

## **Sermon Notes**

**Galatians 5:1 (NIV)**

**Sanctification – Learning to Live in Freedom**

**Freedom: The power to make the righteous choice**

**Acknowledge where the Battle Begins: Your Soul (Mind, Will & Emotions)**

**Dealing with Strongholds: Taking Back the Ground** (see card handout/pdf)

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (ESV)** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, <sup>6</sup>being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

**Stronghold: A mindset that leads to conclusions contrary to the Bible.**

**Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)**

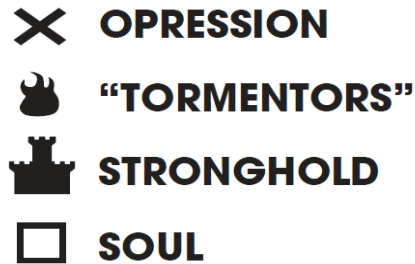
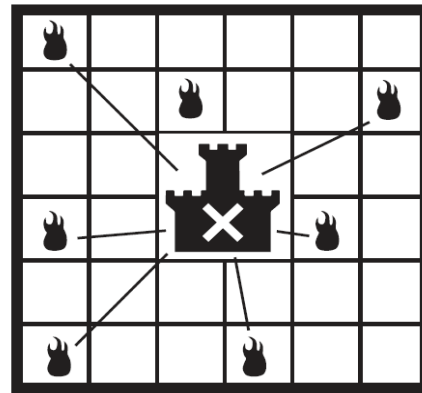
**“Tormentors” - Frustrations and/or Sedations**

**Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)**

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1) What impacted you the most from the week’s message? Encouraged or Challenged you?
- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. Do you know of any strongholds in your past that you have dealt with? Any in your present? Are you motivated to “take back the ground?”
- 3) Read Ephesians 4:26-27. Have you ever struggled with forgiving others? Do you feel like ‘the enemy had a foothold’ because of it? Do you feel like this lead to a stronghold in your life?
- 4) What are your thoughts on “tormentors” in your life? Are you attacked with frustrations, sedations, or both? Explain.
- 5) Read Psalm 23:3. Do you really believe that God is on your side? How can you trust Him more, on a daily basis, to be your Shepherd who *restores your soul* and *leads you in paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake*?

# DEALING WITH STRONGHOLDS TAKING BACK THE GROUND



- This grid represents our **soul** which is made up of our **mind, will, and emotions**.
- **Bitterness, greed and immorality** attract demonic activity.
- The enemy has **jurisdiction** over surrendered “ground”.  
**Ephesians 4:27**
- A **stronghold** is created, which is a mind-set and conclusions contrary to Scripture. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** God allows “**tormentors**” to afflict us, thereby warning and teaching us. **Matthew 18:34**
- God allows “**tormentors**” to afflict us, thereby warning and teaching us. **Matthew 18:34**
- The steps to regain the surrendered “ground”:
  - \* Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal past offenses.
  - \* Confess bitterness, greed, and/or immorality as sin.
  - \* Claim the cleansing of Christ’s blood. 1 John 1:9
  - \* Ask Jesus to reclaim the “ground” that was surrendered. Psalm 23:3
  - \* Pray and ask God to tear down the stronghold of habitual sin.
  - \* Fully forgive all those who have offended you.
  - \* Prepare for temptation by “sandbagging”. (Scripture memory and application)