

WASP: Strongholds

The Greek word for stronghold is *ochuroma* (ὀχύρωμα), which means to fortify by holding safely. A stronghold is what one uses to fortify and defend a personal belief, idea or opinion against outside opposition. A stronghold is the fortification around and defense of what you believe, even if it is a lie about who you are in Christ. Most minds come into salvation with old attitudes and wrong patterns of thinking which are protected by self-erected strongholds. There is need for renewal of the mind¹ and release from these strongholds in order to be able to receive God's truth and develop a Christ-like attitude. The key to receiving renewal as fast as possible is to tear down the strongholds around these wrong mind sets².

If you have believed and bought into a lie, you will fight to protect that belief. The lie might be that you are unloved, unwanted, unnecessary, unsuccessful, unworthy or any of those other ugly “un”-words. If you've decided the lie must be true, you will erect a stronghold to defend your right to believe it. Repeated attempts by those around you to convince you it is a lie will be viewed as attacks, causing you to reinforce its protective stronghold.

The root problem is the vulnerability of a damaged soul and its strongholds. Erected by a wounded soul to keep further pain out, these strongholds lock the pain in. Erected by a wounded soul to protect lies birthed from traumatic experiences, these strongholds keep God's truth out. Satan knows exactly what kind of stronghold you will erect to protect your unmet needs, wounds, fears and humiliating memories.

3 Ways Strongholds are Established

Personal strongholds in individual lives: ***inner influence*** - ***wrong attitudes, wrong patterns of thinking, ideas, desires, beliefs, habits, behaviors learned from ungodly sources and outside influence*** - ***generational bondages and word curses spoken about us, to us, and/or by us.***

Attitude is defined as a mental position or feeling toward something or a position assumed for a specific purpose. Wrong attitudes can include self-centeredness, unforgiveness, bitterness, negativity, and impatience.

Wrong patterns of thinking occur when our minds are set and are locked into place so rigidly that the same actions or thoughts are formed the same way every time by routine. Anyone who has repeatedly been told they are stupid, ugly, worthless, or a failure will invariably develop patterns of wrong thinking. Those patterns have the power to mold all future input negatively into a reinforcement of that wrong belief, overriding the truth. Some other wrong patterns of thinking include self-hatred, the sense of personal worthlessness, self-deception, self-destructiveness, etc.

¹ Romans 12:2

² 2 Corinthians 10:4

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Wrong ideas and wrong desires can include evil imaginations; wrong theories, reasonings and thoughts; and proud, lofty and high pretensions. Wrong desires can include covetousness, self-gratification, or self-indulgence. Wrong desires generally come from an inner drive to satisfy an unmet need that has been in your life for a long time, even from childhood.

Wrong beliefs can become distorted perceptions of "truth". Sustained faith in a wrong belief can cause the erecting of a stronghold which will effectively block the receiving of God's truth.

Wrong behavior and habits - Stress, pain, and guilt can stimulate a response of wrong behavior such as substance abuse or overindulging/underindulging in food. Fear of being controlled can stimulate a response of manipulative control. Negative responses of anger, cruelty, sarcasm, and mockery can become habitual forms of behavior.

Ideologies and philosophies (e.g. communism, relative humanism, etc.)

Cultural, geographical and political sources