

## THERE IS AN ENEMY | 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 | AUGUST 23, 2020 WE MUST LEARN TO HARNESS SPIRITUAL POWER TO EXPERIENCE THE FULL LIFE GOD OFFERS US IN JESUS.

A stronghold is an idea or belief that needs to be destroyed. In 2 Corinthians 10, Paul addresses "super-apostles" (2 Corinthians 11:5), who have spread false ideas of his character in serving the church. Paul moves from specifically addressing these opponents to making a general teaching on this point (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) – There is an enemy with strongholds that need to be destroyed. In the process of following Jesus, we encounter strongholds in our lives that need to be destroyed through the power of the gospel for us to experience the life Jesus calls to have.

## **READ 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6**

- 1. Following Jesus is a countercultural experience from this world. What counterculture ideas and beliefs of following Jesus does Paul identify in the 2 Corinthians 10:1-6?
- 2. The Corinthian letters have a running them of destroying strongholds in light of the gospel. Why is Paul so concerned about strongholds being demolished? How does that affect our lives? (2 Corinthians 10:15)
- 3. Examples of strongholds, contrary to the gospel, are bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, greed, insecurity, pride, fear, etc. What other strongholds can you identify? Why do these beliefs have so much power, especially when they do not get revealed?
- 4. Paul implores the Corinthians to "...take every thought captive..." (2 Corinthians 10:5). What does that look like in real life?
- 5. Consider the ROOTED rhythms of; Daily Devotion, Prayer, Serving the Community, Sacrificial Generosity, Share Your Story, & Celebration. How does having these rhythms reveal strongholds and confront unhealthy thoughts?

(For these final questions, break up into smaller groups by men with men, and women with women)

- 6. What strongholds in your life need to be revealed to be healed?
- 7. What thoughts in your life need to be confronted by the gospel?

JESUS, I AM POWERLESS TO DESTROY THE STRONGHOLDS IN MY LIFE WITHOUT YOU. MAY THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL SPEAK TO THE LIES, I BELIEVE. DEMOLISH THE STRONGHOLDS IN MY LIFE SO THAT I CAN BECOME THE PERSON YOU HAVE CALLED ME TO BE.