Like the underwater mine, once discovered, it can be disarmed, and it loses its effectiveness.

A spiritual stronghold is a mind-set impregnated with _____ that causes us to accept as unchangeable, situations that we know are contrary to the _____ of God.

The presence of a spiritual stronghold must be suspected when a Christian finds himself powerless to change a situation that he clearly knows goes against the will of God.

Examples:

Forgiveness: The Bible precisely teaches us that we are to forgive our enemies.

Marriage: The Bible tells us that he finds a wife or a husband "finds a good thing" (Prov 18:22).

THE VISIBLE EXPRESSION OF A STRONGHOLD

This fragmentation results in us developing what James describes as a "double mind." According to James, the consequence of a double mind is instability "in all his ways" (James 1:8).

What Does a Stronghold Look Like?

1. Strongholds are located in the _____. This is illustrated by Paul in Romans 8:6-7: "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so."

2. Strongholds are often made up of _____ thoughts. Our own good thoughts create a blockage for the excellent thoughts of God to come in. Such a case in point is Peter in Matthew 16:21-23. Jesus calls Peter "Satan" because he was setting his mind on man's interests rather than God's. In other words, Jesus was saying, "You are looking at this from man's point of view rather than God's."

The most dangerous piece of equipment a Christian carries in the mind, because of its ability to produce thoughts. The evil thoughts our minds produce are more easily spotted and identified. It is the good thoughts that our minds are capable of that often lead to disaster.

The enemy of the _____ is not the _____. This is very easy to spot and easy to prevent from happening. The enemy of best is _____, because good and best can be easily confused. Satan knows this, and he uses it to his advantage. This is why we are exhorted to take "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 or. 10:5).

- Strongholds often develop in the shadow of our strengths. Satan often targets our natural strengths in order to position his strongholds. Overconfidence is always one step away, and this allows Satan to move into that area with great freedom.
- Strongholds are often activated by painful _____.
- Strongholds create a double mind that results in spiritual and emotional _____.

STRONGHOLDS MUST BE DESTROYED. THEY ARE NOT TO BE REMODELED. THEY ARE NOT TO BE REPAINTED OR COVERED WITH WALLPAPER. THEY ARE TO BE DESTROYED.

What to do with Strongholds

1. Submit to God (James 4:7)
2. Resist the devil (James 4:7)
3. Draw near to God (James 4:8)
4. And He will draw near to you (James 4:8)

Personal Application

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