

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **September 30, 2018** sermon, "Strongholds." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 10:1-6) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

**DEFINITION:** *Stronghold*-- "A habitual thought process, contrary to God's will, hardened over time, which shapes both attitudes and actions."

WHEN ADDRESSING SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS, NOTE . . .

1. The appeal we need to make (1-2)
  - a. Paul uses a relational appeal (not a command), whereby he does not "pull rank."
  - b. He points us to the meekness of Christ himself.
    - i. Meekness has nothing to do with weakness.
    - ii. *Meekness*: "Power under control."
  - c. Paul is under control, personally humble, and not demanding respect.
    - i. Where there is a stronghold, the people of God may be disrespected.
    - ii. You may have to overlook/forgive some verbal trouble.
2. The weapons we need to use (3-4)
  - a. Don't try to win spiritual confrontations with "fleshly" weapons.
  - b. Don't treat symptoms when you may have the opportunity to pull roots.
    - i. The problem may be "software" (not the brain, but the thinking).
    - ii. The problem may be spiritual (not the intellect, but the heart).
  - c. Spiritual weapons are the Word of God, commitment to Christ as Lord and prayer.
3. The purpose we need to establish (5-6)
  - a. In this battle, we destroy arguments by bringing the issue back to God's Word.
  - b. In this battle, every thought must be held captive in order to obey Christ.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: It is very difficult to assess a stronghold in our own lives. Yet, a stronghold will be the source of many similar conflicts. Be honest: do you think you might be struggling with a stronghold issue in your life? How can we help you?
2. Based on #1, above: It is almost impossible to confront a stronghold issue in an unbeliever. Discuss this. Where have you tried this? Why is it so tempting? What have you learned?
3. Based on #1, above: Sometimes the one confronting a stronghold will be verbally attacked. But the believer must learn to overlook these hurts in an effort to address the root of the problem. The confronter must not become discouraged (taking full responsibility for the outcome), nor adopt a "martyr's syndrome" (assuming that all verbal resistance is evidence of rightness). Discuss the tensions of wise confrontation, and what God is teaching you through His Word.
4. Based on #2, above: Discuss the weapons listed (#2. c.). Which weapons are you using well?
5. Based on #3, above: This passage describes humility and obedience. Love and truth. Which do you excel at? Which are you lacking?