



LIVING AS

CHILDREN *of* **LIGHT**

Ephesians 5:8

I CAN CHOOSE RIGHT THINKING



NewLife
CHURCH CRAWLEY

I CAN CHOOSE RIGHT THINKING

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

“We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.”

GUARD OUR MINDS – WE HAVE A SPIRITUAL ENEMY



TEMPTATION – ACCUSATION –
DECEPTION

WHAT ARE STRONGHOLDS?

- A Stronghold is a lie that is ingrained in our thinking.
- Literally was a fortified, military stronghold; a strong-walled fortress,
- Used only in 2 Cor 10:4.



TEMPTATION – ACCUSATION – DECEPTION

We have a spiritual enemy who influences thoughts:

- 1 Chronicles 12:1 (David)
- John 13:2 (Judas)
- Acts 5:3 (Ananias & Sapphira)

STRONGHOLD = "a heavily-fortified containment" is used figuratively of a false argument in which a person seeks "shelter" ("a safe place") to escape reality.

It is also the word used for a prison in the ancient world. This stronghold determines what we think and feel and rules our life, our emotions, our relationships.



Sobering verse in 1 Tim 4:1

“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.”

TWO KINDS OF STRONGHOLDS:

1. LOGICAL OR RATIONAL –

If we operate ONLY on our logic may hinder our obedience.

“False Arguments” - "bottom-line" reasoning that reflects someone's values, i.e. how we personally determine what we find reasonable or acceptable.

2. ILLOGICAL OR IRRATIONAL - we know its not true objectively but it still affects us, may get so out of control or things we worry about that are not true.

- *I'm fat (when really they are skinny)*
- *I'm always going to feel alone*
- *I'm always going to be a failure*
- *I'm useless at everything*
- *God doesn't love me (He loves everyone else)*

“Every proud obstacle/ Pretension” –

"calculated arguments, thoughts" emphasizes reaching a personal opinion, i.e. what comes out of a personal thinking.

An elevated place or thing, a barrier.

EVER TRIED TO CONVINCe SOMEONE ABOUT THEMSELVES
AND GOT NOWHERE.....?

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

- You have the power and authority to pull down strongholds
- You have to take personal responsibility for renewing your mind

Are your thoughts and beliefs based on truth or based on emotional reactions, lies, and misconceptions about yourself, about God?

QUOTE: "TO KNOW GOD IS TO CHANGE"

There is definitely some stuff we have to unlearn and some new stuff we have to learn in our thinking and habits if we are to grow.

VALUE IN NEW LIFE: transforming teaching

So how do we begin to deal with
strongholds in our life?

KERRY - ACTIVITY

CONCLUSION: SO WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

If we are seeking real change in our lives then we to commit to a plan of action. ACCEPT is a basic model for change.

A - ACKNOWLEDGE responsibility for our thoughts and actions.

C - CHOOSE to live by biblical principles in all circumstances

C - COMMIT to a plan of eliminating whatever hinders biblical change

E - EXECUTE plan and set new goals.

P - PERSEVERE in faithful obedience to Biblical principles

T - TRUST GOD for the strength and resources for change



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