



Apostolic Notes

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Building Blocks Of The Mind



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This Apostolic Note is a spillover from my recent blog postings regarding traditions. ([click here for blog](#)). When I was in practice, inevitably, I would have a patient that would attempt to self diagnose their problem, explain its relative insignificance and the minimal treatment that was necessary. Unfortunately, they would not listen to the results of the testing and the subsequent diagnosis. They refused treatment and many ultimately suffered greater problems because of their denial. While they knew they had a problem, there was a pattern of thinking that prevented them from acknowledging and implementing the answer to their problem.

Sometimes I feel like we are like this with our modern church, many are saying something different is needed. However, when we are approached with spiritual diagnostics; we begin to rationalize why our situation is "not that bad" or why we cannot change. What is happening is that we continue to strengthen a pattern of thinking, or as the Word identifies it, a stronghold.

Paul states in 2 Cor 10:4-5 that the power we have can cast down strongholds. The Amplified Bible says: "*[Inasmuch as we] refute **arguments and theories and reasonings** and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every **thought and purpose** away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed one).*" Paul is telling us that strongholds are OUR arguments, reasonings, thoughts and purposes that are contrary to the purpose of God.

According to Strong's, the origin of the word strongholds carries with it the idea of fortifying or

holding safe. It is derived from a word that means to hold. The arguments and reasoning's we give to support our beliefs of why the new enlightenment will not work, are bricks we add to the walls of these strongholds. Each time we argue them, we further strengthen them.

This is why many in the modern church do not accept the illumination of the word of God. It goes against their arguments, theories or reasoning. Comments like: "This is the way we have always done it" or "If it was good enough for my granddaddy, it is good enough for me" or even, "This is the way our denomination does it" are all indications of strongholds. They are reasoning or arguing why they will not accept the truth.

Paul tells us our weapons are not of man, but they are powerful enough to cast down these strongholds. Through repentance, the illumination of the Word and a willingness to acknowledge our arguments and reasonings as just that – arguments – we can begin to tear down the strongholds we have built that are hindering the greater manifestation of Jesus Christ that we are desiring.

Food for thought

What was the last "idea" you dismissed quickly because it did not "fit" your accustomed way of doing church? Was it because of valid biblical reasons or was it based on some tradition you had been taught?

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