

## "Overcoming Strongholds"

By Marco David (Excerpts)

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:3-4)

According to the Word ... the strongholds that we must tear down with divine power have to do with arguments, thoughts, and lofty opinions that rise up against the knowledge of God. These strongholds are constructed in our minds. This is the place where the enemy desires to build his stronghold so that he might hold us captive.

## The Root of a Stronghold

Do you know that every sin begins with a thought? The thought, if not cast down by truth, will produce a desire. That desire will produce intent, the intent will produce an action, and the action will produce a memory. And apart from true brokenness and repentance (a change of mind that leads to a change of action) before God, the cycle continues. It's been said, "Thoughts are like birds. You can't keep them from landing on your head, but you can keep them from making a nest (stronghold)."

## The Reality of Restoration

Beloved, if you've blown it, don't believe the lie of the enemy that it's over. Don't run from Jesus, run to Jesus in humility and repentance. Every disciple who forsook Jesus after His arrest was restored by the Lord. And they all—to the glory of God—fulfilled their divine destiny in the power of the Holy Spirit. ... Stop looking back. Forgive as you've been forgiven. Press forward and align your will to God without delay. Don't follow your heart, follow Jesus. He will lead you, guide you, and enable you by His power to be all that He saved you to be.

## **Our Rescue Mission Weapons**

In order to keep yourself from becoming a captive of Satan ... you must guard your heart and your mind. ... The two primary spiritual weapons we must wield are the Word of God (knowledge of the truth) and prayer in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:10-19). To pray in the Spirit, our hearts must be saturated with the Word of God... When you're praying in the Spirit you are praying with the heart and mind of God. Therefore, be in the habit of praying with an open Bible ... The weapons that He wants us to use in this rescue mission are also prayer and the word... Oh, may we guard our hearts and minds through devotion to prayer and The Word and may God use us as instruments of His grace to set captives free!

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