

BINDING THE STRONG MAN

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

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Lets turn to II Cor. 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.*

Pulling down strongholds is our job. Remember that pulling down strongholds belong to the church. It's a job that belongs to the church. When you see Satan, demons or demonic power don't be afraid of them. You don't have to cry for God to do the deliverance for you. God has given to the church of Jesus Christ authority and power over all devils, all demons, all sicknesses, diseases and over Satan himself. He has crushed Satan under the feet of the church. Authority belongs to the church to pull down strongholds.

Verse 5 *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

We talked about bringing every thought to be subjected onto Jesus Christ. In our first two messages we introduced the subject of the thought realm. We mentioned how thoughts are like spiritual DNA, how the thought world and the thought realm are related to the spirit world. We have four points but we have given three in both messages. We talked about how thoughts come in patterns or in groups. We spoke about how there are certain conditions that are necessary for the thought patterns to grow and develop.

Thirdly we speak about we can alter and change that pattern through the area of visualizing. We can change those wrong thoughts that Satan has corrupted. We talked about how Satan tries to corrupt our spiritual DNA through implanting the wrong thought and how we overcome that through the realm of God's word. When Heb. 4:12 mentions that the word of God is sharper than the two edged sword, it means that it discerns the intent and thoughts of our heart. The Hebrew writer is talking about the word of God dealing with the hidden agenda, purposes, motives, and intentions in our life.

Now we want to look at especially at the area of transformation and how it will lead us to the fourth point where we talk about the energy of those thoughts being released. The energy of those thoughts is released through the spoken words.

The first point we considered is that our thoughts form pattern. Then in point two, we saw how thought patterns need certain conditions to grow like a seed. A seed needs water, sunlight, and proper nutrition to grow. So there need to be a certain proper atmosphere for the thought to develop and we are talking of the right spiritual atmosphere and right human emotions of course. Thirdly we talked about how certain things can alter the pattern of the thought by visualizing and the realm of vision.

Now the fourth area is the release of the energy of our thoughts by means of the spoken word. Words are not just empty words. Jesus says in the book of Jn. 6 that His words are spirit and they are life. His words contain life. The bible does declare that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Then Jesus turns around and said in Mk. 11:22-24 to have faith in God or more accurately, to have the God-kind of faith. He then implies that there is power in our spoken words if we do not doubt in our heart. That means the thought patterns in our heart are properly formed by the Word and think according to the Word. If you don't doubt and you speak the word of God that word contains the energy from the spirit realm. Now different amount of our words contain different amount of energy, depending on the first three points. So the fourth is

releasing the energy of the thought through words.

Let me point to a few scriptures before we illustrate the fourth point. II Cor. 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

The word *transformed* is the Greek word *metamorphoomai*. *Metamorphoomai* means to be changed. It is from the word where get *metamorphosis* as in the transformation from a caterpillar into a butterfly. When we insert the word *metamorphosis* in place of the word *transform*, we read: *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being **metamorphosized** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

You see as we behold that same image of the Lord or as we see the glory of the Lord, we become what we see. There is something that must take place before we can see. It's in the first part of that verse, *But we all, with unveiled face*. Obviously if we don't get the first part correct we can never get the rest. Paul illustrated the debilitating effect of the veil in the first couple of verses before this verse. How when the Israelites under the old covenant and even those Jews who still have not come to know Jesus hear the scriptures being read in the synagogue, something is covering their faces. Then Paul contrasted the unbelieving Jews with the believers by saying, *"But we all, with unveiled face."* The word *unveiled* is not talking about the physical face. It's talking about the mind. The context tells you that something is blocking their mind in verse 14. *But their minds were blinded*. Those are some strongholds to pull out from their minds before they can see the Lord and be *metamorphosized* into the same image of Jesus from glory to glory.

These wrong thought patterns and wrong thinking processes have become so much a part of their traditions and ungodly, unrenewed thinking that their minds had calcified, fossilized and hardened like cement inside them. These wrong thinking habits need to be pulled down. As long as they are not pulled down they are hardened. No matter how much scripture they read, nothing gets into their

blockheads, so to speak.

In the verse *But their minds were blinded*, the word *minds* comes from the word *noema*, and *noema* has a meaning closer to the word *thought pattern* or *thoughts*. It says their minds were hardened. *For until this day the same veil remains, unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.* Only Christ can take away that veil. Then he turns around and say in verse 18 *we all with unveiled face*. So he talks about the light of Christ that comes and breaks through and gives us a new way of looking at things.

If you read II Cor. chapter 3 and 4 it all seems to be in the past tense. The veil is done away in Christ. It's done away in Christ. But even chapter 3 tells you that there is a process. If we put everything together, what we see is that the process of our spiritual metamorphosis begins by turning to Christ. It continues from glory to glory until we meet Him face to face. Something started in our lives when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. And this something is the process of the renewal of the mind, the process of pulling down strongholds and putting on the mind of Christ.

Lets look over at the book of Romans chapter 12 and that ties the word *metamorphoomai* to the word *mind*. Rom. 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this world, but be metamorphoomai, be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

When the bible talks about thoughts, it always uses the word *noe* or *noema*, which is the conscious mind. In the verse, *by the renewing of your mind*, the word *renewing* in the Greek is *anakaino*, which means to renew again. Which means once upon a time before the fall men had a wonderful clear mind. But after the fall because of sin nature we were corrupted in our spirit, soul and body. When Christ came into our lives, our spirit is born again. Our minds are being renewed. Our bodies are put in a state of preservation until Jesus comes in the rapture and we are given a new body. So it says that you may *be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you*

may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The same Greek word *transformed* obviously ties to II Cor. 3 where there is a transformation into the image of Christ and it depends on the thought realm. We have proven to you by connecting all these scriptures that transformation depends a lot upon the unveiled mind and pulling down the strongholds of our old thinking and putting on the mind of Christ. The mind and the thought is a powerful realm. It's a realm that can bind or loose. We need to be aware of that thought realm.

Let us have two illustrators, one standing on this side and one standing on that side. I have in my hand a toilet roll. This toilet roll for the time being represents the thought realm. When our thoughts are spoken or thought there is a power that is released.

Sadhu Sundar Singh in one of his books mentioned about how when you enter a place, you sometimes feel the thoughts of the previous people who have been there. We leave behind impressions of our thoughts in a place. The strength of these impressions depends on the strength and frequency of those thoughts. The quality and the quantity of the thoughts determine the impressions left behind. In the natural it is the same. After you have sat here in this auditorium, a dog can find out which particular seat you sat on by its sniffing. You leave behind a portion of your physical body odor.

In the spirit realm and in the soul realm we do leave behind an impression of the thought realm. After sometime it fades away just like after sometime other odors replace your body odor. Similar things happen in the soul realm and in the spirit realm. There are different degrees of our thoughts and as an illustration, they are symbolized by this piece of the toilet roll. Some of our thoughts are weak. They are like this toilet roll paper just unrolled with nothing to strengthen it. Can you hold that side of the roll tightly and give a strong pull until it breaks? Some of our thoughts are very weak. They have no power in the spirit realm. Our words and our thoughts do affect the spirit world in a same way as demons do. Describing the spirit world is not easy. You see demons live in the spirit world. They don't have

bodies. They do have personalities, which imply they do have soul. So demons are disembodied spirits and they don't have a physical body. That is why they like to possess people to express themselves through.

Demons affect the physical world by throwing fiery darts. How do you hear a temptation? How do you feel a temptation? In the thought realm. Temptation comes to you in the thought realm. Now look at us human beings from this point of view. We humans are spirit beings, we have a soul and we live in a physical body. Our spirits and souls can think. When we think it also does affect the spirit world to a certain extent depending

on how strong those thoughts are.

The majority of people's thoughts are usually very weak. They depend on the first three points we covered earlier, that is, the pattern, the conditions, and the amount of visualizing involved. It will affect in the same measure of strength. Thoughts are just like toilet rolls that are unrolled. Let the two persons at the opposite ends of the unrolled toilet roll now turn it clockwise. Keep turning it until it forms a spiral twist. What is happening is that the twisting of the unrolled toilet roll symbolizes your thoughts forming a consistent pattern. Whether they are good thoughts or bad thoughts, they are now becoming a consistent pattern. Some of our thoughts are weak and they don't carry much strength.

When you confess, "By His stripes I am healed," you don't get healed because your mind is telling you that you are not healed. Your spiritual eyes are telling you that you are not healed. Your thoughts are telling you that you are not healed. Your heart doubts and you are not healed. Your words carry very little power. Don't talk about removing mountains when you can't even move a molehill. Sometimes our words are very weak and we wonder why our words are not so powerful.

Now let us twist and turn the toilet roll into a rope. Thought patterns are forming. As the thought pattern forms, they develop into a stronghold. As the loose and weak thoughts increase in quantity, consistency and persistency, they become the

main bastion of our thought life. They can form strongholds in our life if they are bad thoughts. Or they can generate positive and tremendous transformation if these thoughts are based on the Word. When you have the right thought pattern according to the word of God and your mind is renewed you begin to be changed and transformed. On the opposite side you become more oppressed if your mind feeds on and dwells on negative, demonic and dark suggestions. Either way the principle works. As they keep turning the thoughts over and over again in their minds, they are forming into a pattern.

Someone once said that all habits start with the letter "t" which stands for thoughts.

You act on that thought and it becomes "it."

You act on it a second time, it becomes "bit."

A third time, it becomes "abit."

Doing it frequently, it becomes a "habit." That habit is either your stronghold that keeps you in bondage or a spiritual strength that transforms you from glory to glory.

When the thought patterns are constantly replayed in one's mind, they begin to gain strength. They are taking a foothold in your life. Just now you saw that the unturned toilet roll could easily be torn. Now they have turned it one round and this thought begins to form a more consistent pattern. As the toilet roll is turned a second turn again, it becomes stronger still. The thought begins to form a pattern. The pattern builds upon itself and is now becoming like a rope. Two strains are being joined together. It begins to form a consistent pattern. It has formed into a two strands rope. Then if you keep thinking of those thoughts again, the thoughts become a stronger pattern. A mere piece of toilet paper can be turned into a multi-stranded rope. Can you break this rope? We are talking about pulling down strongholds. A mere piece of toilet roll formed into a rope has gained such strength that it requires additional human strength to tear it.

Consider what would happen if we multiply that factor by one thousand? It will be almost impossible to break that rope made of toilet roll. That's what happens when

such a simple, powerless and weak thought becomes constant in quantity and sharper in quality. How do we measure quality? Quality is measured by vision. The sharper the image in your thought life, the greater the quality of your thoughts. According to those two it will build a stronghold in our life. Don't ignore any weak thought. By its mere repetition, it becomes very strong. How important it is to think the right thought.

Lets look at II Cor. 10:4 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Now notice the words that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. What are those weapons? The bible reveals that our main weapon against the enemy is the spoken word of God.

Let us cross-reference to the book of II Cor. 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Now he hasn't finished his subject. In chapter 4 verse one *therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.* What ministry was Paul talking about? It is the ministry of unveiling the heart. The ministry of tearing down strongholds. The ministry of opening the hearts and minds of people to the Lord.

In verse 3-7 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose kind the god of this age had blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Verse 16-18*

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet **the inward man is being renewed day by day**. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but **at the things which are not seen**.*

Again, the realm of visualizing is connected to renewing the inward man. *The inward man is being renewed day by day*. How? By looking at *the things which are not seen*. Paul ties the daily renewal of the inward man to vision. He is talking about the invisible realm - the realm of the thought, the realm of the spirit. You notice in verse 18 *the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal*. Everything that is touchable, seeable, around us is built through the word of God. The word of God is the spoken mind of God. Heb. 11:1 tells us by faith we understand that the worlds were framed. They were formed in God's mind first. Then God spoke and released the pattern through the word. Now words are also in proportion to the thought patterns. That mean the quality of your word would be directly proportional to your thought life.

Turn to II Timothy where I show Paul speaking about the pattern of word. II Tim. 1:13 *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus*. He calls the words that he spoke a pattern. A certain combination of the words. Of course those words that Paul spoke came from his thought life. Those words form pattern. The pattern of our words is equal to the pattern of our thoughts.

The thought realm and the spoken word are directly related. Your tongue will speak whatever pattern is formed in your mind. When you speak forth the spoken word, it is just like turning two ropes together into a pattern. That represent as I mentioned the thought pattern becoming stronger. Do not be disheartened if you start in your Christian life being weak in your thought life. Your thoughts about Jesus are pretty weak. Every day as you walk with God, you develop your consciousness of God's presence. The thoughts that you think become clearer. You begin to understand the mind of Christ. The word of God that you read every day begins to divide and discern the thoughts and intents of your heart.

Cross reference to the book of Heb. 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* These all form part of the pattern of thoughts that the word of God comes and cleanses.

We always talk about the word of God as a cleansing agent. What exactly does it cleanse? The first thing that it has is the effect on our lives. As the word of God has an effect on our lives, it begins to change our thought pattern - the way we think, the way we think about others, the way we think about God, the way we think about our job, circumstances and ministry. Your thinking becomes more and more in line with the word of God.

To remove the wrong thoughts we need to identify which thoughts are wrong. How do you and I know which thought patterns are wrong? Only the word of God can tell us. So when we all come to know the Lord we all were born again in our spirit but our minds were not renewed yet. There were a lot of wrong thoughts patterns as a result of our emotional state of being, past unrenewed thinking, childhood, teenage years, hurts in our past, terrible things we have gone through like the fears, turmoil, tribulation, traumas. These bad experiences may have left behind strong twisted patterns of thoughts in our life.

We have illustrated the thought pattern with one strand of toilet roll. But there are many more strands in our life. Some of them could be wrong thoughts, some are right. How do we know which are right? Spirit and soul are so tied up that we don't know which thoughts are spirit and which are soul. That is where the word of God like a two edged sword comes in. The word of God is like a sword that divides the wrong thought pattern from the right thought pattern. All of us have inside each one of us seeds that are wrong. The enemy planted them before we were born again - fallacies, half truths, wrong models or paradigms of thinking, wounded emotional thinking or overly rational thinking that precludes the word of God or whatever it is. When we got born again the seed of God is planted in us and the mind of Christ begins to operate. Suddenly we find that there is such a thing as right thinking and wrong thinking, or the bible thinking and satanic thinking. We found a raging battle and conflict in our life as Paul mentioned in Rom. 8.

There are two major points in this message - the first is how strongholds are formed. They are tied to the thought realm. Words and thoughts are linked together. Words are the visible part of the iceberg and thoughts are the invisible part of the iceberg. Now if you try to break a multi-stranded rope of toilet rolls, you will find it harder to do so. You can't. Likewise, there reaches a point in our thought pattern where it gets more and more difficult to break. Some of your thoughts are in the beginning realm. Some of your thoughts are in the halfway stage towards obsession. The strongholds haven't formed yet but some are in that dimension where they dominate your life. You can't free yourself since you have been bound. Satan now has a stronghold on your life. It's hard to break free.

So in our first main point we showed you how these thoughts are formed into strongholds. Don't despise the small little thoughts. Think them long enough; visualize them long enough and they become like this tough multi-stranded rope made from fragile toilet paper. Now Rom. 8 shows us the pattern of the battle of our mind. The reason I read Rom. 8 to you is to show you how much our Christian life is tied up to our mind and our thinking. Christianity is not just a mind religion or thought religion. It's a spiritual realm. But we are trying to be very practical in the developing of your spiritual life. Earlier I have read scriptures to show you that how much we are transformed depends on how renewed we are. We can have our wrong thought patterns broken till they are cast off and lying around. If you tie a person's hands together with this multi-stranded toilet roll, you will find that it is not be an easy rope to break. That's what happens in our life when those thoughts patterns become strong. The bible says we have a choice to pick.

Over the past two sessions I have shown how Paul says to think the right thoughts. Now here in Rom. 8: 5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.* Look the word there "set." Now the word *set* implies that the pattern has formed. It says those who *set their minds*. The word *set* is talking about set form of thinking or a pattern of thinking. When your pattern of thinking is constantly set on the flesh, it will produce after its kind. When it's in the Spirit as you saw in Rom. 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* That's important. Our main point one is how strongholds developed.

In sub-point 1A we will show you how strongholds develop and how transformation is related to our mind. Under 1B we will talk about different degrees of the thought realm. There could be strongholds or there could be arguments. If you look at II Cor.10 there are different degrees of reasoning, arguments, strongholds and debate. These different degrees of thoughts combine to form patterns.

How do we break those strongholds? How do we take authority? Just imagine a person being bound by the multi-stranded twisted toilet paper. A stronghold has wrapped itself around his life. We only illustrated with one stronghold. Remember in some lives there could be more than one stronghold. If I keep wrapping a person up with many rolls of normal tissue paper without twisting the rolls several times beforehand, you could easily tear the papers apart. I am sure you can. Some strongholds are easy to break and some are tough. But if you now use the same unrolled toilet papers and twisted them several times, then put them together and twisted them again, you get a tough paper rope. The material is the same. You use this tough paper rope and bind somebody with it. Look it's actually paper that is binding a person. It is not even steel wire. But that paper has got power now through forming a pattern. Now you see how important it is to prevent the wrong pattern of thinking from happening? It can keep you in bondage. It can make your life miserable. It can drive you to a life of crime, sin, despair, suicide but yet, if you come to think of it, they are merely immaterial and invisible thoughts.

When your strongholds are too strong and you cannot set yourself free, the second thing to look at is the natural world - the world that you can see and touch. I want to show you how and what takes place as your thought patterns are thought and spoken out.

Turn with me to Matt. 16:17-19 *Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on*

earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

So we have one strong rope there. Suppose one holds the rope at one end and another holds the other end. The two persons represent the thought realm and the physical realm. What I want you to know is that the thought realm is real. You could feel the heaviness or the lightness of the person's thought. Our thoughts affect the spirit realm as much as the spirit realm affects our thoughts. People never think that the spiritual law works both ways. If the spirit world can affect your thoughts, then remember that your thoughts can also affect the spirit world. The opposite is always true. The law of God works both ways.

Now we talk about binding and loosing. How can our thoughts bind or loose? How the binding and loosing take place? It is released through the spoken word. According to the strength of the spoken word the binding and loosing take place. Matt. 18 is a different category but yet it talks about the word of God.

Matt. 18:16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. Here he is talking about judgment. But He says in verse 18 *Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* Now He is talking about binding and loosing over a different category, a different matter, a different subject from Matt. 16 but the process is the same since the channel is through the spoken word.

When Jesus cast out demons He spoke out His command. It is the spoken word. Of course demons also sometimes come out by the anointing of God without words being spoken. One word from Him and demons flee. When the Jews try to claim that it's from others Jesus says that before you spoil the goods you must bind the strongman. How does He achieve it? Through the power of the spoken word.

There are different types of thoughts and different types of words that we speak all the time. Let say that we are in the natural world here. We can't see the thought

realm. The thought realm is symbolized by what they are holding. It can bind or it can loose according to how much we have renewed in our mind and are *metamorphoomai* into the image of God. We are changed and we are renewed.

Lets suppose the devil shoots darts at a Christian. Different thoughts enter his mind. The devil begins by stirring up thoughts in his mind and the Christian would try to bind his thinking. At first the devil begins by planting a weak thought in him. Now the devil doesn't necessarily start with a strong thought. Those thoughts need to be added to your own emotion for them to gather strength. The devil must find something in you in order to find strength against you. Your greatest enemy is not the devil it is yourself. Jesus says that Satan has nothing in Him. Therefore Satan has no authority and power over Him. The devil attempts to do that in His life. But as long as there is no fear, doubts, sin or any fertile negative ground from inside giving the strength to the devil's suggestions, they cannot take root and develop. However, if he yields to those thoughts and think those thought, those thoughts begins to form a pattern in his mind. Those thought patterns slowly develop into strongholds in his life until they become bondages.

Now it is possible at the same time to have good thoughts to repel and counteract the bad thoughts but if the good thoughts are smothered and overpowered, the bad thoughts rise up like a giant to keep him in bondage. How does he free himself? Remember binding and loosing is tied to the spoken word. The spoken word is tied to the thought realm. So he would have to look into the thought and claim the word of God.

There is one possible way that the stronghold can be broken. When water is added to paper, what happens? Water is a symbol of the Word and the Holy Spirit. Lets say he attends church regularly and gets watered by the word. As the water keeps coming it slowly begins to weaken the hold and break the stronghold. Then as more of the water of the word starts coming in, the Holy Spirit and the word begins to work in his life. So he gets free and he gets sent back to the enemy territory.

Now the devil is still prowling around him like a lion and throwing all manner of

fiery darts, deception, thoughts and temptation at him. He can't see the demons. But he begins to soak in God's word. He begins to confess God's word. The devil is still at his tricks and disturbing him. But the Christian begins to speak the words of God. As he begins to speak the word that represent the spirit realm the angels, or Holy Spirit start coming down. It could be, "The word of God is on my life. No fear, no evil shall come near my dwelling place." Some of the words that he speaks are weak because the thought patterns are not formed properly or strongly. If the pattern is not there, his thoughts are as weak as toilet paper. When he tries to bind the enemy, the enemy keeps breaking them.

Initially, when you begin to take authority over the devil over your life, he keeps breaking free and he keeps disturbing you. But as the Christian begins to meditate he begins to understand the importance of constant thought patterns that are correct. As he holds on to the word of God, he begins to feel the word of God in his life. When you could feel your thought they have become a pattern in your mind. You know sometimes a thought cannot be felt. But the time you could feel it, it has become very strong. It has affected your emotional realm. That's like in the Hebrews when he says about those who see from afar and those who embrace, those who believe, those who confess. So he begins to get a pattern of strong words coming forth. He begins to see and visualize the word of God clearly and finally these thought patterns are coming out of his life. Out of his spirit come forth these thoughts. They are strengthened and you can use them to untie your bondages and even the bondages of others.

Although the devil seems like he is bound but he is bound more in the territorial sense of the word. Everything that belong to you everything that your hand touches, the devil is not supposed to cross the blood covenant line. The devil cannot disturb him any more. He is affecting the enemy through his spoken word. What is happening is that the thoughts that you think are very important.

The question we ask you this morning is what kind of words is coming out of your mouth. Are they just like toilet paper tissue? Or are they like Paul's words. Paul told Timothy to hold fast the pattern of sound words, which you have heard from me. That means when Paul speaks his words were like a strong pattern. There was power in his word. He has meditated over his word. He feels the word in his life

burning strongly which is the word of God. These words that we speak in the realm of the spirit begins to bind the enemy. This way in the spirit world either you are binding or you are being bound. Either you are pulling down strongholds or strongholds will be formed over your life. That's how in the spirit world the spoken word is so important. The power of the spoken word - that's our main point two on binding the strongman depends on the quality of your thought pattern. It also depends on the frequency of your confession and how much you really believe your own words.

Lets look at Mk. 11 on removing the mountain. We only illustrated with one strand but in the spirit world the battle is constant over many areas. Some of our thoughts and confession are just like toilet rolls tissue with no strength, no pattern. They are weak and not powerful. They don't affect the enemy at all. Nor do they knock down any stronghold.

In Mk. 11 it says there is something you do about your word. In verse 23 *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever say to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done.* How many of the words you speak do you really believe it will come to past. Are they just loose words like toilet tissue? Are they well formed pattern of words like the way Paul spoke. He says to Timothy to hold fast the pattern of sound words, which you have heard.

When we understand this concept and these things that are taking place in the spirit world, we will then know how to pull down strongholds through the spoken word. It is important to apply these things in our life. Every morning and every evening everyday as often as you can make a declaration. No matter what you feel, whatever you are feeling, whatever you are thinking, when you wake up, verbalize your good thoughts. Say them out. Believe in what you say. You must say to the mountain. As you speak forth those words, as you visualize those words, as you feel those words in your life taking a hold, they begin to gain more and more dominion in the spirit realm. It is important to write down the things God gave you. Write down the visions and dreams God gave you. Are you confessing those dreams and visions everyday? Are you speaking them over your life?

Now in the spirit world that is another dimension of the spoken word. It is also called blessing and cursing. We know how powerful the blessing is. What makes those words of blessings powerful? The anointing of the Spirit and the depth of those words. It makes it go far. We need to everyday get into the word of God. What we illustrated with just one strand, one pattern is a daily affair in our life. Which is why Paul says in Rom. 12:1 present your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to Him. Now these are the basic procedures.

Rom. 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* There are two points that we leave you with as a conclusion. No.1 present yourself. That talks about surrender to Jesus. You cannot overcome thoughts with thoughts. You need Jesus to come into your life. The light of Jesus must come in until all your consciousness is of Jesus. Don't try to dream dreams of your own or see visions of your own or do things in the flesh or do thing out of covetousness or of greed. Before all those powers can be broken, you have to be surrendered to Jesus.

Now this is repeated several times in the scriptures. In the book of Rom. 7:23-25 *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God but with the flesh the law of sin.*

Romans 8 complete the body part it's preserved. But it says I serve the law of God. I thank God through Jesus Christ. A consciousness and surrender to Jesus is the first pre-requisite. It doesn't matter if you have been born again. If Jesus is your Savior you need to learn how to make Him Lord. Making Jesus Lord is not something you do once ten years ago when you accepted Christ. Making Jesus Lord is something we do everyday. The Lordship of Jesus is practiced out everyday, every morning, every evening. Everyday of your life you dedicate yourself to God. You surrender your spirit, soul, and body to God until all you want is Jesus. All you love is Jesus. Every part of your being is being yielded to Jesus. It is just like adding water to the bondages that the enemy tries to put on you. You see there are some strongholds

you cannot break yourself. You need Jesus. You need the water of the word, the water of the Spirit to come. As it washes you, the rolls of bondage is easily washed away by water. Just let it soak in longer and longer. If you soak that toilet roll long enough, it will weaken. It will be weakened to a state where you can break it. The first application is to surrender yourself and present your body as a living sacrifice to God.

Now lets look over at Exodus and see something taking place in Moses' life even as he was being transformed. Now this is the physical illustration of the spiritual one in II Cor. 3 and it started with Moses.

Exodus 34:30 *So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. The skin of his face was shining. It was a spiritual typology of what can happen. If Moses' skin was shining what was happening to Moses' mind? You can see it in the verse before that. Look at verse 29 I think verse 29 is more powerful than verse 30. I mean verse 30 is powerful and verse 30 captures everyone. Wow his face shone like a bulb. The manifestation of the Spirit - the moves of the Spirit and all the works and gifts of the Spirit - captivate everyone. But I think verse 29 is even more powerful. Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. You know it is a miracle that Moses' skin shines. But it is a greater miracle that Moses was not aware of it. How can he not be aware of it?*

It is a miraculous thing that the blind see, the lame walk, cancer patients healed but you know the most glorious thing is when Jesus comes to the service. It's a glorious thing when the Spirit touches us and we shake and roll. We laugh, we cry. But you know the most powerful thing is that you are conscious of God and God alone. You are so much in God that you are not even conscious of the side effects. Moses was so conscious of God and talking with God that he didn't realize his face was shining. The greatest humility that you can reach is when you are not even conscious that you are humble. The greatest righteousness you can reach is that you are not even conscious of your righteousness but you are conscious of Him. The greatest power that you can reach is when you are not even conscious of your

power but you are conscious of Him. If you want the higher power don't stop where many other people stop.

We should No.1 be so totally surrendered to God that you are only conscious of God. You know what I do when I minister. I don't try to visualize people falling under the power. People may do that and succeed to a certain extent. You know what you should do. I concentrate on the presence of God until all I want to do is just to be conscious of God. Until I lose consciousness of what I am doing. Just do whatever the consciousness of God leads me. Then you will reach the highest form of power

That's No.1 surrender to God until you are only conscious of Him. That's what he means when he says present yourself as a living sacrifice. If you want to be a powerful song leader you don't worship until you could feel the power behind your worship. Until you could feel the power of your voice. You could feel the effect on the congregation. No, you worship until you yourself got lost in His presence. Forget about trying to touch others. You just make sure you touch God and the other things will come. You will definitely touch others if you touch God. No.1 surrender until you are conscious only of God. All you want is God and you are lost in God's presence. Every move of God is wonderful but every move must bring you to a greater conscious of God.

I mean some get sidetracked by the manifestations rather than stay focused on the presence of God. John G. Lake had to correct a young man. When he prayed for people things happened but after awhile he was caught up with the manifestations. John G. Lake said, "You missed one thing." John G. Lake could tell you that because John G. Lake had experienced powerful things. He said, "You took your mind off God." We should never take our minds off God. If you really want to move deep into God, be really absorbed in God. When you worship God, when you love God, when you minister onto God, when you preach for God, when you do anything for God you want to be so absorbed in His presence that you forgot your face is shining; you forgot the power is released from your hands; your power is pouring out from your lips until you are not even conscious of the miracles, signs and wonders exploding all over the crowd. You are only conscious of God. That is the realm that will break every stronghold when Christ's light comes and appears in

your life.

No.2, Rom. 12:2 the renewal of the mind. We know what that renewal is. It is the part of letting the word of God dwelling richly in your life, in your emotion, in your spirit, in your word, in your vision. Just be so soaked in the word of God until every part of your being is in line with the word of God. What is the end result of verse two of Romans 12? Until you become the word made flesh. I could summarize the Christian life in this way. You are fully in God that you are lost in His presence. The second point is God in you. God becomes so much in you. The word becomes flesh. Everything that you are is the word. Everything you speak is the word. Everything think is the word. The word has become flesh. Your very flesh and bone become the manifestation of the living word. So the two points are related. We dwell in God and God is fully come into us. The word made flesh - that's renewal of the mind. When the two keys become powerful in your life all strongholds are under your feet.