



*Berean Family Worship Center*  
*One Church In Two Cities*  
www.bereanfamilyworshipcenter.org

Wednesday, December 23, 2020 - Group Study

**Lesson Series: Posses Your Soul**

Lesson Series Text: (*John 19:16-18*)

**Lesson 3: Become a Fortress of the Lord**

Lesson 3 Text: (*Psa. 18:2*)

*All Scriptures are KJV; unless otherwise noted.*

*Prepared By Dr. Walter Henderson III*

- I. The first step of the Father's plan, to create man in His image, was completed in Genesis Chapter 1 and 2.
  - A. Adam's failure in the Garden caused the Father to institute his second phase of His plan.
    - a. Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (*Rev. 13:8*)
  - B. Jesus became Man's substitute, as a sin offering; so that man could be born again into God's Image.
  - C. Salvation is the next step of God's plan for our lives; which is to conform the believer into the image of Jesus Christ; who is the expressed image of the Father.
- II. After salvation, the next step of the Father's plan is to pull down the strongholds of our old ways of thinking. (*Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 10:3-5*)
  - A. (*2 Cor. 10:3-5 (NKJV) - 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, 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,*)
  - B. *2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT) - We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*
  - C. We cannot have deliverance and freedom until that which defends the enemy is removed.
  - D. The word stronghold means:
    - a. A well-fortified place; fortress.
    - b. A place that serves as the center of a group, as of militants or of persons holding a controversial viewpoint. <sup>1</sup> *Dictionary.com*
  - E. Paul uses the word "stronghold" to help us understand how well fortified, the spiritual place where Satan and his cohorts exercise their authority, is entrenched and provided protection to keep from being evicted.
  - F. These fortresses exist in the belief systems that are created by thought patterns, philosophies, and ideals.

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- G. In strongholds, sinful activities are passionately defended with reasoning and arguments.
- III. Strongholds can also be a source of protection for us from the lies of the devil. (*Psa. 18:2*)
  - A. David compares his spiritual position with God to the natural fortress of Horesh. (*1 Sam. 23:14-19 AMPC*)
  - B. Jonathan told David that his father would never find him because one day David would be king.
- IV. First the strong man must be bound. (*Mark 3:27 - No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.*)
  - A. Any area of our heart or mind that is not surrendered to Christ is vulnerable to satanic attack.
  - B. Whenever there is a habit of sin in a believer's life, some form of demonic attack or system is involved.
  - C. I am not talking about possession, but oppression.
- V. Jesus had no dwelling place for Satan in His spirit, soul, or body. (*John 14:30 - Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*)
  - A. Jesus reflected the image of the Father.
  - B. The Father's plan is for this to be true of all believers.
- VI. The pulling down of strongholds begins with repentance. (*Mark 6:12-13*)
  - A. Repentance means to change the mind (thinking) and proceeds deliverance.
- VII. One of the main areas of Jesus Ministry was to reveal the hearts of many. (*Luke 2:34-35 - And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. )*)
  - A. If we are going to walk closely with Jesus, many of our rebellious thoughts will be revealed.
- VIII. We must develop a heart that becomes a fortress for the Lord.
  - A. We dare not be spoiled through philosophies.
  - B. (*Col. 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*)

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