

# STRONGHOLDS

by Steve Stutzman

Strongholds come in many shapes and sizes. Some affect us as persons, as individuals. Some affect marriages, families, and homes. Sometimes, strongholds of darkness affect whole communities, regions, people-groups, or nations.

A stronghold is an idea, or a way of thinking, that contradicts God's reality, or TRUTH. Because this motion, idea, or fixation will not bow to TRUTH, it qualifies as a lie. This lie in our mind, life, or thinking becomes a "place for an accuser". The enemies of our souls, and of our God, stands on these fixations and fire darts into our hearts, darts meant to destroy us and humiliate our King.

Most of the time, these lies hide themselves quite nicely among other ideas in our minds, painted over with something partly "true". The problem is, it is not the TRUTH. The farther we get from the TRUTH, the more strongholds there are likely to be.

I don't want to muddy the water here, but let me give some examples. Let's say Sue has an idea that she is ugly. Now, it may be true that she is not as popular as Pam, or have as pretty hair as Jane does, or as poster-style smile like Julia: But that is merely true. The TRUTH is, God made her to represent the Bride of Christ: and she is beautiful. But, because she does not FEEL beautiful, a stronghold develops. She begins to envy...back-bite..... and becomes anorexic - all because if an idea that will not acknowledge TRUTH.

Or consider the Communist leader of the last century. They became collectively convinced that there is no God. Out of this fixation, they ran country after country into the ground, killed millions of souls, and starved many to death. They had discovered some things in science, jumped to shoddy conclusions, and starting with something true, missed TRUTH.

I suppose that our true model, Jesus Christ, was the only One ever to have no ideas or concepts in Him that needed an over haul, in order to line up with God's TRUTH. Jesus, in fact, was the TRUTH. (Jn 14:6) And when He was before Pilot, He said clearly that this was why He had come to earth - to show forth TRUTH.

You and I are perhaps not so completed, in our earthly reality. What kind of things do you believe... about yourself, God, your spouse, eternity, your ability, government, life, church, Jesus, relationships, accomplishments... that are fixations? How many thoughts like "It never works for me" or "Why can't he get it right?" Maybe they are just ideas that need an education or maybe they have become full-blown strongholds of darkness over the mind and life.

Don't leave them there. Rejoice and thank God for each place He reveals... for each one allows you greater freedom! Of course, there is the part about repenting first...

For the Weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; 2 Cor. 10:4