

## **“Pulling Down Strongholds” Part 1**

2Co 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

2Co 10:2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2Co 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

### **Pulling Down Strongholds**

When we come into the world, we have very little, to no control, of the factors that mold and shape us growing up.

Some of which we inherit through birth and DNA.

Some we learn from the home to which we are born and grow up in. Some we learn from the environment we grow up in.

Much we inherit from a variety of sources: home, extended family, neighborhood, school, etc.

Based on things that happened to us, our world view and outlook on life is formed and fortified through circumstances and factors of life.

If we are born into poverty or a crime ridden neighborhood, we have a certain outlook. If we are born in a Middle-Class or Upper-Class neighborhood, we have a certain outlook.

Over the course of life, we develop habits and patterns in our lives.

Our access to certain elements, or certain elements having access to us, helps to mold and shape our outlooks.

Things that happen or happened to us; verbal, physical, mental or sexual abuse; alcoholism, drug addictions; neglect, lack of parental presence, freedom to do whatever we want, over protection; divorce, abandonment, adoption, foster care, single parenting - all have impacts on our lives and each of us are impacted differently.

Two people growing up in the same house that have the same things happen to them may respond very differently.

For instance, a person who has been sexually abused may act out promiscuous in one extreme or become withdrawn; or if they have been abused by same sex may become lesbian, bi-sexual, gay, transgender (LBGT), or promiscuous.

We create systems of thought and thinking patterns that become habits and then strongholds. These strongholds feed from the habits and then fortify systems of thoughts that begin operating on automatic pilot.

These strongholds create defense mechanisms and responses that protect the systems that operate on automatic pilot.

Dealing with these strongholds can be somewhat perplexing on a human level and can only be dealt with on a spiritual level by the Spirit of YeHoVaH.

This is where the enemy tries to blind the minds of men and keep the Spirit of YeHoVaH out, or the Word of TRUTH from taking root, which can set us free.

Real Sustainable Deliverance cannot be accomplished without the Word of YeHoVaH and one's willingness to learn and operate on the Word.

Yeshua said

Mt 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him

Mt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Mt 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be talking about Strongholds and how to free ourselves from them so that we can be free indeed!

We are going to define strongholds, identify strongholds, and look at Biblical examples of strongholds in the lives of YeHoVaH's people.

(3794) ὀχύρωμα — okh-oo'-ro-mah; from a remote derivative of (2192 ekh'-o; (meaning to fortify, through the idea of holding safely); a castle (figurative argument): — stronghold.

3794 ὀχύρωμα ochuroma {okh-oo'-ro-mah} Meaning: 1) a castle, stronghold, fortress, fastness 2) anything on which one relies 2a) of the arguments and reasonings by which a disputant endeavours to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent

Origin: from a remote derivative of 2192 (meaning to fortify, through the idea of holding safely);

Strongholds are very dangerous because they cause us to operate in areas that are opposed to YeHoVaH to satisfy the will of the flesh or our carnal nature.

Whatever we create within us, can and most likely will, develop a life of its own. If we develop a habit of temper, or of jealousy, or alcoholism, that habit forms a life of its own in us and does not want to die.

Strongholds will develop a system (excuses or reasonings of justification) or a department of defense to maintain its operation and to advance ground within us in order to have a lifetime habitation.

Deciding to quit or stop is easily defeated and often times need long-term human intervention simply to keep the desires manageable.

Jer 17:5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Jer 17:6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

Jer 17:8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jer 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jer 17:11 As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

When a stronghold has been developed, we do whatever we need to do to protect and defend our reasonings or irrational desires.

2nd Samuel 11:26

Ps 51:0 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba.

Ps 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Ps 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Ps 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Ps 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Ps 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.