



The Nature of Strongholds



THE NATURE OF STRONGHOLDS

1. Where 'topos' is established

Spirit no access point here if you are regenerate a Christian cannot be possessed

Areas that can be demonised (influenced / affected by demonic) are:

Soul can affect interior life (Soul Tears)

Body physical being

There are different levels of stronghold. All of humanity – even Christians – are affected

2. The Aim of 'topos'

- to encapture the believer in a particular area of life so as to prevent freedom in Christ
- to torment, to pressurise, to harm
- to cause disobedience
- to rob the Christian of authority, power, discernment and energy

3. What is a stronghold? (e.g. Carcassonne)

Military Camp – Fortified defences – Base of Operations – HQ – Home (Paul was familiar with Roman Camps)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

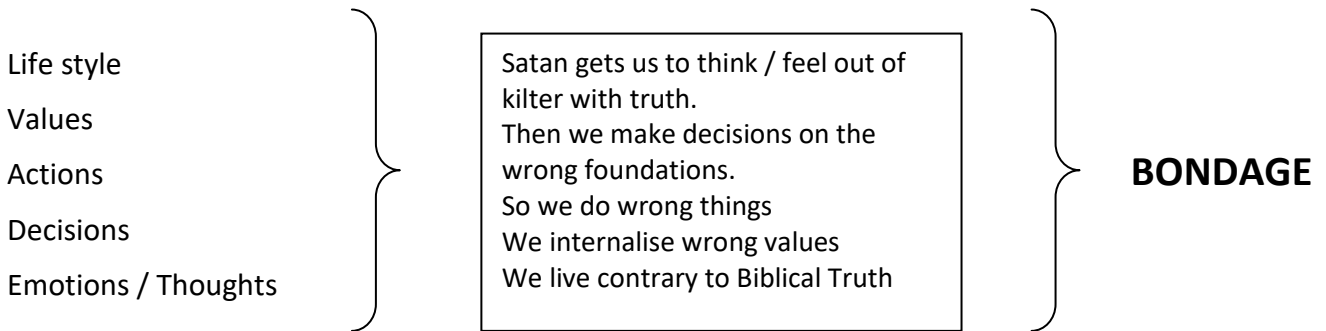
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|----|--------------------------|-------|---|
| a) | realm of war | v3 | not natural realm so natural weapons
(e.g. Counselling techniques) not so effective) |
| b) | weapons of war | v4 | divine power Word of God, Blood of Christ, spiritual authority,
Hearing God's Voice, spiritual discernment |
| c) | nature of war | vv4-5 | interplay between natural and demonic, Demonic energises the
natural so Balloon image blowing up a small wound |
| d) | Understanding stronghold | v5 | demonic fortresses not susceptible to moral improvement but only
to spiritual warfare. These are not over particular places, though an
area can have a corporate character which is a stronghold. |

- speculations, reasonings, attitudes, beliefs, thoughts and values contrary to God
- resistance to the Truth (not necessarily academic)
- Satan gets individuals, couples, families, churches, communities etc to buy into false values & beliefs
- God's truth is absolute NOT relative – liberating power of the truth comes in the ordinary everyday things not the zapping at Conferences
- Disagreeing with the truth of God is agreeing with the enemy and so allowing satan jurisdiction in your life
- pride, independence and self-sufficiency - (Humility is agreeing with God)
- one stronghold is never enough - Satan tries to multiply





4. How topos develops into a stronghold



The Strongholds become the scaffolding on which we build our lives

5. Pulling down strongholds

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take every thought captive – RECOGNISE THE PROBLEM • REALIGN to God’s Truth • REPENT by Choosing Truth over lies
Foundation for freedom – not one off experience but ongoing • Truth encounter not power encounter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts with the mind – replace twisted imagery with biblical imagery • Goes on with the will • Emotions are then dealt with • Air Attack (REBUKE Spiritual Warfare Prayer) & Ground Attack (REPLACE Walking in the Truth) are required to destroy Satan’s stronghold |
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Access points

Our strongholds are unique as we have unique lives – aim to live in truth with freedom and to minister in authority and power – so as we mature in Christ we deal with stuff within so we can do the mission better – Hardware first then software – Heart surgery to be able to run the race

1. Sin

pre-salvation activity

disobedience, indulgence (playing with sin) and rebellion as Christians also

Ephesians 4:26-27

In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Galatians 4:3-9

When we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.





2. Unmet love needs

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

We are made for love – to be in relationship with God and with each other

Created for 100% God quality love – Love gives us value, worth, and significance – a loved child is happy, hopeful and excited about love.

Siblings do not have to fight rivals for parental love but they should be able to bless each other as they know that there is enough love to go round and it will be their turn next.

Deprivation of this love is often the source of the CORE LIE/LIES i.e. the foundational lie(s) that stop(s) us living in the freedom of our original design

Love Tanks emotional resources sourced by parents and others significant in development

However, parents love out of their resources, which are not perfect – so they do the best they (and in some cases they actually don't.)

Required	Words of Blessing	affirmation and unconditional love
	Focussed Attention	doing what they want to do not them tagging along after you
	Touch	age appropriate

Love Deficit Empty Love tanks

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rejection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> performance based love |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lack of affirmation – looks, body shape, abilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of blessing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abandonment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> touch – unhealthy – skin issues – sexual abuse – lust and immorality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> betrayal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> smothering |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> withholding love – they don't know how to love | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seeing your own childhood as normal – Christian parents are hardest to see |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abuse in all forms | |

Discipline becomes not controlling the child's behaviour but making sure their love tanks are full and watching them act differently





ACTIVE REBELLION

- arrogance
- hostility
- blaming
- covetous
- ambitious
- aggressive
- attention-seeking
- anger – murder
- deluded
- jealous
- critical
- self-sufficient
- unteachable
- stubborn
- rigid
- dominant
- superior
- competitive

PASSIVE REBELLION

- passivity
- hopeless
- indecisive
- self-hatred
- negativity
- withdrawn
- manipulation
- anger - suicide
- defeatist
- shame
- compliant
- condemnation
- apathy
- people-pleasing
- pity
- fear of man
- control
- stubborn
- sorrow

These are the blocks that build up the stronghold

We are missing the love and the reality of truth

Our lives are pushed out of alignment with the reality of God’s truth

We need to return to the plumb line

Galatians 5

see Birthright Card

Reflect on your childhood

Where are my love tanks in deficit from my background?

Ask the Lord to reveal words, experiences that have caused issues

Exercise forgiveness towards those who have wronged you in the past to deal with some of these issues, or bring some of them to a Freedom Prayer Appointment

