

## Pulling Down Strongholds!

*KJV 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

*4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

*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;*

*6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

The apostle Paul uses **Strong holds** to describe **both** how the enemy blocks The Truth from entering people's minds and protects his lies.

How he builds walls, fortresses, castles and high towers to oppose The Word of God and keep it from penetrating the heart and mind!

They range from lies about creation, origin of the universe, same sex attraction, racial superiority, the definition of grace and sin etc.

A person with a **stronghold** of **racism** will do everything in their power to hold on to that mindset. They will join supremacist groups, attend rallies, meetings, buy merchandise and support those efforts.

A person with a **stronghold** of **lust** will watch pornography, go to strip clubs, sleep with prostitutes, go to conventions and do things on a daily basis to support and strengthen their desires.

A person with a **stronghold** of **gambling** will play the lotto regularly, go to casino's, play cards for money, bet on sports games, have apps on their phones etc.

As Satan and his devils fight to advance their place in the hearts and minds of people, they also fight to protect the territory and people they've already taken captive.

Paul calls this **imaginings** (**reasonings, logic and thoughts**) that become the foundation of a person's **values**.

An **imagination** is an **image** (idol) of the mind that cause people to act out what's on their minds without the thought of its consequences.

When a person blindly and subconsciously believes and does harmful things with no rational explanation, it's a stronghold in the mind.

The apostle Paul says they must be **pulled down and demolished!**

- **Strongholds** are the devil's defenses; they are **arguments or false information that defends his lies!**

### **They include:**

1. **Propaganda** which is false or misleading information designed to promote a cause or point of view.
2. **Hype** excessive misleading of the public through advertising.
3. **Publicity** the specific use of information to attract and maintain public interest.
4. **Advertising** the art of bringing something to the public's attention for monetary gain.

*ESV Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupting talk (words worthless to the Kingdom of God) come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

### ❖ **Words carry spirits and spiritual power with them!**

The words we hear daily, from music, television, movies, internet and the constant bombarding of advertisement everywhere we go is implanting thoughts in our minds.

Thoughts become imagines (imagination) we act upon!

Imagines become actions, actions done repeatedly become habits, habits repeated become strong holds.

**It always starts with a word, from Genesis to Revelation!**

*GWN Mark 4:24 He went on to say, "Pay attention to what you're listening to! Knowledge will be measured out to you by the measure of attention you give. This is the way knowledge increases.*

*ESV Luke 8:18 Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."*

Jesus tells us to **not only** be careful to watch **what** we hear, but to be careful **how** we hear!

- The **what** is the information and the **how** is the mechanism we use to interpret the information.

How we hear is based upon **understanding**, the way we grasp and comprehend information.

There is an earthly understanding that is based on our flesh, there is an emotional understanding based on how we feel.

And there is a spiritual understanding based on our renewed spirit!

When Jesus prayed about going to Calvary The Father responded from heaven.

*KJV John 12:28* **Father, glorify thy name.** Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, **I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**  
**29** The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

Some people heard thunder while others heard an angel, but Jesus heard The Father! (Three levels of hearing & understanding)

The **what** was heard was determined by **how** it was heard, or the mechanism used to receive the information.

The scripture clearly states a **voice** came from heaven, not a sound of thunder.

There's a big difference between a voice and a sound!

*KJV Matthew 12:34* **O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**  
**35** A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.  
**36** But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.  
**37** For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

**Whose words you hear determine the images formed in your mind that controls the future you visualize.**

*KJV John 6:53* Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**

*ESV John 6:59* Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

**60** When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

*John 6:66* After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

Notice the chapter and verse number **666** the number of the beast! (Rev 13:18).

**Many** disciples didn't know **how to hear Jesus!** It would seem only a small number knew **how to hear Him!**

*Joh 8:43* "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

*2 Corinthians 4:4* The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. As a result, they don't see the light of the Good News about Christ's glory. It is Christ who is God's image.

This blindness is spiritual blindness that affects discernment, mental perception and the ability to understand spiritual principles.

Jesus spoke in parables so **only** those who had no **strong holds** and possessed the desire to know God beyond the **mundane** (worldliness).

Pulling down strongholds is using The Word of God to dismantle, tear down and destroy the ideas, thoughts, concepts, teachings and beliefs Satan plants in people's minds about God and His Kingdom.