

Identifying Your Strongholds

What Are My Strongholds?

Go through the list and check any that you know are a problem. For example, from time to time most of us let slip something we shouldn't. But if you get delight out of gossip and try to rationalize it, and have done it for a while, then you probably have a stronghold of gossip.

Be very aware that when you have such a stronghold, the enemy does not want you to break it! He will likely tell you that is not that important, or it's not that bad, or you have every right to feel the way you do. You would like to agree.

This does not impress God. If you feel bitter or unforgiving because of what someone did to you long ago, then God is gentle with your pain but he's not very understanding about your lack of forgiveness. Bitterness is a stronghold no matter how much we rationalize it.

- Criticism
- Complaining
- Taking offense easily
- Unforgiveness
- Bitterness
- Pride
- Gossip
- Love of money and material things
- Procrastination
- Perfectionism
- Pornography
- Placing family, job, or church above God
- Anger
- Fear
- Hatred
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What Stronghold Is God Revealing to Me Now?

This is the harder question than “What is my stronghold?” For example, I struggled for months against a major stronghold that I did not even know I had. I was going through a very difficult financial time when God revealed to me the truth: that I loved money. Since I never had a lot of money, it never occurred to me that I could love it. But one can love or lust after what one does not have. I realized that I did not trust God to provide for me. That I only felt good when I had money, and felt anxious when I did not.

Now that was a sneaky one. Not all of them are that layered or hard to see. You may know very well for example that you have a pornography stronghold. Or an anger stronghold. Sometimes they are perfectly obvious.

Also, since we are sinners living in a sinful world we almost certainly have more than one. Now don't class any sinful thought that you have ever had as a stronghold. It's a sin and you want to confess it, but you only create a stronghold when you have a negative pattern of sinful thoughts or weaknesses, and have had it for some time.

Pray. Read John 15 and James 1, and ask God to reveal to you the stronghold that he wants to tear down. He will.

