

Judy's Teaching Notes
May 16, 2007 – Wednesday
Spiritual Darkness – Part 2

Opening prayer...

Are there any Testimonies from the last week?

Questions from last week's teaching?

I. Last week we learned that spiritual darkness is the activity of satan's world. The good news is that in God's Kingdom, spiritual darkness has only as much power in the believer's life as the believer allows.

We learned that our condition as believers (which is our old sin nature) can come up to our kingdom position. Our kingdom position is our gift from God...who we are in Christ, what we have in Christ, and what we are to do in Christ. As we mature in our kingdom position, we will move out of a lie into our positional truth which means we:

Operate in God's Word, we believe the Word, we behave the Word!

II. The Ministry of Jesus and Our Authority

We studied last week about the ministry of Jesus and how he healed and cast out demons in many. It says in Acts 10:38 *You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

Our authority was given in Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:15, Mark 16:17 (to name a few) where Jesus gave His disciples and believers the authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

As believers, we receive the promise of authority in Colossians 2:9 & 10:

Col 2:9 *For the full content of divine nature lives in Christ, in his humanity,*

Col 2:10 *and you have been given full life in union with him. He is supreme over every spiritual ruler and authority.*

Repeat with me:

Let our condition as a believer (our old sin nature) come up to our kingdom position!

III. Spiritual Strongholds

Last week we discussed the definitions of a holy stronghold and an unholy stronghold. We went over the characteristics of demons.

Did you have any questions on these topics?

Last week's notes: A holy stronghold is a beachhead (position of force) established by the truth of the Word so the Holy Spirit can forge us into new places. An unholy stronghold is when we stay in sin and believe the lies of darkness, beachheads are established...it opens the door for trauma and torment and can become demonic.

We talked about having a spirit, soul and body. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, our heart and spirit are changed immediately (2 Cor 5:17) However, our soul and body take much longer.

The soul is in the center, and wherever it leans—either towards the spirit or the body—controls who you are and what you do (towards Christ or towards the world).

We were born in sin, shaped in iniquity (sinful, evil) so we have human tendencies. These tendencies are nestled in the soul—the soul is the seed of memory and intense desire—it houses what we were and holds all the scars from what has happened to us in the past. Sometimes we do not even know what is there, because there are so many hidden memories. Satan can use these memories to attack you, control you, to make you feel worthless, and to cause problems. These scars and memories can become strongholds.

Remember a stronghold is not a demon. It is like a house made of thoughts that are sympathetic towards evil and can become habitations which can be influenced by demons. A habit, a sin, a lie, a false belief, a fear, to be unable to forgive, a mindset, a hurt, a wound, a sickness can all become strongholds.



Unbelief, fear, religious spirit, addictions, drugs, sexual perversion, compulsive behavior, idolatry, bitterness, eating disorders, spirit of death (abortion, divorce), New Age, chronic lying, depression, yoga, witchcraft, internet, alcoholic, shopaholic, antichrist spirit, pride, rejection, jealousy, power, control, adultery, love of money, self pity, sickness, racism, and on and on.

- **2 Tim 1:7** Spirit or stronghold of fear – can come in through horror movies, scaring kids deliberately, many other ways. Fear words are cancer, terrorists, etc. When we don't believe what scripture says about us and our relationship with Jesus, fear can overwhelm.
- **Proverbs 16:18** Spirit or stronghold of pride which is probably one of the biggest in Christians...manifests through vanity, self-righteousness, manipulation, control, holier than thou, attention seeking, fault finding, etc. We need the helmet of salvation instead of the crown of pride.
- **Isaiah 61:3** Spirit or stronghold of heaviness is self pity, sorrowness, not a happy camper—broken heart, torn spirit.
- **Proverbs 6:34** Stronghold of jealousy is suppressed anger and rage, racism, cruelty, vigilante spirit, extreme competition, etc.
- **1 John 4:3** The antichrist spirit does not recognize Jesus. Secular humanism does not recognize Jesus.
- **Rom 8:15** Spirit or stronghold of bondage – One of the largest areas that Deliverance Ministry deals with – addictions to drugs, alcohol, sex, computer, internet, shopping, porn, compulsive behavior, compulsive sin, idolatry, bitterness, spiritual blindness. Can come down through the family line.
- **Mark 9:25** Deaf and dumb spirit – deafness and spiritual deafness, seizures, epilepsy, eating disorders, spiritual blindness, mental illness, etc.
- **1 Cor 15:26-27** Spirit of death is the last enemy that will be destroyed; death to your emotions, death to your finances, death to your marriage (divorce), diseases, death to your ministries, abortion (first child after an abortion will have spirit of death), etc.
- **Acts 16:16** Spirit or stronghold of divination is fortune telling, witchcraft, mental illness can also be of this spirit.
- **1 John 4:6** Spirit of error is a perverse and twisted spirit which includes free masonry, chronic lying, false religions, false teachings, haughtiness, defensive and argumentative, physical illness, depression, etc.
- **Lev 19:31** Familiar spirits or family spirits and iniquities (sin)...someone who talks to the dead, mediums, fortune teller's spirit, yoga, etc.

IV. Personal Deliverance

God has called us from death unto life. We can choose to live and walk a godly life, or we can choose to live in the midst of past hurts, wounds and death.

A person has to want to change. They must recognize the problem. Then deliverance can help.

Pulling down strongholds requires becoming like Christ. The act of repentance brings down strongholds. A spirit can be cast out, but the stronghold must be dealt with to keep the spirit from returning. The person

receiving ministry must be able to speak with authority “in the name of Jesus” to be able to keep the spirit cast out.

Our minds must be renewed. Feed on the Word of God. It purges us, seeps into our mind and rises to meet our circumstance. As we focus on the Word, it becomes our character and we cannot fail. Faith comes by hearing...(Rom 10: 17)

We must be willing to let Holy Spirit show us what needs to be cleansed from our soul. Once we have conquered the strongholds and any demonic activity in our life, it releases us for restoration. And our God loves to restore us.

2Co 10:3 It is true that we live in the world, but we do not fight from worldly motives.
2Co 10:4 The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons but God's powerful weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds. We destroy false arguments;
2Co 10:5 we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.

Eph 5:8 You yourselves used to be in the darkness, but since you have become the Lord's people, you are in the light. So you must live like people who belong to the light,

Eph 5:9 for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Kingdom Potential

We have a body, soul and spirit, When we are born again, our spirit is united with the Holy Spirit. We are spirit beings with an assigned territory with boundaries that we are responsible for (2 Cor 10:13). We will never reach our kingdom potential until we embrace our territory. Our faithfulness will enlarge our territory, and everything God gives us is to flow through us to others. Reaching our kingdom potential is what matters while we are in the earth realm. Choices that bind or blind us from reaching our kingdom potential are:

Earthly goals

Worldly wealth

Loving our lives

Others' ideas or statements (i.e., women are not suppose to minister)

Fear of success (do not want the responsibility)

Fear of failure

Pride (I did it my way)

Procrastination and laziness
Personal and hidden sin
Emulation (God wants the genuine you)

God gives you the faith for what He has called you to do. Pray to Him for where and what your territory is.