

Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, IA.
Pastor Andy Saul

SERMON OUTLINE 5/30/10

BIBLE PASSAGE: *II Corinthians 10:3-6*

TITLE: “PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS”

INTRO: As a believer, you belong to the Lord; body, soul, and spirit from the moment you are saved. But much of our life may be occupied by pockets of resistance, concepts, habits and thought systems not in agreement with the Word or will of God. There are believers today in bondage in various areas of their lives. They have tried everything to gain freedom, but to no avail. These strongholds are a great hindrance to balanced spiritual growth in the spiritual life. The good news is that Jesus came with the anointed and appointed ministry “to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound” (*Isaiah 61:1*). Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy, I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (*John 10:10*).

PROPOSITION: Many things can cause strongholds in our lives. Are you willing to face your fears and break free from the bondage that enslaves you?

I. DEFINING STRONGHOLDS.

- A. A stronghold is an area where spiritual _____ reigns. *Psalms 119:130.*
- B. A stronghold is anything in us strong enough to keep us from becoming like _____ in an area of our lives. *Ephesians 4:17-24; Colossians 3:8-11.*
- A. A stronghold is a command post from which the _____ works in surrounding areas. *2 Corinthians 2:8-11; I Peter 5:8.*
- B. A stronghold is a _____ pattern alien to the Word of God. *Philippians 2:5.*
- C. A stronghold is a place where the enemies thoughts seem more credible than our thoughts or God’s thoughts. *2 Corinthians 10:5.*

II. DETECTING STRONGHOLDS.

- A. A stronghold may find root in _____ behind us.
- B. A stronghold may be rooted in the _____ around us. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1.*

C. A stronghold may be derived from a system of _____ within us.

III. DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS.

A. As you attack the strongholds in your life you should be aware of these facts.

1. You are battling the enemy for the spiritual success of your future.

a. As a believer you must remember that through the authority and power of Christ you do have authority over the devil and his demonic forces in your life.

2. Our position should be confident assurance that we are going to win. *Philippians 4:13.*

B. Our spiritual weaponry.

1. The _____ Word of God, *John 8:32.*

2. The _____ of Jesus, *Philippians 2:9-10.*

3. The _____ of Jesus, *Ephesians 1:7 & I John 1:7.*

4. The _____ of the Holy Spirit, *John 16:13-14.*

5. The _____ of our testimony, *Revelation 12:11.*

6. Prayer, *I John 5:14-15.*

A. Our part in pulling down strongholds.

1. We are to receive the light of the Word of God-The Word of God exposes the stronghold.

2. We are to apply the Word of God-The Word of God opposes the stronghold.

3. We are to exert the truth of the Word of God-Declaring the Word of God deposes the stronghold.

CONCLUSION:

1. What is in your life that is stopping you from growing spiritually, and will you do what it takes to defeat it?

2. If you do not know Jesus will you surrender your life to Him today?