

WELCOME TO



**Isaiah 61 - Setting The Captives Free
Overcoming Strongholds Part 2**



DEFINING STRONGHOLDS: WHAT ARE STRONGHOLDS?

2 Cor 10:3-5

A stronghold is:

- ARGUMENT AGAINST GOD'S REVEALED TRUTH
- ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD
- PATTERNS OF THINKING OPPOSED TO GOD

DESCRIBING STRONGHOLDS: HOW ARE STRONGHOLDS ESTABLISHED?

OUR ENVIRONMENT:

OUR ENEMY:

OUR EXPERIENCES:

- TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES
- TEMPTATION

DEFEATING STRONGHOLDS: RENEWING YOUR MIND

STEP 1 PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION

(1 Pet 1:13)

STEP 2 BE TRANSFORMED BY RENEWING YOUR MIND

(Rom 12:2)

DEFEATING STRONGHOLDS: RENEWING YOUR MIND

STEP 1 PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION (1 PET 1:13)

The devil has schemes, ways of working.
Our job is to recognise these schemes & expose
them for the lies they are.

(2 Cor 2v11)

Some need to prepare our mind for action in the area of:

LAW OF PROCESS VS EVENTS:

Matt 7v15-23 *“by their fruit you will recognise them”*



Events can be powerful but not necessarily produce lasting change: what brings lasting change is a commitment to process.

Preparing your mind for action may also involve proactively dealing with any unresolved spiritual issues in our lives:

1. **REJECTING** anything, a teaching or experience that denies Jesus Christ or the absolute authority of the bible in our lives.
2. **ACCEPTING** God's truth in the innermost part of our being & living this openly including dealing with fear & anxiety.
3. **GETTING RID** of all bitterness in our lives & forgiving others.
4. **SUBMITTING** to the governing authorities that God has placed in all our lives for our protection (which itself is an act of faith).
5. **REMOVING PRIDE** from our thinking so that we live in humility: confidence that is properly placed in God.
6. **DEALING WITH OUR SINS** through a life of accountability: firstly to God and then to others.

DEFEATING STRONGHOLDS: RENEWING YOUR MIND

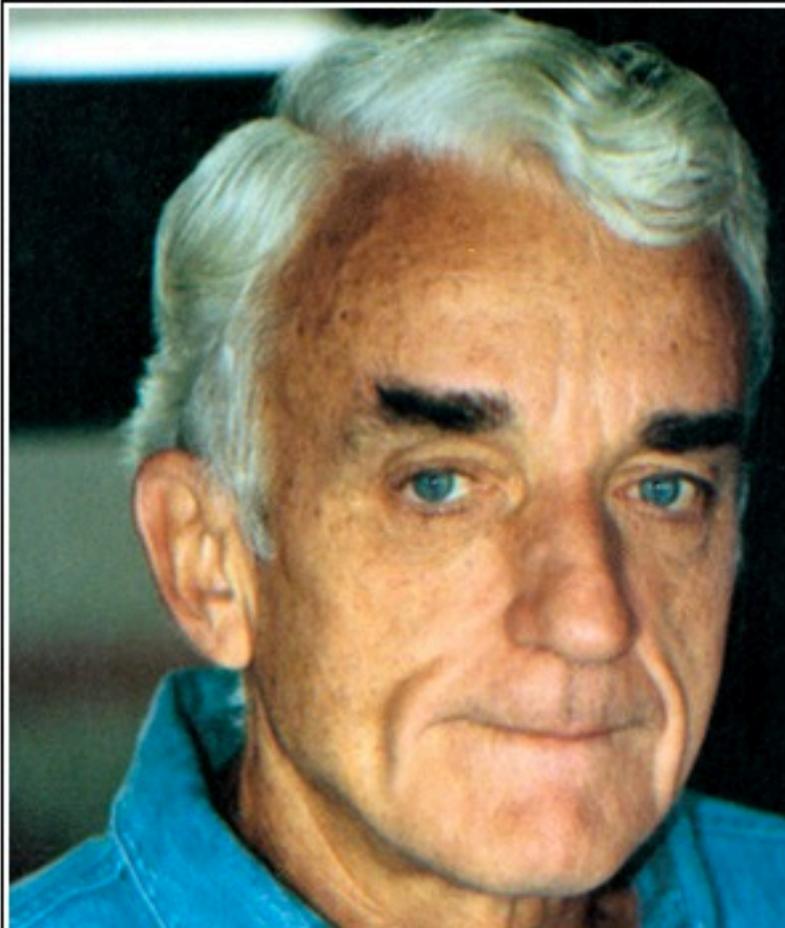
STEP 1 PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION (1 PET 1:13)

STEP 2 BE TRANSFORMED BY RENEWING YOUR MIND

(Rom 12:2)

Some need to change thinking in area: **BEING THE BELOVED OF GOD**

1 John 3v2, Titus 3 v5, Heb 10v19-20



Being the beloved is our identity, the core of our existence. It is not merely a lofty thought, an inspiring idea, or one name among many. It is the name by which God knows us and the way He relates to us

— Brennan Manning —

“You are accepted. You are accepted by that which is greater than you. Do not try to do anything. Do not seek anything...do not perform anything. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted. If that happens we experience grace”

Paul Tillich, German-American Theologian

RELEARNING OUR BEHAVIOUR BY CHANGING OUR THINKING.

1. Determine the lie (any way you are thinking that is not in line with what God says about you in the bible)

2. Find as many bible verses as you can that state the truth & **write them down**

3. Write a prayer based on this framework:

I reject the lie that.....

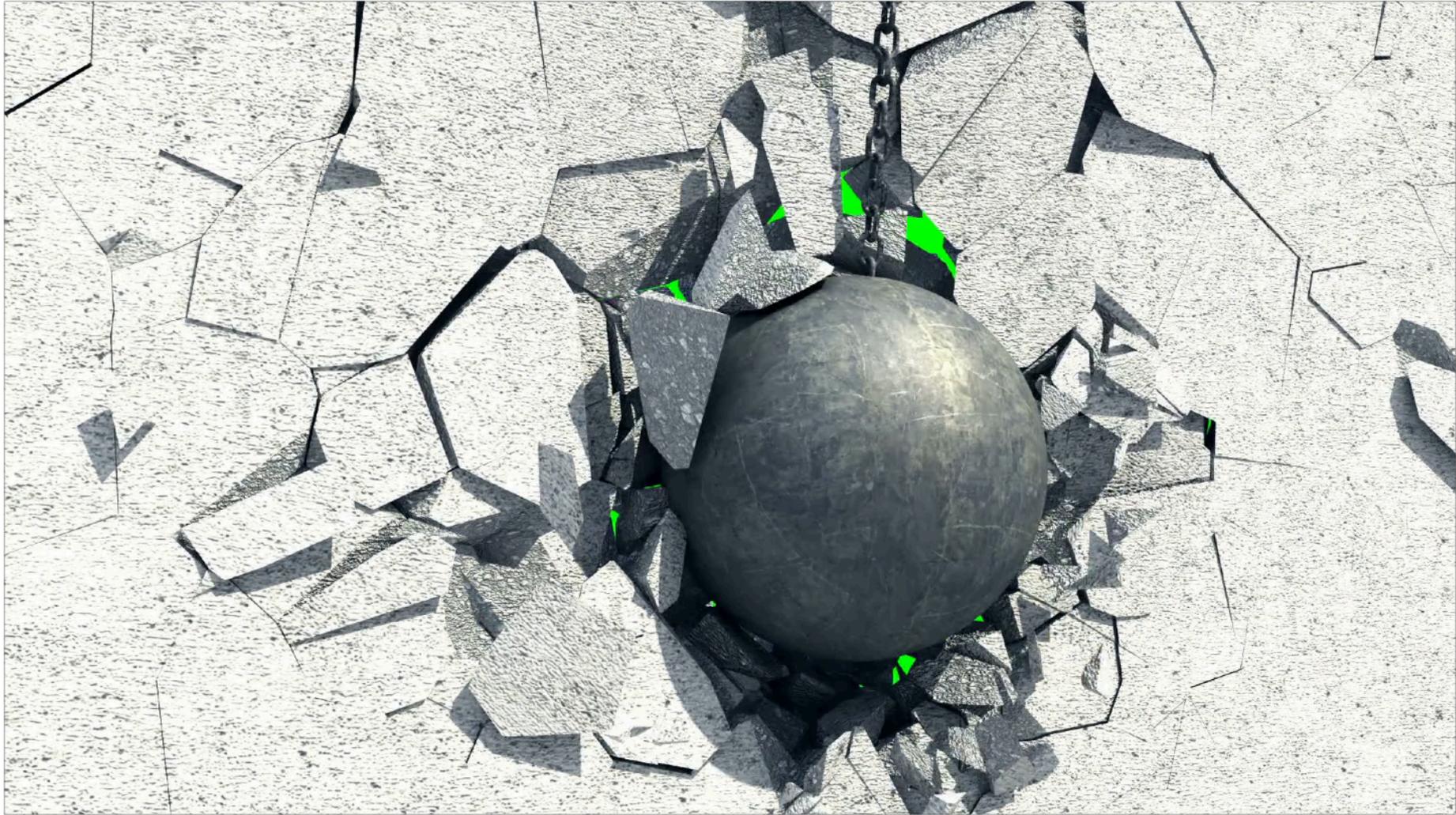
I accept the truth that.....



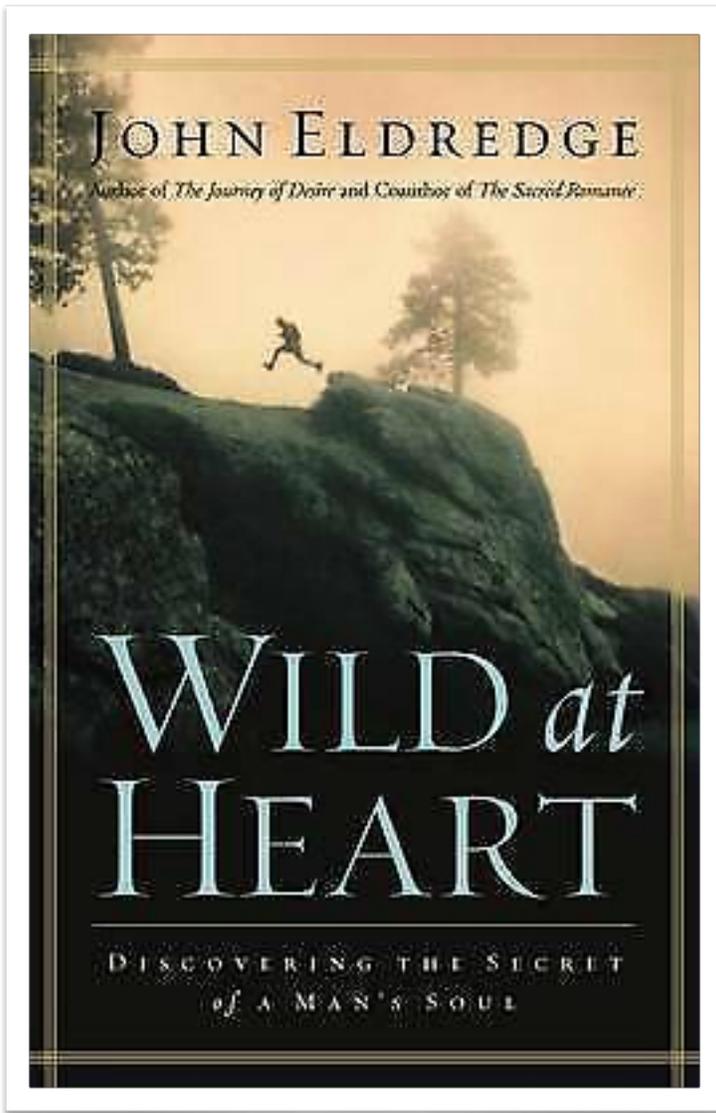
2 Cor 10:5 (MSG version)

“We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.”

Read the bible verses & say the prayer every day for 40 days, reminding yourself that God is truth & that if he has said it, then it is true for you.



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CONCLUSION:

Eph 6: Armour of God Responsive Affirmations

Prayer based on Ephesians 6:12-18

“Wild at Heart”, John Eldredge, p. 173-174

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

Prayer: Lord I choose to put on the belt of truth. I choose to live honestly. Show me the truths I need this week, expose the lies I'm not even aware I'm believing!

with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Prayer: Lord I choose to trust in your righteousness against all condemnation. Fill me and defend me against all the assaults on my heart!

with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Prayer: I choose to live for the gospel this week. Show me where you are working in people's lives. I choose not to be apathetic and instead recognise that I am an agent of your reconciliation

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Prayer: Lord I lift the truth of your word against every lie that you are good. I choose to believe you have a hope and a future for me!

Take the helmet of salvation

Prayer: Father I thank you for my salvation. I know nothing can overcome me in you. I affirm that nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ!

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

Prayer: Holy Spirit show me specifically the truths I need to counter the snares of the enemy in my life!

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Prayer: Lord I agree to walk with in step with you throughout my days. In Jesus name