



“Pulling Down Strongholds” pt 4 May 29, 2022

Foundation Scripture: ***II Corinthians 10:3-5***

I. Religious Stronghold (Human)

A. ***Matthew 6:5-12***

1. The Disciples and their religious mindset...
 - * Notice how they had to reason together to try to figure out what Jesus was talking about. Can you imagine what Jesus dealt with for 3 years???
 - * They were so bound by “Religious thinking” (the old way), that they couldn’t see the truth (This is the way many Christians are today, and it’s one of the greatest stronghold that keeps believers from receiving from God).
2. ***Leaven – substance like yeast that causes dough to rise / Doctrine – Belief System or set of beliefs***
3. This type of stronghold is self-made (Like Jericho, it takes time building the walls...things that we think protect us, actually will keep us bound)
 - * Case in point: The Religious of that day would not accept anything that Jesus did or had to say. They were so caught up in their way of doing things (their beliefs), that they could not accept even the slightest of miracles! (Having eyes to see they see not...) ***(Every Denomination was built from the Religious Spirit)***
 - * This is why “Rightly Dividing” the Word of God is so important: People will argue with you through a Religious Spirit on their right to be sick, poor, and destitute.

B. ***Makeup of the Religious Spirit***

1. It is a human spirit (which means it is created from within).
2. To better understand this, let’s identify what the religious spirit is not:
 - * ***It is not a demon spirit; if it was, Jesus would have cast it out!***
 - * ***It is not a sickness; if it was, Jesus would have healed it!***
3. The only cure for the Religious Spirit is the Renewing of the Mind to the uncompromised Word. This means there must be humility to change one’s ways and the willingness to knock down walls of “old” beliefs!

C. ***How to Deal with a Religious Spirit (3 things Jesus did)***

1. ***Called Them Names (Matthew 23:27-33)***
2. ***Told Them Who Their Daddy Was (John 8:44)***
3. ***Didn’t Answer Their Questions (Matthew 21:23-27)***
 - * Avoid the Religious Spirit at all costs; it is dangerous and deadly, ruled by laws and regulations that stem from pride and jealousy who are cutthroat toward Christians who know their true identity.
 - * The Religious crucified our Lord; If this is not enough to recognize that they should be avoided, I don’t know what is!