

S.O.H.L.

(07/27/09)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

How Long Will You Stay?

One day while witnessing in the county jail, I came across an older lady I knew from a previous witnessing in the city streets. We greeted each other. I was aware that she had been incarcerated (prison) twice for previous drug charges. She informed me that she was being released in two months. As I looked into her eyes, I couldn't help but ask this question, "How Long Will You Stay?" She quickly knew that I was not referring to her time left in the county jail. How long would she stay in bondage? Just like this lady many Christians are confined in their own personal prisons. This prison consists of numerous types of strongholds or bondages. You may be in bondage because of your attitude! Could it be you are in bondage because of your tongue? Maybe it is because you have a lust problem. The list of bondages and strongholds goes on and on. You are trying to control the problem, but your prison sentence becomes longer and longer. What is holding God's people back?

My brothers and sisters, imagine being in a jail cell. The lock is outside the cell and the deputy or guard (satan) has the key. Now read **JOHN 8:31-36** in the next paragraph.

JOHN 8:31-36 NASB – (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." (33) They answered Him, " We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free?'" (34) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. (35) "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. (36) "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

So who has institutionalized our minds into thinking that we can't overcome the strongholds or bondages that is destroying our lives? Jesus said in the above scripture that if you accept me, (the truth), you are free! Christ does not hold the key. The key has been thrown away and the cell door is open. So why do we continue to close it and lock ourselves in from the inside?

Rehabilitation is a necessity and it takes time, but the truth of Christ is the only rehabilitating cure for bondages or strongholds that plagues the life of the Christian. Jesus said, (36) "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. We have plenty of people in the church, but Christ is calling for us to become disciples. For this to take place, we must be free!

My brothers and sisters, the cell door of life's bondages and strongholds is open. "How Long Will You Stay?."

SCRIPTURE READING

2 PETER 2:16

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Resisting temptation doubles spiritual strength.

July 1, 2009

