

FORTRESSES AND PRISONS
FEBRUARY 17, 2016

INTRODUCTION: We all are engaged in spiritual warfare. The devil is real, demons and evil spirits are real. They're all real beings that hate us and seek to devour and destroy us. Knowing this, it's essential to learn how they operate in order to protect ourselves against their attacks. Attacks aimed at our thinking and belief system, designed to establish strongholds in our lives.

2 COR. 10:3-5

1. Stronghold defined.
 - A. Fortress – Ancient fortresses had thick walls that were high and difficult to penetrate. Jericho's walls were as such. These walls were designed to keep the enemy out.
 - B. Prison – The same Greek word was used to describe a prison. Prisons had fortified walls, steel bars and guards designed to keep prisoners from getting out.
2. Satanic stronghold defined.
 - A. Fortified place built on lies that acts like a fortress or prison in a persons mind and emotions.
 - Fortress – Keeps out those who try to penetrate the wall of lies with truth. **MK. 7:13** – “Born Again”
 - Prison – Satanic lies operating in the soul hold him captive behind mental and emotional bars. **ACTS 26:28**
3. Two kinds of strongholds.
 - A. Rational – **2 COR. 10:5** – “Imaginations” is logismos in the Greek. It means logic or logical thinking. **PR. 3:5-6** Logical thinking that contradicts God's Word can talk us out of obeying God.
 - B. Irrational – These have to do with unrealistic fears. Fears of rejection, dying prematurely, or as one individual stated “going into anaphylactic shock” over everything she wears, eats or drinks. Fear of change, failure, success, commitment, loss, taking risks and many more.
 - If any of these control us mentally or emotionally, they must be dealt with, with God's Word. **HEB. 4:12**
4. Questions to answer.
 - A. Are there areas of our thinking controlled by lies or fear, doubt or worry?
 - B. Are we constantly attacked in the areas of our self-worth and self-image.
 - C. Do these attacks cause dysfunction mentally or emotionally?
 - D. Do you feel imprisoned by these thoughts and emotions?
5. The answer. **2 COR. 10:5**
 - A. We must take our thoughts captive, and not allow our thoughts to take us captive.
 - Paul didn't say to take the devil captive.
 - B. We take our thoughts captive by repeating the scripture that refutes the thought. **JOHN 8:31-32**
 - C. The truth can't liberate us if we don't use it. **PHIL. 4:8-9**
 - The theory of displacement holds that two objects can't occupy the same space at the same time. By focusing on what God says, we force what the enemy says out of our thinking.
 - D. **ROM. 1:21-32**
6. We blow up the fortress by:
 - A. Identifying the root cause of our feelings.
 - B. Find out what the Word says.
 - C. Declare war on the feelings and thoughts.
 - D. Refuse to receive old thoughts.
 - E. Speak the Word as Jesus did.
 - F. Worship God for the truth.