

The Strongholds of Life

John 8:29-32 NASB (29) "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." (30) As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. (31) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, " If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Two key words, **truth** and **free**. First what is truth? This can be defined in one word, "**Christ**" (**John 14:6-7** NASB). The key to freedom on the other hand comes from the truth. Which again is "**Christ**". So what does this have to do with the strongholds of life?

Think about the stronghold(s) you may have and why it is still with you or perhaps why it won't just go away? Christ will set you free, but you must believe in truth! Instead, many are believing in a lie. God's word is truth and truth alone! The bible gives us as a warning in **Revelation 22:18-19** which instructs us not to **add** or **subtract** from His word! Why? Because He alone is **truth** and the only way that we can be **set free** is through Him.

To those who believe in a lie **Psalms 50:15-23** NASB states (15) "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me." (16) But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth? (17) "For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you. (18) "When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers. (19) "You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. (20) "You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. (21) "These things you have done and I kept silence; you thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes. (22) "Now consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you in pieces, and there will be none to deliver. (23) "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; and to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."

What the writer in Psalms is saying is that many truly don't believe God will rescue us. We say we believe, but our actions are contrary to the truth of Christ. Some will even say that their situation is covered in the blood. Yet that person is obviously still suffering from the problem! Some are in denial. Not holding on to the true form, but instead believing a lie by entertaining satan ! Deep down in the heart the lie is telling you, you're not worthy, you're ugly, you're a failure, nobody will ever love you, you can't do it and the lies go on and on. **Romans 12:1-2** tells us that we must be transformed in the mind. **John 14:27** tells us where the inner peace that we need comes from. We the children of God **must not limit** ourselves in any fashion or form. Healing comes from believing the truth and pursuing it. Notice the paralyzed man in **Mark 2:2-5** was trying to get to Christ by any means necessary because he knew that Christ was the only one that could set him free! Oh yes, that scar will remain forever, but the pain or discomfort is released! So we must intelligently adhere to the truth. If you are in a situation where you need to forgive someone who hurt you and you feel like you can't. Just remember Christ forgave you! If you are scared, then read **1 John 4:18**. Can you think of any more excuses? Well God has an answer for any situation you may have. But I guess it won't do you any good if you don't want truth. Christ said it himself, "**the truth will make you free.**"

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 30:12

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God gets the stains out that others leave behind.