



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Tearing Down our Inner Strongholds ... by Jeanne

Read Psalm 51

- **T**here is a battle going on for the heart. God wants us to know our enemy so we can be set free. God wants to give us freedom and liberty. The devil wants to build strongholds and keep us enslaved.
- We need to make a conscious decision to sanctify ourselves from our idols and strongholds.
- When we are overwhelmed by the battle and brought very low, God in His mercy causes others to pray for us.
- *Proverbs 18:14 : A man's spirit will sustain him in sickness but a crushed spirit who can bear?*
- Our spirit can be crushed with fear of God's judgment if we do not know God's forgiveness. We can be crushed by long continued afflictions. e.g. Job eventually cursed the day he was born.
- See also *Genesis 37:34...* Jacob on the thinking Joseph was dead "I will go down to my grave mourning for my son", then he would weep.
- Violent assaults / temptations can crush us. Even Jesus when He had taken on our feeble nature was so exhausted with his first conflicts with Satan that He needed Angels sent from heaven to strengthen Him.
- And in His last hours when all the powers of darkness made their assault said "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death".
- Seeming spiritual desertion can crush our spirits see *Psalm 77 : 2-4:* very hard place to be.
- God in His mercy reveals things to us when we are very low and crying out to Him. If we are willing to go to deep places with Him, He will shine a light on our hearts. He will show us the secret chambers of our hearts where there may be sin, strongholds hurting us and preventing us from walking in true freedom.
- At some time in our lives we may have been abused, felt neglected, rejected or abandoned and felt powerless or helpless. We may have been in desperate need for someone or something to comfort us and make us feel good. This gives the enemy a point of entry and he will put his plan into action, plan to plant a lie then he accused us and strongholds are erected.
- God tears down strongholds in our lives and sets us free.
- When we see sin and strongholds in our lives we bring them under the power of the blood of Jesus, we are forgiven, set gloriously free and our joy returns.
- *Psalm 139: 23-24 :* Search me o Lord and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts and see if there be a wicked way in me. See also *Psalm 19: 12-13*
- Rather than hide or disguise these things they must be brought into the light if we desire freedom. We all feel powerless when something has control over our reasoning, our thoughts and has control over our feelings and emotions.

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

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- We can choose if we want to continue on a road of brokenness being held by strong emotions.
- As God begins to teach us how to take every thought captive we will see that we can get free of not only our conscious negative thoughts and emotions but also of hidden secret doubts, fears and insecurities that we have buried deep within our souls and have motivated us for most of our lives.
- God desires truth in the inward parts; you teach me wisdom in the secret place. Do not fear the path ahead. God is with us.
- Do not let fear hold you back for your greatest victories lie just ahead of you as you face the unknown. David pleads for renewal in *Psalms 51*. He wants to be done with the instability he has just experienced. He wants his joy returned and then to teach others. God offers this same invitation to us.

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Late Night Prayer Saturday 15th of July @ 8 pm**
- ▶ **Friday Night Bible Study** will recommence on *Friday the 7th of July @ 8 pm*
(The bible study will take place every second week during the months of July & August)
- ▶ **During the service this Sunday the 25th,** there will be opportunity to testify what God has done during our time in Castledaly.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child (ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalms 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (*Hebrews 13:2*).