

Demolishing strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (CEV)

⁴ or fight our battles with the weapons of this world. Instead, we use God's power that can destroy fortresses. We destroy arguments ⁵ and every bit of pride that keeps anyone from knowing God. We capture people's thoughts and make them obey Christ.

The Bible says ***the Word of God is sharper than any two edged sword it penetrates even to dividing the soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and the attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12***

WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?

"A mindset impregnated with hopelessness that causes us to accept as unchangeable situations that we know are contrary to the will of God"

- Ed Silvano

"Strongholds are mental habit patterns of thought that are not consistent with God's Word."

- Neil Anderson

THREE COMMON WAYS STRONGHOLDS ENTER OUR WAY OF THINKING

1. OUR _____
2. _____ EXPERIENCES

John 8:32 (CEV)

³² You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

3. _____

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (CEV)

You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and he will show you how to escape from your temptations.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

WE DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH STRONGHOLDS!

- 1. _____ MAKE A CHOICE TO _____ EVERY THOUGHT AND _____ ACT ONLY ON THOSE THAT LINE UP WITH GOD'S WORD.**
- 2. CONSTANTLY CHECK FOR _____**
- 3. _____ YOUR MIND TO THINK AS GOD WOULD HAVE YOU THINK**

FOR FURTHER STUDY IN SMALL GROUPS

MIXER: Lots of big companies have automated phone services that keep you pushing numbers and waiting for a long time. Describe your worse experience.

1. How would you describe a 'stronghold'?
2. Only share what you are comfortable with but...
Have you been able to, in your life, identify strongholds that have been established through:
 - your environment?
 - A traumatic experience? or
 - Repeated failure to temptation?
3. When you feel tempted and it seems impossible to overcome it, what encouragement can you take from the Bible?
4. If you have given into temptation in the past, in what ways can you prepare yourself so that you won't give into future temptations?
5. How easy is it to choose to believe what God says is true even when it doesn't feel true?
6. Can you think of an example of when you did this? What was the outcome?
7. Meditate this week on
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5;
 - Romans 8:35-39;
 - Philippians 4:12-13