

Defeating the devil's Strongholds

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The devil's strongholds are working as never before to inflict upon people emotions of depression, anger, anxiety, sadness, despair, loneliness, guilt, insecurity, lack of self-esteem, and more. But there is a simple truth that we need to learn to defeat all of satan's strongholds.

Key points:

- Many people are missing out on God's absolute best for their lives, because of one thing holding them back. It's a stronghold of the devil.
- A stronghold begin with thoughts from the devil. When those thoughts are accepted and allowed to linger, they turn into demonic imaginations – and eventually into a stronghold.
- The stronghold is like being caught a vice that the devil is controlling.
- Some of the devil's strongholds are subtle: depression, sadness, loneness, guilt, worry, lack of self-esteem. Some are not so subtle like immorality and pornography.
- Receive your forgiveness and forget the past; otherwise, it's like telling Jesus that His blood wasn't good enough to cleanse you.
- Don't allow the devil's seeds (thoughts) to take root. Use the authority Jesus gave you, and you'll have everything Jesus wants you to have and be everything He wants you to be.

Scriptures:

- Matthew 19:16-29; Mark 10:17-27; Luke 18:18-23 – story of the rich young ruler
- John 10:10 – the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy
- 2 Corinthians 2:11 – we are not ignorant of satan's devices (in the Greek, device = *a mental perception, thought*)
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – we do not war after the flesh...pulling down strongholds
- Philippians 2:9 – God highly exalted Him, giving Him a Name above every name
- Nehemiah 8:10 – the joy of the Lord is my strength
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – new creation in Christ
- Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:17; Psalm 103:11-12 – God forgives and forgets our sins
- Ephesians 6:17 – put on the helmet of salvation
- Ephesians 6:16 – the devil shoots fiery darts (which are thoughts)
- Isaiah 26:3 – God will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – our weapons are mighty for pulling down strongholds... bringing every thought captive...
 - In the Greek, "thought" = devices or tools
 - In the Greek, "pulling down" and "casting down" = literally destroy
- Hebrews 1:3 – God is upholding all things by the power of his Word
- Matthew 22:29 – the Word of God is the power of God
- Hebrews 4:12 – the Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword
- Revelation 19:13 – His name is the Word of God
- Isaiah 54:17 – no weapon formed against you will prosper; every tongue that rises against you in judgement you shall condemn

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- James 4:7 – resist the devil and he will flee
- Ephesians 1:10; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 3:19 – fullness of God

Action Steps:

- Realize every thought is not your own. If a thought doesn't line up with God's Word (see Philippians 4:8), get rid of it (see 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- Find Scriptures to counter those negative thoughts. Memorize and speak them.
- Imagine (or visualize) God's Word being true in your life and begin to act like it. Actions active God's power.