

## SERMON: TURNING YOUR STRONGHOLDS INTO STRENGTHS

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful. For the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> 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.”*

These verses are written right in the middle of a passage where Paul is exercising his apostolic authority to address sin in the Corinthian church. While these verses come in the context of church discipline, corporately; they also apply to believers, individually.

Notice the specific wording:

**WAR**. Paul said the we do not WAR. He used the term as a verb – an action word. Spiritual warfare is something we DO! Of course, war is an armed conflict.

**FLESH**. This is the word from which we get the term ‘carnal’ and the Spanish word, “carne” (meat). Spiritually speaking, our “flesh” is our natural human personality, particularly our bent toward evil. It is developed in the process of growing up in the natural world. Basically, it is any area of our personality that is not under the Lordship of Christ.

In other words, our ‘flesh’ involves the ways of thinking that we learned naturally but are not in alignment with the moral character and will of God. These are the parts of our belief systems that have not yet been transformed into the image of Christ – places where we do not agree with Him.

**STRONGHOLD.** Any area of our personality that is specifically under the influence or control of the enemy may be considered a stronghold. This area is obviously not subject to the lordship of Christ.

Strongholds are the work of the enemy and are established in a person's life, either through the experience of traumatic sin or by deliberate, repetitive sin on the part of the person. We empower or help to create strongholds when we agree with what the enemy says, say the things he says, or do what he tells us to do; especially on a repetitive basis. The enemy communicates his thinking, both internally – a mental 'voice' that introduces lies into our thinking – or externally, using someone else who prescribes what we should think in an ungodly way.

Strongholds MAY involve inhabitation by the demonic, but this is not always the case. They are the bases of operation from which the enemy infiltrates or influences other areas of the person's life and thinking. They take us captive to ungodly belief systems.

As we will see in Verse 5, the strongholds are in our mind; they are areas of thought. Our weapons are also THOUGHTS. Stronghold thoughts come to us as information – 'facts' that we believe. Information may or may not be accurate.

**WEAPONS.** Like the weapons in a natural battle, we have spiritual weapons; 'bullets' of truth that we can use to tear down the enemy's strongholds. Paul uses the word for 'arms' or 'instruments' here. Unlike the strongholds of ungodly thought patterns, our weapons come to us via revelation – truth that comes from the heart of Father God. Revelation is always correct.

**DIVINELY POWERFUL.** Because these 'God-thoughts' are items of revelation and have their origin in God, they are both divine and powerful. Thankfully, they are strong or 'robust' enough to destroy the strongholds that the enemy has built up.

**DESTROYING.** Literally, "to pull down" or 'to tear down.' In other words; destroy

**SPECULATIONS.** The term here is the word from which we get our English word, "Logic." We are to tear down the false reasonings and lines of thinking that sound logical but are deceptive.

**LOFTY THING**. The term is the word from which we get our English term, 'hyper.' In other words they are exaggerated ideas – ones that go above and beyond what they really are.

**RAISED UP**. The enemy establishes and raises up his thoughts or strongholds that are in opposition to and contrary to the knowledge of God. These imaginations want to 'exalt themselves' or raise themselves up in opposition to the truth; they want more power, more importance and more influence than the knowledge of God. The enemy does not want us to have experiential knowledge of God.

**CAPTIVE**. We take such false ideas and make them captives. A captive is someone who is forced to be subject to another and to serve them. Captives are no longer free to do what they want; they must be obedient to their new master. In this case, though, these lines of thinking become obedient to Christ.

**OBEDIENCE**. God does not set us free from Satan's influences in order that we should just believe or do whatever we want. God's FREEDOM and STRENGTH is only experienced as we are obedient to Christ. Obeying Christ both REQUIRES inner strength from us and PRODUCES inner strength in us. The tearing down of the enemy's strongholds allows us the freedom to obey.

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED IF OR WHERE THE ENEMY HAS BUILT A STRONGHOLD OR TWO IN YOUR LIFE? HE'S DONE THAT TO TAKE YOU CAPTIVE AND STEAL YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH. TEARING DOWN OUR STRONGHOLDS TURNS THOSE AREAS OF OUR LIVES INTO STRENGTHS! OBEYING THE TRUTH GIVES US GOD'S THOUGHTS, GOD'S STRENGTH AND GOD'S FREEDOM SO THAT WE CAN EXPERIENCE HIM AND ALL THAT HE HAS FOR US!**

**SO DON'T DELAY; GET FREE TODAY!**



BREAK THE  
STRONGHOLDS