Tearing down the partition

I want to talk about strongholds in our lives. Because many of Gods people are spiritual prisoners of war trapped in a stronghold that they have been unable to break. It does not matter what it is, we all can find ourselves caught and unable to get out.

I want to talk about the consequences of being in a stronghold because even if it is not you, there is probably someone in your circle of influence who finds themselves in a stronghold. The biblical word stronghold is referring to the spiritual nature of our sin. Which means that if you try to fix a sin without the right spiritual connection you can’t be released from it because you have not dealt with the core issue that is behind it.

So, you just deal with the thing itself and not the underlying issue. In your kitchen you have appliances and all of them are different, but they all find their power from the same source, electricity. I would argue that many strongholds come from a common source. So, if we can get to the common source, we can apply the solution to the particular stronghold that needs to be addressed.

So, let’s review what we are referring to. A spiritually based trap in some category of life that has been inculcated with negative pattern of thought that like a snake has wrapped itself around the mind, making something feel impossible to fix because you feel handcuffed to it. OR it feels handcuffed to you.

This can be something big, or it can be something that one would consider small, and yet either way, anything that is small can become big. Because strongholds have built into them gateway potential.

When you are in a spiritual stronghold, you feel like you are in a prison or tomb and someone has thrown away the key, and what many people seek to do with this stronghold they are battling is to accept it as an inevitable reality and the best they hope to do with it is to decorate their cell. Because if it’s never going change let me make my stronghold as pleasant as possible.

But today I want to try and give a biblical mechanism for deliverance. Predicated on the understanding that Christians can find themselves in strongholds like non-Christians. You don’t have to be following Jesus for long to know that your flesh did not disappear.

Even the most spiritual person in the New Testament, the apostle Paul struggled with something he could not shake. In Romans chapter 7 Paul says he was doing things he did not want to do. He said he told himself he shouldn’t do it and the willing was there, and yet I did not have the ability to pull it off. He struggled between his flesh and his new creation. So, it is possible to have faith in Jesus and still not yet be made free because Jesus said he came to set us free and to give us life more abundantly and it is something we need to work on.

How does this stronghold occur, because understanding the cause will lead us to the cure. We have to cure the right cause. We go to the doctor and they are trying to find the underlying cause to give the appropriate cure. So lets go to 2 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 2 -6

I ask that when I am present I need not show boldness by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2010&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28958a)] **3**Indeed, we live as human beings,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2010&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28959b)] but we do not wage war according to human standards;[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2010&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28959c)] **4**for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2010&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28960d)] but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments **5**and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

The problem of a stronghold is that it has to deal with a proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God. And what we must understand about the Greek word being used to describe a proud obstacle or lofty thing is used to talk about a partition.

Partitions can be open and closed. If you want two classrooms in the same room you close a partition and it goes from floor to ceiling and creates two separate classes in the same room. It divides the room through a lofty thing. And the reason we divide the room is so that the information in this half of the room doe not interfere with the information from the other room. What Paul is saying is that the reason we stay defeated is because of a partition in the mind.

There is a blockage in the mind. He says the proud obstacles are raised up against the knowledge of God. So what the enemy does is sets up a partition in the mind so that the truth of God cant get through. And because he divides the mind no matter how many sermons you hear it doesn’t cross over to the other room because the other room is full of contradictory information that the enemy doesn’t want the knowledge of God to cross into.

He calls this other information in the other half of the room, knowledge and speculation against the knowledge of God, and so the partition is contradicting what God says and what God thinks so it doesn’t go all the way through. And what happens is the enemy is able to keep the truth of God from fully infiltrating your thought patterns. So that you have victory in one moment and defeat in another. This partition keeps the tomb operating because the partition doesn’t let the information cross over.

Now the biblical word for this lofty thing, this partition is doublemindedness. Thinking in two different directions at the same time. It is the job of Satan to keep you thinking in 2 ways at the same time. He doesn’t mind you getting God’s thoughts on Sunday, as long as in the other room you have his thoughts on Monday. Because if he can accomplish that he can keep God’s thoughts from penetrating the whole of you.

That’s why it is not good for us to expect that showing up on Sunday after having incorporated the other world view all week long will override and bring you victory, and Paul says no you are operating with a partition. And that partition cancels out the knowledge of God making it incapable of your mind to make every thought captive to the obedience to Christ.

So in order for the penetration of Gods truth to bring victory in the area of the stronghold, that wall must be taken down so the stronghold might be destroyed and not remodeled.

The reason why Satan can keep us trapped is by controlling the other side of our minds. And when we understand this, and grasp this it becomes a transforming truth.

So if that’s the problem how do we begin to remove the partition in order to remove the division in the mind so that God’s knowledge flows through and the fortress is destroyed. Lets go back to John 8 31 -32 “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; **32**and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.””

You will only be freed by the truth, not what you believe to be true. Its not what you believe to be to be true, Jesus is talking about the truth. And the truth refers to an absolute standard by which reality is measured, and the truth always sits outside of you.

1 plus 1 is two that is a truth, it sits outside of you. You can believe that 1 plus 1 is 3 but that does not make it a truth. And so you must adjust your thinking and conform to the truth and not turn it into your truth. And one of the reasons people can stay in strongholds is because we live in our truth and not the truth of God.

We cant come out of a stronghold if we do not continue in Gods truth, if we do not abide in the truth of God. We can’t just visit the truth, we must abide in the truth. And a good place to start is Romans 6,7, and 8 because it will tell you the truth about sin. It will tell you that you are not your stronghold, it may be what you are doing, but its not who you are. You are a child of God that has a problem with your stronghold.

Paul is going to tell you to shift your identification in to your newness in Christ and consider yourself a new person. You must identify yourself as Jesus Christ identifies you because the more you identify yourself by your stronghold you are telling your flesh to be at home in your mind.

Then Paul in chapter 7 tells you that he struggles and he doesn’t tell you what he struggles with which is good because you can put your struggle there and then he gets to chapter 8 where he tells you he understood the power of the Holy Spirit and that the law of the spirit is greater than the law of sin and death and says in verse 13 therefore I no longer have any obligation to the flesh.

He understood that he has this supernatural peace from the Holy Spirit and when you tie it to the truth it has the power to break down strongholds and set you free. The truth when we abide in it through the Holy Spirit can tare down the partition of our mind. We have to let the medicine of Romans 6,7, and 8 to infiltrate our mind and let it help set you free. We must not just listen to something on Sunday, we need abide in the Lord’s truth every day to win the victory.

And there is one last thing that is important. Jesus says in verse 36 “if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. We have a little issue because verse 32 says the truth shall set you free, but 36 it says the Son will set you free and make you free indeed. In the first one I’m free, but in the second one I’m free indeed. So, what is the difference between being made free and set free, and what is the difference between being free and free indeed?

If someone comes and you are in jail and tells you someone has posted bail for you, you will shout and applaud, someone paid what you needed to get out, you will be free, but you are still in jail, you are not out. But then comes the paperwork, so there is often a gap between legally being free and being out.

The word of God posts bail, but the Son has the key to the lock. In other words it is not merely the knowledge of the Bible, it is the relationship with the author that produces the experience of the freedom that you have. When you spend time with the word according to Hebrews 4:12 it will divide between the soul and spirit. So that we can learn what is what.

And so when the written word, meets the living word in your heart soul and mind, not only is bail posted, but Jesus comes with a key and when the S on sets you free, you are free indeed. Indeed, means it is most certainly true.

To get out of our strongholds we must address the spiritual side of things and the written word needs to meet the living word in our heart, mind, and soul. On the Cross Jesus redeemed us all and gave us the power to be free indeed by abiding in him the truth, but Satan does not want us to know that, he wants a partition in your mind so that you wont believe you can be set free. But I am here to remind you that who the Son sets free is free indeed, and you must stay in his word and thank God almighty that we are free at last.