

CrossRoads Baptist Church
May 18, 2008 10:15 a.m.
Romans 6:1-4
Romans #37

“Breaking a Stronghold”

As we have noted before, there are three words that unlock Romans 6:

1. “know”
2. “reckon”
3. “yield”

Today, we look at the second of those words.

Romans 6:11 “reckon” – account, account of, conclude, count, impute, reason, suppose, think

“regarding this as your case”

“it is not claiming a promise but acting upon a fact. Its not make believe, emotional tizzy, pretending”

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Warren Wiersbe said, “It is faith in action.”

John R.W. Stott: It does not mean that we are to pretend or make believe. "It is not screwing up our faith to believe something we do not believe". Rather we are to reckon with the fact that in Christ we died to sin and that in Christ we are alive to God. Let your mind meditate on this truth. *The secret of holy living begins in the mind.* Our minds are so to grasp the fact of our death and resurrection with Christ that the very idea of sinning would be abhorrent to us. “We are to recall, to ponder, to grasp, to register these truths until they are so integral to our mindset that a return to the old life is unthinkable”

I. Stronghold by definition is a mental warfare.

What is a Stronghold?

II Corinthians 10:4 only time the word is used in the NT. “holds,

keep, dungeon”

Connected with “pulling down” which is refuting arguments. Verse 5- imaginations is form of the word “reckon” but treated as forts or citadels to be conquered.

So it was a fortress in a territory from which the enemy may launch attacks

Neil Anderson: “Strongholds are negative patterns of thoughts which are burned into our minds through repetition over time.

II. Stronghold is a deception that has been accepted as truth.

A. Satan comes and seeks to deny that we have actually taken our place with Christ in His death.

B. Satan comes and stirs up the old feelings of the old man by tempting us.

C. Satan comes to accuse us of the very thing of which he is responsible.

III. Stronghold is defeated by the truth.

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Revelation 12:10 – Satan is the accuser of our brethren
12:11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

These three steps come from Rev. William Still who preached these at Keswick Week, 1952.

1. Fact of the victory over Satan by the blood of the Lamb.

2. Faith that resists the devil on the ground of the blood shed.
3. Death of that guilt by holding on to the fact and resisting until he flees.

James 4:7 “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

In 1982 an unusual thing happened on the island of Guam

A Japanese soldier came out of the jungle. He had been living in the jungle for 37 years, since the end of world war II. Why? Because when the news came at the end of the war, he couldn't believe that Japan had surrendered and the war was over. So for 37 years he lived in the jungle. During those 37 years was he free? Sure. At any time from 1945 until 1982, he was completely free to come out of the jungle. It's not like General MacArthur was coming in to get him. He was free. He could come out in 1950 or 1955 or 1969. He was completely free on a theoretical basis. But because he didn't believe it--because he didn't reckon the fact of his freedom to be true--he lived in self-imposed bondage in the jungle for 37 years. Was he free? Yes. Was he free? No, because he chose to stay in bondage, in hiding, in fear in the jungle.

Many Christians are still living in the jungle of sin. The war is over, Christ has won, but they refuse to believe it. They live in self-imposed bondage to sin. They are still in the jungle spiritually because they refuse to believe that Christ has set them free.