

OUT GOD IS STRONGER // Luke 11:14-26

Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

This passage describes an example of a spiritual stronghold. Your life is like a house. When the devil lives in your house, it is a stronghold for him. In the life of an unsaved person, the devil owns the property and is totally in control. At your salvation, Jesus buys the property with his own blood, and Jesus owns your life.

For many Christians, although Jesus owns the property, the devil is still renting a room in your house. Strongholds may appear as addictions, bitterness, lust, etc. But through Christ, there is freedom from these strongholds.

Three Steps to Freedom from Spiritual Strongholds:

1. Appeal to the power of Christ for real change.

Strongholds fall by choosing the right path to victory (v. 17-20)

Satan does not cast out Satan. If he is to be cast out, it must be by a contrary power—Christ. We often try to use earthly tools for a spiritual work which leads to failure. Only Jesus is a threat to the devil, and through Christ is the right path to victory.

2. Enlist the person of Christ in spiritual war.

Strongholds fall by weapons of another world (v. 21-23)

Thank God there is someone stronger than the devil. We can avail ourselves of not only the power, but also the person of Christ. We need the stronger man to live in us and plunder our house. C.S. Lewis uses the same metaphor when he writes that God doesn't just come into our houses, but he also begins to knock down walls and rearrange the furniture.

3. Invite the presence of Christ into your life.

Strongholds fall when conditions are no longer favorable (v. 24-26)

Even though we have been saved and God owns the property that is our life, have we invited him in to stay and live there? Or is there a secret room that the devil is renting? All Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but we may experience many fillings of the Holy Spirit. When we invite him into our lives, that is one of these fillings. We cannot clean ourselves by attempting to live a moral life—that is merely an empty house, to which the demon may return with seven others. The house of your life must be filled with the presence of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there a spiritual stronghold in your life? What is the first step we can take in allowing Christ to free us from this stronghold?
2. Are we comfortable with the idea of God knocking down walls in the house of your life? How can we adjust our perspective?
3. Are there ways in which we try to free ourselves from strongholds through “moral living” or other methods that rely on the self? How can we intentionally turn this process over to God?