

HIS INVESTED POWER TO HELP US TO BECOME LIKE HIM

Pastor's Bible Hour – May 1, 2011

Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, **to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **Power:** or, the right, or privilege; **gave he power** — The word signifies both *authority* and *ability*, and both are certainly meant here.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

OVERCOMEING THE STRONHOLDS OF YOUR LIFE

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;

1. **Examples of Strongholds:** (Eph 4:22-32)
 - a. Bitterness
 - b. Wrath
 - c. Anger
 - d. Clamour (Loud insulting language)

- e. Evil Speaking
- f. Malice: (deliberate lying) a desire to inflict harm or suffering on another
- g. Lying
- h. Lazyness
- i. Fear

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Eph 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

2. The Development of a Stronghold:

- a. Thought
- b. Entertain that thought
- c. Action
- d. Repeated action
- e. Develops into a stronghold.

“A Stronghold becomes a fortified prison or dungeon within which unhealthy patterns of thought can hold us captive.”

“ With God’s supernatural firepower, such prisons can be leveled, freeing us to follow Jesus.”

3. **In Ephesians 6: 10-18 Tells to put on the whole armour of God**

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Eph 6:17 **And take the helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

4. **The Mind is the battleground of your soul:** If there is ever an hour where Satan is bidding for the minds of this generation, it is today.

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

5. **To be Carnally Minded is Death:**

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

6. **Overcoming Impure Thoughts:** Our battle against impure thought is far more than a mental or physical struggle – It is Spiritual Warfare:

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

- a. Both the Spirit of God and Satan need a person's mind, will and emotions through which they can express themselves.
- b. God knows that our natural inclinations easily betray us. They betray us to lean toward the flesh and the temporal pleasures that Satan offers. (The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak).
- c. God wants us to use the pressures of the battles to daily motivation to transform our minds to His way of thinking.

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;

7. **How to transform your impure thoughts into good thoughts.**

a. **Memorize the Word of God:** (Scripture a day will blow the devil away)

b. **Meditate in His Word day and night:**

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

c. **Develop a Consistent Prayer Life:**

Mat 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

- d. **Learn to live in the Fear of God:** A moment by moment awareness that God is watching and weighing every one of our words, thoughts, actions and attitudes.

Gen 16:13 "...Thou God seest me:..."

Pro 15:3 The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Psa 139:4 For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

Pro 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.

- e. **Learns God's Limitation to Curiosity:** The undisciplined curiosity is one of Satan's most powerful means of defeating us in our thought world. God has given us a marvelous intellect, but with it he gives us limitations. We are not to learn all the details of evil.

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Eph 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Eph 5:13 But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

"Satan wants to oppress and possess your thought world, the Lord wants you to have power over the spirits that attack your mind"

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Act 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

1. **Oppressed Means:**

- a. To weigh heavy on the mind
- b. To worry
- c. To keep down with the cruel use of power and authority

2. **Afflicted Means:**

- a. To be depressed
- b. To inflict physical or mental suffering
- c. To torment

3. **Bands:**

- a. A halter
- b. To restrain

Isa 58:6 *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?*

Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Joh 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

Joh 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.