

## 7-24-19 Wednesday Night

II Corinthians 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

II Corinthians 10:2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

### LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

#### ***I. THE BATTLE IS NOT PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL***

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Satan works in our minds. But when we walk in the spirit and not in the flesh he can do nothing.

This is where it started in the garden of Eden:

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Notice how subtle Satan is:

His temptation consisted of a suggestion.

His temptation was to cast doubt on God's Word.

His temptation was to instill rebellion against God.

Spiritual matters consist of thoughts, intents, and ideas.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

The Spiritual Battle is a battle for our minds:

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

The best defense against the wiles of the devil is a mind that is cleansed by the Word of God.

The Word of God washes and cleanses our thinking!

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Psalms 119:9 {Beth.} Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalms 19:12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

How does this happen?

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

## **II. SATAN SETS UP STRONGHOLDS IN OUR MIND.**

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

What is a strong hold?

3794 ochuroma, okh-oo'-ro-mah; from a remote der. of 2192 (mean. to fortify, through the idea of holding safely); a castle (fig. argument):-

stronghold.

----- Dictionary Trace -----  
2192 [?]echo, ekh'-o; (includ. an alt. form scheo, skheh'-o; used in certain tenses only); a prim. verb; to hold (used in very various applications, lit. or fig., direct or remote; such as possession, ability, contiguity, relation or condition):-be (able, X hold, possessed with), accompany, + begin to amend, can (+ -not), X conceive, count, diseased, do, + eat, + enjoy, + fear, following, have, hold, keep, + lack, + go to law, lie, + must needs, + of necessity, + need, next, + recover, + reign, + rest, return, X sick, take for, + tremble, + uncircumcised, use.

What are these strongholds? They are false ideas of Satan that have been fortified in our minds.

Satan sets these false ideas up through the world, educational institutions, religious organizations, etc..

They are reinforced and reinforced until we they are implanted and fortified in our minds.

This is what is going on right now in society to get us to accept the radical ideas of the LGBT crowd, the radical environmentalists, and feminists.

***III. The bricks and mortar of these strongholds are imaginations, and exalted ideas and thoughts that rebel against the knowledge of God.***

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:  
II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)  
II Corinthians 10:5 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;  
II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Analyze the attack of Satan in the garden and can you see how the devil built up a Satanic fortress in the mind of Eve.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

***1. His foundation of his fortress was this idea?***

"HATH GOD SAID.." A statement of doubt. Doubt of God's word is the door opener to all Satanic attacks on our mind.

***2. Satan introduces confusion as a tool to set us off guard.***

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Eve was not there when God gave the command. She got the information second hand from her husband. She should have said. Let me get my husband he knows better than me.

God did not say don't touch it, he said don't eat it!!!

Satan is the author of confusion. He introduces confusion through the weakness of our flesh. He introduces confusion through drugs, through alcohol, through other means. We do not need confusion.

Illust. Problem with my back and went to the doctors. They gave me drugs that did nothing to heal my back. I finally figured out it was easier for me to put up with the pain than it was to take the drugs.

There are a lot of things that cloud our thinking.

In Eve's case she wasn't there when the command was given.

II Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Fear will cloud our minds.

There is a healthy fear and an unhealthy fear.

The fear that leads to our obedience to God is healthy.

The fear that leads to unbelief is an unhealthy fear.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

### **3. THE NEXT THING THAT THE DEVIL DOES IS TO FORTIFY HIS STRONGHOLD WITH THE BRICKS AND STONES OF FALSE IDEAS, AND IMAGINATIONS.**

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

#### **1. CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS: These are fabricated ideas that sound good but oppose the knowledge of God.**

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

What were the imaginations that the devil threw at Eve?

He said You Won't Die! A total fabricated lie!

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Then he comes up with the fabrication of an idea:

In fact when you eat the forbidden fruit you are going to be equal with God knowing good and evil?

**2. SATAN'S STRONGHOLDS IN OUR MINDS ARE MADE UP OF IDEAS MOTIVATED BY PRIDE.**

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

Casting down every high thing that exalteth itself against the obedience of Christ.

When we put what man thinks above what God says, these are proud exalted ideas and thoughts.

**3. SATAN'S STRONGHOLD IS MADE UP OF THOUGHTS THAT REBEL AGAINST GOD'S WORD.**

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

**IV. WE ARE IN THE BATTLE WHEN WE TEAR DOWN THESE STRONGHOLDS IN OUR MINDS, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR LIVES**

There is no neutrality in this war. Jesus said either your for him or against him.

II Corinthians 10:5 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;

We are to cast down these imaginations.

**1. These Imaginations:**

3053[?]logismos, log-is-mos'; from 3049; computation, i.e. (fig.) reasoning (conscience, conceit):-imagination, thought.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

3049[?]logizomai, log-id'-zom-ahee; mid. from 3056; to take an inventory, i.e. estimate (lit. or fig.): -conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

## **2. These high things:**

Notice sometimes there are things in our life that we elevate that are contrary to God's Word. This reminds me of the high places in the Bible..

Sometimes people know that there is something in their life that displeases God yet they refuse to let it go!

5313[?]hupsoma, hoop'-so-mah; form 1312; an elevated place or thing, i.e. (abstr.) altitude, or (by impl.) a barrier (fig.): -height, high thing.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

1312[?]diaphthora, dee-af-thor-ah'; from 1311; decay: -corruption.

## **3. These thoughts**

3540[?]noema, no'-ay-mah; from 3539; a perception, i.e. purpose, or (by impl.) the intellect, disposition, itself: -device, mind, thought.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

3539[?]noieo, noy-eh'-o; from 3563; to exercise the mind (observe), i.e. (fig.) to comprehend, heed: -consider, perceive, think, understand.

## **V. THE WAY WE FIGHT THE DEVIL IS TO TAKE REVENGE ON HIS ATTACKS BY DOING THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE WANTS. WE OBEY GOD!**

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

We revenge disobedience by doing just the opposite of what the devil is trying to get us to do.

The strongholds are cast down in our lives when we obey the Word of God.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## **VI. WE ALL NEED TO BE IN THE BATTLE AND RESIST SATAN.**