

Bringing down lofty things

“For though we walk in the flesh we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing that raises itself up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...”

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-7

There are **seven central strongholds** (the ravings of darkness) with their corresponding human protectors that obscure their existence. These protectors join with strongholds in producing an enclave (entrenchment). Many strongholds are rooted in our need for recognition or personal obsession.

Think about these strongholds and the impact of each you have seen in your life and in the lives of those around you. How would each of these hold you back in your spiritual life.

IMMORALITY (vs. an occupying purity)
Protectors: pornography, incest, and adultery

ANGER (vs. a trusting peace)
Protectors: critical discontentment, a biting or gossiping tongue, and abusive speech

INDEPENDENCE (vs. confident dependence & contentment with weakness)
Protectors: non-commitment, aloofness, disengagement, isolated lifestyle, control and manipulation

FEAR (vs. quiet confidence and peace)
Protectors: anxiety, isolation or unplugging, and lashing out

ARROGANCE (vs. humility)
Protectors: superiority in knowledge or insight, partiality and value judgments of other's worthiness, self justification, and self obsession

LYING (vs. speaking truth and being set free in conscience)
Protectors: slander, tall tales, twisted advantage, and flattery

GREED (vs. generosity and trust)
Protectors: anxiety and anger, hoarding, partiality based upon economics, and workaholism
