

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Overcoming Idolatry

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
October 15, 2023



### What is holding you back in life?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV) "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.<sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.<sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

v. 5b (NKJV) "...every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God."

**Stronghold = anything that exalts itself in our minds, "pretending" to be bigger or more powerful than our God.**

### God has given us 3 weapons to demolish strongholds:

Ephesians 6:17b-18 (NLT) "...and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion."

#### 1) His Word.

*"We take our thoughts captive, making them obedient to Christ, every time we choose to think Christ's thoughts about a situation or stronghold instead of Satan's thoughts or our own thoughts. What are Christ's thoughts? The Word of God to us." Beth Moore*

#### 2) Spirit-empowered prayer.

#### 3) Confession within Gospel community.

James 5:16 (NLT) "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

### Overcoming Idolatry is necessary if we want to experience true freedom in Christ.

- **God gives Life but idols steal our life.**

Exodus 20:2-6 (NIV) "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.<sup>3</sup> "You must not have any other god but me.<sup>4</sup> "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.<sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.<sup>6</sup> But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."

Psalms 16:4 (NLT) "Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods."

- **Every stronghold involves the worship of some kind of idol.**

Galatians 4:8-9 (NLT) Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist.<sup>9</sup> So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world?

Psalms 135:15-18

Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37 (NLT) "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?<sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?...<sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?<sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."

- **Until we turn from our idols to the one true God, we will never find freedom.**

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV) "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

**Big Idea: Surrender to the True God to break strongholds in your life.**

Isaiah 43:10-13 (NLT) "But you are my witnesses, O Israel!" says the Lord. "You are my servant. You have been chosen to know me, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God. There is no other God—there never has been, and there never will be.<sup>11</sup> I, yes I, am the Lord, and there is no other Saviour.<sup>12</sup> First I predicted your rescue, then I saved you and proclaimed it to the world. No foreign god has ever done this. You are witnesses that I am the only God," says the Lord.<sup>13</sup> "From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done."



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
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To get plugged in email:

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### Overcoming Idolatry

#1 of 10 - October 15, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Isaiah 6 and Romans 12:1-2 and we talked about responding to God's grace with decisive dedication. How has God been speaking to you this week in this regard? What did you learn and apply this week?
- 2) What did you find most helpful about this week's message? What questions do you have?
- 3) What is a Spiritual Stronghold? Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What is holding you back today?
- 4) Read Exodus 20:2-6 What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 5) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 6) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us? In what way do we pursue idols today? How does this affect our lives?
- 7) Why does God not want us to worship and serve other gods and idols?
- 8) Read Isaiah 43:10-13. What do learn about God in this passage and what does it tell us about us?
- 9) How does our view of God help us overcome idolatry and strongholds in our life?
- 10) **Application:** What steps is God asking you to take today?
- 11) Take time to pray the Scripture prayers in the APP Fill in Notes this week.



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