

Bible Study
Strongholds Imprisoning African American Men
2 Corinthians 10:3-6
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I. What Are Strongholds?

- A. Stronghold is from the Greek word "ochuroma" which means, "to fortify through the idea of holding something safely". A stronghold is like a castle or fortress.
- B. Spiritual strongholds are arguments, reasonings, opinions, ideologies and philosophies contrary to the knowledge of Christ.
- C. Strongholds are from the devil and his demonic host.
- D. Strongholds are so resilient that they require weapons to combat them.
 - 1. You cannot negotiate with a stronghold.
 - 2. Strongholds do not just go away with time.
 - 3. Strongholds must be destroyed, brought down and demolished.

How to know when you are dealing with strongholds:

- The person refuses to alter their behavior even though they know it will be of personal benefit.
- Problems have not changed over a period of time but have gotten worse despite human effort.
- When a person is consistently and openly hostile to the Christian faith.

II. Ways Strongholds Affect Us

- A. The Fear of Intimacy – Many African American women complain about the black man's lack of affection and attention. Whether or not this is true may be debated but the perception is there. Some results of this stronghold are:
 - 1. Fatherless homes
 - 2. Poor examples or role models
 - 3. Fear of rejection
 - 4. Fear of loss
- B. The Warrior Mentality – This stronghold has anger as its foundation. The first great warrior mentioned in the Bible is Nimrod (a black man) in Genesis 10:8-9.
 - 1. Results in higher rates of violence and homicide.
 - 2. Homicide is the leading cause of death for African American males 15-34 years old.
- C. Polygamous Sexuality – Polygamy was commonly accepted in Africa. Since there are few options available to African American

males to achieve success, many have chosen to exercise their "maleness" in the bedroom.

1. Impoverished single parent homes
2. Divided marriages

III. Weapons For Strongholds

- A. Since strongholds are resistant and formidable powers only special weapons can bring them down. God has given us spiritual weapons to defeat spiritual strongholds.
- B. Satan's arsenal is mostly fiery darts that are hurled at believers from a distance.
- C. Our weapons are mighty and include the following:
 - W** – Word of God (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12)
 - E** – Effective Prayer (James 5:16)
 - A** – Armor of God (Eph. 6:13-17)
 - P** – Praises of God (2 Chro. 20:21-23)
 - O** – Offerings of God (Mal. 3:8-11)
 - N** – Name of God (Prov. 18:10)
 - S** – Spirit of God (Zech. 4:6)