

The Anatomy of a Stronghold

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STRONG: great physical power and resources.

HOLD: anything that attaches, effects, dominates or controls.

STRONGHOLD: a state of indefinite suspension

A stronghold is an attachment, example: you can feel fear without it being a stronghold but when you let that fear remain, it begins to affect your thought process, it begins to affect your actions, it begins to affect the way you live your life. It dominates how you process everything and then it begins to control everything about your life.

***A stronghold puts you in a state of indefinite suspension, including God's Word in your life, as well as your faith in that area. ***

***God's Word is a good stronghold that attaches itself to your life and puts a parameter around you that keeps you in check. ***

Genesis 1:26-28

"God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth."

The original intent of God was for us to have dominion and then came the serpent.

Ezekial 28:11- 18

"Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:

*" You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
You were in Eden, the garden of God;
The only person in Eden was Adam and Eve.
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.
You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you."*

Iniquity in this passage means to distort.

Everything about him was perfect until there became a distortion in him. What caused the distortion?

*"By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned;
Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones.
" Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,*

I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.
"You defiled your sanctuaries
By the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading;"

The original sin is pride. Pride is someone who is conceited. Pride means an inward me.

Every stronghold we have in our lives comes from distortion.

Sometimes it comes from years ago in our childhood, the devil tries to take the truth of God in our life and distorts it.
Everyone has a stronghold, you cannot live in this world without having an attachment of some sort.

Our problem is that we gloss over them and we don't think they are a big deal until it affects the way we live.

We just don't want to deal with it or it doesn't seem that big of a deal.

The Holy Spirit will gently bring things up, He wants to be Lord in every area and where there is a stronghold He cannot be Lord in that area. He is indefinitely suspended. Your faith won't work in that area. You can't operate in confidence, but it's all on hold because something else has taken hold of that area.

The only way that I can have a stronghold in my life of God that supersedes the stronghold of the enemy is to completely surrender before the Lord.

Excuses don't count, justified doesn't count unless it's justified by the blood of Jesus.

Genesis 4:3-6

"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell."

It was when Cain wanted to bring his offering is when he brought it but Abel brought his firstborn offering, the first and the best.

So many people want the microwave, easy way Christianity but you're not going to get free of your stronghold without effort on your part.

You got in a stronghold by making some choices, you must back up and make the right choices, and reestablish your footsteps in the Word of God.

"So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Sin in this passage means offense. If you don't do well and let God and His Word be your fortress, you will offense at your door.

***Offense is not just a knot in your shoe but shackles on your arms and wrists. Offense is always ready to grab you. Offense and its penalty is always waiting at any opening. ***

The offense is for any time, any place, by any means to get you in bondage.

You put yourself in a dangerous position when you put yourself in a place to be offended. Pride is always at the bottom of a stronghold.

What has Satan gotten a stronghold on you that keeps you from being radical for the Lord?

God needs to be your stronghold

Naham 1:7

"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him."

The Lord can only be your stronghold when to the measure that you trust Him.