

Birthright Lesson Fourteen

We are all subject to strong passions. We live in the flesh and we have a soul.

Any one of these passions of the flesh or the soul can habitually cause us to do that which we know is wrong. These passions can control our thoughts, motives, emotions, words, or conduct.

If anyone of these passions is habitually causing us to do that which is wrong then we always have a stronghold.

A stronghold is a mind set that is contrary to scripture. It is a wrong conclusion that Paul calls an imagination or high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

2 Cor 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
KJV

If we want to stop sinning habitually or being controlled by our passions, we must repent of the false idea or conclusion that has enabled us to continue in sin. We must cast down the imagination or the high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.

We all have a natural passion in our flesh to be a leader.

Mark 10:42-45

42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

KJV

This passion is expressed thru our desire to lead ourselves. We call this wanting to take care of our self or to become independent.

God gave us this passion. He wants us to fulfill this passion His way.

All authority is delegated from above. God works thru authority figures to give us the power to lead.

John 19:11

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

KJV

The passion to be a leader can control us like any other passion. When this occurs, we begin to assume authority that God never intended for us to assume.

This occurs because of some other passion we want to fulfill and we have to have authority to fulfill that passion.

When we assume authority that God never intended for us to assume, we are guilty of rebellion.

Rebellion can be either aggressive or passive. It can be very overt or very hidden.

When God looks down upon men, He sees a world populated by people that are in rebellion. Men and women, boys and girls have assumed authority that He never intended for them to assume.

There is no sin like rebellion. Only rebellion is compared to the sin of witchcraft.

1 Sam 15:23

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

KJV

- Rebellion is an act of worship to the devil.
- It causes men to experience strong delusions that cause immeasurable pain.
- It leads to captivity of the soul and the body. By seeking to be free, people become slaves.
- It fills men with regret and causes men to pray for their own death. The benefits of rebellion never outweigh the consequences.

I am still shocked at times about how proud and arrogant men and women can be. They think so highly of themselves they do not see that they are wrong when they assume authority that God never intended for them to assume.

Rom 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

KJV

Pride is a stronghold. It is a strong delusion. It is a false perception of your personal power that causes you to assume authority that God does not intend for you to assume. It is one of the few strongholds in the bible with a name. It is both a stronghold and a character quality. God characterizes rebellious men as proud.

Lev 26:19

19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

KJV

Where there is rebellion, there is always pride. There may also be other deceptions and ideas that contradict scripture that must be cast down before a man can be free of this stronghold, but there is always pride.

Other strongholds associated with pride and rebellion.

- I deserve the same freedom as everyone else.
- I am more qualified to lead than those who are leading.
- I should be able to make my own decisions because of the mistakes that my leader has made.
- I am not going to injure anyone else but myself by making his decision.

Important truths about authority.

- God is able to raise governments up and bring them down.
- God appoints governors to rule over men
- God appoints governors to destroy the rule of other governments.
- God limits our freedom thru government to test our heart and to protect us from evil.
- God uses government to persecute Christians in order to spread the gospel.
- God allows Satan to control governors so that rebels will see their need for His rule.
- God's way to promote men to be leaders in His Kingdom is thru service to others.

