



KINGDOM OVER CHAOS | PT.1 THE MIND | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

“WHO ARE YOU?”

“WHO ARE YOU REALLY?”

AS A CHURCH, THE LORD HAS GIVEN US A MISSION STATEMENT (WHY WE EXIST) AND A VISION (WHERE WE HOPE TO BE)

OUR MISSION:

WE ARE KINGDOM FOCUSED: We hope to inspire people to experience Christ and help them grow, building the kingdom today.

OUR VISION:

THE EDGE CHURCH SEEKS TO BE: A Bible based community, that is Kingdom Focused, Spirit Empowered, Authentic in worship, Effective in service and one that Impacts our world for Christ.

HIS KINGDOM IS BOTH PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL. IT IS BOTH OUR NEW IDENTITY AS ADOPTED SONS AND DAUGHTERS AS WELL AS THE EMBODIMENT OF JESUS ON THE EARTH (THE WORLDWIDE BODY OF CHRIST).

MARK 16:14-20

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT “DOING” BUT “BEING” LIKE JESUS

BUT IF WE'RE HONEST, IT'S HARD TO EMBRACE A NEW IDENTITY WHEN FOR YEARS WE HAVE EMBRACED THE WORLD'S IDENTITY.

ROMANS 7:8-23, ROM 8:9-11

TRUTH: GRACE IS NEVER AN EXCUSE TO SIN OR COMPROMISE BIBLICAL VALUES; IT'S A MEANS TO OVERCOME SIN AND LIVE FREE.

IN IDENTITY WE HAVE:

- PURPOSE
 - VALUE
 - AUTHORITY
 - PROMISE
- = ACCESS & ABILITY**

WE LIVE IN A BIT OF A WORLDWIND OF CHAOS...

YET, WE ARE NOT CALLED TO SUBMIT TO, ACCEPT, OR BE A PART OF THE CHAOS.

WE ARE A PART OF THE KINGDOM, AND WE LIVE AMONGST THE CHAOS TO SPREAD THE KINGDOM.

THE MIND:

ROM 8:1-17

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE ENEMY:

1. OUR ENEMY IS SATAN
2. THE ENEMY AND HIS DEMONS ARE NOT FLESH AND BLOOD
3. THE ENEMY HAS GOALS
4. IN JESUS WE HAVE POWER AND AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY
5. THE ENEMY LOOKS FOR AREAS OF WEAKNESS WHERE WE GIVE HIM AN OPEN DOOR/ACCESS TO OUR LIFE.

ONE WAY THE ENEMY SEEKS TO DEVOUR, OR DESTROY US IS WITH **INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS AND MENTAL ANGUISH**

WHEN WE KEEP HOLD OF THESE KINDS OF THOUGHTS AND WE HARBOUR THINGS OF THE FLESH, THESE AREAS WITHIN OUR MIND ARE CALLED STRONGHOLDS.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

STRONGHOLD DEFINED (IN THIS BIBLICAL-SPIRITUAL CONTEXT):

A STRONGHOLD IS A MENTAL FORTESS BUILT OF LIES, WITHIN THE MIND, THAT ATTEMPTS TO PROTECT THE ENEMY'S FOOTHOLD IN THE MIND.

-STRONGHOLDS ARE NOT “CAST OUT” LIKE DEMONS, THEY MUST BE “CAST DOWN” (WALLS TORN DOWN!)

This does not mean that every time you feel (or experience) a negative thought or temptation, you instantly have a stronghold!

TRUTH: Biblical Theological Concepts are NOT enemies with Psychological Science/Study but often go hand in hand!

THERE IS REALITY, AND THEN THERE IS FALSE REALITY.

THERE IS TRUTH, AND THEN THERE IS GOSPEL TRUTH.

THERE ARE SYMPTOMS AND ISSUES, AND THEN THERE IS A SOLUTION.

IF STRONGHOLDS BECOME OUR MINDSETS... THEN WE CAN SAY THAT MINDSET IS EVERYTHING... AND OUR MINDSET IS BASED ON OUR DOMINANT THOUGHTS!

3 SPECIFIC KINDS OF STRONGHOLDS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE) THAT I'VE NOTICED:

-FEAR

-REGRET

-GRUDGE

-FEAR:

When a fear stronghold takes root, it can distort reality, silence faith, and magnify the enemy above God... it seeks to replace faith with self-reliance, making us demand certainty about the future instead of trusting God's provision

-REGRET

Psychology says there are 4 types of regret:

- a. **FOUNDATION REGRET:** If I had taken that job, or saved that money, or not sold that, I would be stable.
- b. **BOLDNESS REGRET:** If I had taken that chance, I would have seen ____.
- c. **MORAL REGRET:** If I was good enough, or didn't do that sin, I would be ____.
- d. **CONNECTION REGRET:** If I had married that person, if I had called __, If I had stayed friends with __. If I had said this to __.

-GRUDGE

Psychology says there are 4 diff types:

- a. **PASSIVE GRUDGE:** seeks to punish a person by withholding
- b. **SCOREKEEPING:** keeping a mental ledger of every small offense
- c. **VIGILANT GRUDGE:** expecting hurt, so anger/bitterness keeps them safe
- d. **SUPERIORITY:** thinking they are better than others, while blaming the other party for their own problems.

ALL OF THESE ARE TYPES OF MENTAL STRONGHOLDS THAT PLACE YOU OVER GOD, AND THAT CAN DESTROY YOUR IDENTITY.

IN IDENTITY WE HAVE:

- **PURPOSE (TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL/GLORIFY & WORSHIP GOD)**
- **VALUE (JESUS CHRIST ATONED FOR YOU FULLY)**
- **AUTHORITY (WE HAVE THE POWER & ABILITY IN JESUS)**
- **PROMISE (WE HAVE COVENANT, BIRTHRIGHT BLESSINGS)**
= ACCESS & ABILITY (WE ARE BORN-AGAIN, CHILDREN OF GOD)

THE ANATOMY OF A STRONGHOLD:

STRONG HOLD INNER WALLS: The original lies may have a small kernel of truth to them.

OUTTER WALLS: Lies built on top of lies that began to project a false reality.

TOWERS: The “epicenter”, the biggest exaggeration that makes it hard to distinguish fake from reality.

COMMANDERS: The thoughts themselves that keep on replaying the lies.

THE TEMPLE: The thing/object/etc. that the lies are based on that tries to steal all your time, focus, and devotion.

THESE MENTAL STRONGHOLDS CREATE DIVISION, FLATTER YOUR OWN MIND, RELIES ON SELF... IT'S IDOLATRY!

BUT STRONGHOLDS CAN BE CAST DOWN TO THE GROUND!

1 COR 10:4-6

ROM 16:17-20

HOW TO CAST DOWN (BREAK THE WALLS) OF A STRONGHOLD:

- 1. ENSURE THAT ALL DOORS TO THE ENEMY ARE CLOSED.**
- 2. MAKE THE DECISION THAT YOU WILL NOT GIVE UP.**
- 3. EQUIP YOURSELF WITH THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD.**
- 4. COMBAT LIES WITH TRUTH AND DON'T RETREAT BACK TO THE COMFORT OF LIES.**
- 5. DO NOT TREAT GOD'S GRACE AS AN EXCUSE TO SIN, BUT AS A WAY FOR FREEDOM**
- 6. WORSHIP & PRAISE THE LORD!**
- 7. BE KINGDOM FOCUSED!**