



Sermon #6: Destroying Strongholds Before They Destroy You!

II Corinthians 10:4-5 *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

I. Strongholds are Lies Pretending to be Truth Locked Away in Our Belief System

MODEL #1: The Workings of the Human Mind

MODEL #2: The Belief System Tree

- Satan knows the power of the mind. *“You will be as God KNOWING... (Gen. 3:5-6)”* The temptation for Eve was in gaining greater knowledge which she knew would bring her greater power.
- **Joh 8:44** *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

II. Strongholds Start With a Wrong Conclusion

Strongholds start with the conclusion and interpret events by what is believed to be a fact.

We learn by: Event (2) + Interpretation (2) = Conclusion (4)

How we should learn: $2 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$

How a stronghold works: $2 + \underline{\quad} = 4$

If the conclusion is true (scripture), this process can will interpret events truthfully. However, if the conclusion is wrong, then the entire formula breaks down because interpretations must be manipulated to match the conclusion.

Example: $2 + \underline{\quad} = 16$ Now the conclusion dictates a new interpretation. The 2 must be a 14 in this case.

III. The Most Important Conclusions are the Ones We Reach About Yourself

How you see yourself will often determine how you view others, your circumstances and even God!

Col 1:21 *“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.”*

IV. How Are Strongholds Implanted?

- Hurts and Wounds IN US
- Willful Sin AMONG US
- Sin Committed AGAINST US
- Words Spoken OVER US
- Actions Portrayed IN FRONT OF US



V. How Strongholds Constructed?

From the Inside out!

1. Deception: “Thought” **This is Right!**

We believe a lie in our Root Belief System. This deception becomes the KING

2. Justification: “High Thing” **I have a Right!**

We then own the thought by making excuses for it. We have provided PROTECTION

3. Denial: “Argument” **I’m Alright!**

We finally hide behind denial. We cover up with a mask and provided it with CAMOUFLAGE

VI. How Are Strongholds Destroyed?

From the Outside in!

1. Quit Living in Denial (Argument): Look at your life, listen to people and honestly admit that you are not alright! You need help. This is Honesty!

2. Quit Justifying Your Attitudes and Actions (Justification): You don’t have a right to feel and act this way. Stop justifying your actions. This is Humility!

3. Pinpoint the Lie and Replace it With God’s Word: Deconstruct the lie and replace it with God’s truth. This takes time. This is Repentance!