**MENTAL BARRIERS TO GOD’S WORD**

Text: II Corinthians 10:3-5

* 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
* 4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
* 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

INTRO:

* Ancient time fortress

AIM:

* FOR US TO GET RID OF THE MENTAL BARRIERS AND RECEIVE HIS WORD
* STRONGHOLDS/WALLS
* SOLDIERS
* TOWERS
* COMMANDER

I. THESE BARRIERS ARE NOT PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL

* We dot not wage war in the flesh
* It cannot be dealt physically
* Ephesians 6:12  For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
* II Cor 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
* Illustration: Pharisees and chief priests Luke 12:39
* They asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples because they were so noisy
* They were praying for the Messiah to come
* They were talking to the Messiah face to face but they did not recognize Him

II. STRONGHOLD/FORTRESS/WALLS

* RELIGION
* After the fall we have been separated from the presence of God
* Sin separated us from Him
* Religion is man’s ways of reaching God
* By being religious people are deceived to feel they are close to God
* By going to church often, by meditating more, or by praying more
* The truth is we cannot reach God so He sent Jesus to restore us into His presence
* FALSE TEACHINGS/FALSE DOCTRINES/FALSE PROPHETS
* 2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.
* Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
* 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
* 15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing,

but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

* DECEIVING SPIRITS
* I Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
* II Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
* 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.
* Paul said these stronghold must be pulled down just like the wall of Jericho
* Victory is easy once the walls fall down

III. SATAN’S STRATEGY SINCE THE TIME OF EVE

* He will nullify God’s Word
* He said to Eve, “That’s not true, you won’t die if you eat the forbidden fruit but you will become like God”
* What you know will be taken away from you
* Then he will put his lies in your mind
* You release what you believe to be true

IV. SOLDIERS: ARGUMENTS/SPECULATION

* Human reasoning-NLT
* Imaginations-KJV
* Speculation defined
* a. Contemplation or consideration of a subject; meditation.

b. A conclusion, opinion, or theory reached by conjecture (incomplete evidence)

c. Reasoning based on inconclusive evidence; conjecture or supposition.

* The main reason for argument is, you are not convinced of the truth and believed to have hold of the truth even though it is a lie

V. TOWERS: EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD/PRIDE

* It has to be cast down
* Pride won’t accept counsel, correction, or reproach and never admits mistakes
* Pride serves as no entry sign for God’s Word
* The Lord never put His Word in contest to our arrogance
* He will only increase if we decrease
* James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
* “God opposes the proud     but shows favor to the humble.”
* 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
* Proverbs 13:10 By pride comes nothing but strife,
* But with the well-advised *is* wisdom.

VI. THOUGHTS

* To be brought into captivity into the obedience of Christ
* Judges 16:21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.
* If our minds are in line with God’s Word then it is captive to the obedience of Christ

VII. LOOKING ON THE OUTSIDE APPEARANCE

VIII. TRUSTING IN YOURSELF

CHALLENGE:

* Do you receive all of God’s Word?
* Are you not possessing these mental barriers?

CONCLUSION:

* II CORINTHIANS 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
* 5 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.