

WE GROW WHAT WE FEED.





2 And do not be conformed
to this world, but be
transformed by the
renewing of your mind,

Romans 12:2

**so that you may prove
what the will of God is,
that which is good and
acceptable and perfect.**

Our Heart is now like
God's Heart.

Living otherwise means
we are being pressured
into behaving in a way
foreign to our new Heart.

Changing the way we
think is not an intellectual
exercise.

It is the front lines of
Spiritual Warfare.

22 For I *joyfully* concur with the
law of God *in the inner man,*

Romans 7:22–23

23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Before the original sin came
the original lie.

Lies only have power when
they are believed and embraced.

The only actual weapon the devil has against us is his ability to deceive. His only authority is borrowed from those who have it.

With every lie that we embrace,
every decision we make, and the
sin that we engage in, we eat
from the Tree of the
knowledge of Good and Evil
and invite the serpent back into
our redeemed garden.

3 For though we walk in the
flesh, *we do not war according to
the flesh,*

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

4 for the weapons of our warfare
are not of the flesh, but divinely
powerful for the destruction of
fortresses (strongholds).

5 We are destroying speculations
and every lofty thing raised up
against the knowledge of God, and
we are taking every thought
captive to the obedience of Christ,

Demonic strongholds resist
the Word of God, thus
preventing the seed of the
Kingdom from growing roots
and bearing fruits.

The Good News is that God
has plans to wage war (with
our cooperation) on every
stronghold, and build a
stronghold of righteousness in
its place.

God's power is more than
enough but we cannot cast out
a demon, or tear down its
stronghold, if we are still
enjoying its company.

Strongholds are bases of operation for the demonic to work in our lives. They provide invitations (legal access) through open doors for the enemy.

Good News!

There is no shame in having
strongholds (any more than
having a cold),
and The LORD who heals is
knocking at the door of every
stronghold.

...destruction of strongholds.
Points or arguments in which
one trusts.

A belief, outlook, worldview:
A lens for perceiving events
and people. ("Your truth")

Strongholds have
fruits (our thoughts
and behaviors),
which means they have
roots (beliefs)

Identifying and
destroying strongholds
begins with one simple

question:

"Why do I believe that?"

destroying speculations [logismos]
A calculation, conclusion, judgment
The conclusions (judgments) we
make about events, people, issues
based on whatever "strongholds"
we believe, (which also serve to
reinforce the stronghold).

We feed our strongholds
whenever we try to
interpret life without
involving God in our
conclusions.

The chief purpose of every
lie of the enemy is to
separate us from the love
of God by making us believe
He is not good, He is not for
us, and He does not love us.

When we do not involve God
in our conclusions about life's
events, we risk becoming
offended with God.

That is the mother of all
strongholds.

The first key to overcoming
demonic strongholds is to
stop feeding them.

...against the knowledge of
God

"God's knowledge"

What God knows vs.

what the enemy would
like us to "know."

Once we have identified
the lie behind the
stronghold, we get the
sword of the Spirit in
our hand and fight.

Find scripture that gives
God's truth about the lie:

Memorize it.

Sing it.

Meditate on it day and
night.

A stone castle with a wooden bridge over a lake at dusk. The castle has several towers and a central entrance. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has railings on both sides. The sky is dark with some light clouds, and the water is calm.

...taking every thought

captive

active thoughts (that
lead to some action)

Once a thought is
recognized as a lie, we
have identified our
problem.

Taking those thoughts
captive means they are
now bound, instead of us.

The 3 step plan:

1. Submit to God

2. Resist the devil

3. Watch how fast he will
run from Christ in you!

...taking every thought

captive

to the obedience of

Christ

Victory in Spiritual Warfare
results in us resting in the
completed work of the
cross. Trusting in Christ in
Us to do the work we
could never do.

Becoming free of strongholds is a process of remaining spiritually healthy:

Eat well (feed your spirit)

Rest (cease from striving)

Exercise (be a do-er)

Which of God's truths and
ways do you find yourself
resisting the most?