

# The Eyes of Faith: Spiritual Strongholds

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

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**Matthew 6:22–23** <sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Whatever is not of truth is a lie; therefore, if its not truth then it is darkness, and “If the light in you is darkness,” meaning that if your perception or understanding is not being guided by the truth of Christ, then you are in grave spiritual danger.

“But if your eye is clear;” if you are walking in the light, as He is in the light, then the Holy Spirit of God will guide you into all truth, and the truth will bring you freedom from all the schemes of the devil for it is truth that sets free from the bondage of sin, free from satanic lies, and free from damnation.

“Open the eyes of our heart Lord, we need to see you!” Show us your glory! Make us see Your truth.

## Strongholds Of False Teaching. 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Paul was an apostle sent by Christ to the people of Corinth. No one had gone to the Corinthians ahead of Paul to take to them the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was sent to “open their eyes so that they could turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, so they could receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who were sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ.” (Acts 26:18)

However, in his absence, false apostles had come in opposing the truth concerning Christ, even though they presented themselves as His apostles. These false apostles had filled the minds of the Corinthians with speculations and thoughts which were contrary to truth. These false teachings, speculations, and thoughts had become strongholds over the minds of the people leading them into disobedience against Christ. Paul, their spiritual father was in a battle to rescue them from the disobedience into which they had fallen.

“We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.” Paul (2 Corinthians 10:4)

**Spiritual Weapons:** The Word of God and the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 2:4–5** <sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

## Strongholds of Cultural Influence.

**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

As children of God, we cannot think and act like the world. We must have our minds transformed by the Word of God. This transformation is ongoing by the power, help, and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

As we learn of Christ, the Holy Spirit speaks the truth of Christ into our circumstances. We must change and replace our thoughts with the truth of God's word.

## The Stronghold of Fear and Doubt

**2 Timothy 1:7** For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (or a sound mind as in the authorized version).

- Self-discipline over our mind

**1 Timothy 1:14–15** <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

The truth is that God loves us. Jesus died for us. He is our savior and deliverer. He is our righteousness. He is our advocate with the Father. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

## Tearing Down Strongholds

**2 Corinthians 10:5** *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

**Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

## When the tempter comes - The Example of Christ.

Matthew 4:4–10 But He answered and said, "It is written" (and) **"Go, Satan! For it is written!"**

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

## Conclusion.

Don't allow yourself to be taken captive by Satan through his lies. He is the father of all lies. There is no truth in him. He hates and despises you, seeking to kill, seeking to steal, and seeking to destroy you through whatever means available to him. He is the god of this age who blinds the heart and mind from the light of the gospel.

**Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The Word of God is our defense and our offence against the lies of the enemy! "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Jesus (John 8:32)

**John 8:36** So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.