

## Strongholds – Identity Theft!

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1 Thessalonians 5:23 <sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
NKJV

Genetic - Body

Psychological – Soul

Environment – surroundings that get in our spirit.

Notice that each one of these areas of strongholds deal with who you are or who GOD has ordained you to be. Satan wants to steal, kill, or destroy your identity through setting up strongholds in your life.

He tried to steal **Nehemiah's** identity while he was a door keeper but he couldn't because he believed GOD's plan.

He tried to steal **Joseph's** identity while he was enslaved and imprisoned in Egypt but he couldn't because Joseph believed GOD's plan for his life.

Put your name in there...

He tried to steal \_\_\_\_\_ identity while they were going through a financial crisis but he couldn't because they believed GOD's plan for their life.

**DAVID WAS A RUDDY NONAME SHEPHERD BOY OUTBACK TENDING SHEEP BUT HE BELIEVED THE PLAN OF GOD FOR HIS LIFE AND THE LORD EXAMINED HIM AND HIS LIFE AND SAID "I HAVE FOUND DAVID, THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHICH SHALL FULFILL ALL MY WILL"**

Notice what David did, he faced Goliath that represented stronghold for the good for the Philistines and a stronghold for the bad for the Israelites.

2 Samuel 22:3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My **stronghold** and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.

If your stronghold is for God then it's all good!

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David also took on a stronghold that was affecting other people. He wasn't only concerned about his personal strongholds. Sounds like Bishop Long to me. He is always concerned about us.

Noticed what he used. The Bible said he took for himself 5 smooth stones. Stones aren't naturally smooth; they have to stay in the water for some time before the rough edges wear off. ...Rough rocks won't work right in the sling.

You represent the smooth stone...

Notice what he aimed for... the head.

Bishop's definition: A STRONGHOLD IS A FORTRESS OF WRONG THOUGHTS THAT ARE FORMED IN OUR MIND AND AFFECTS OUR LIVES A STRONG HOLD IS A FORTRESS OF WRONG THOUGHTS THAT ARE FORMED IN OUR MIND AND AFFECTS OUR LIVES

The enemy tries to re-define your frame of reference which is GOD for a Christian.

Example: Rainbow sticker

If he can control your way of thinking then he can affect your access to the Kingdom.

Levels of Access –

What you have – Can be lost or stolen

What you know – Can be forgotten or coerced

Who you are – Can be changed

When I get into my wife's car to make a phone.

Voice recognition – When someone prays for you their prayer is generic. To get what GOD has for you only your voice can unlock those blessings.

The devil tempted JESUS the same way. Matthew 4:6 He essentially was asking Jesus - Who are you?

When strongholds are present in our lives, they prevent us from becoming all that GOD ordains us to be.

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LifeLock – dares someone to steal his identity.

Unmet needs serve as places that the enemy will try to setup a stronghold.

An unmet need not fulfilled by GOD will open the door for a stronghold.

He wants to be the supplier of all our needs.

If we love the counterfeit then we will learn to hate the real.

Knowing and owning up to our strongholds enables God to set us free from them.

Common strongholds: rebellion towards authority, anger, unforgiveness, rejection, sexual immorality, lying

Indicator's that strongholds exist: broken promises, overuse of the words – never, should and always, denial, minimizing and maximizing problems, blaming, and addictions;

### Understanding Strongholds

1. Fixed and rigid disguise are called strongholds.
2. A stronghold exercises great power and control over someone or something.
3. A stronghold also means to secure safely.
4. There are 3 components to strongholds:
  - a. Genetic
  - b. Psychological
  - c. Environmental
5. Generational sin is parental disobedience and rebellion towards God that repeats itself in the offspring.
6. Generational sin, practicing sin, unmet needs, accepting counterfeits and tragedy are some of the ways that Satan gains access to our lives.
7. The Law of Freedom and Bondage says: At first I exercise the activity, then the activity exercises me.
8. There is an aspect of sin that is pleasurable to keep people in bondage.
9. We repeat what seems and feels good.
10. There are two ways that God can deliver us from strongholds:
  - a. Jericho experience - instant
  - b. Cross experience – process