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# The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

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## Chapter 4 - A House Made of Thoughts

*There are satanic strongholds over countries and communities and there are strongholds which influence churches and individuals. Wherever a stronghold exists, it is a demonically induced pattern of thinking. Specifically, it is a “house made of thoughts” which has become a swelling place for satanic activity.*

### A Warning Before Deliverance!

Matthew 12:43-44 NKJV

[43] “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. [44] Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

Although the nature of an unclean spirit is, by definition, spiritual and not physical, it still seeks a dwelling place, a “house” where it may “rest.” Jesus revealed that there is a dimension to human nature that actually can host an evil spirit and provide it a type of rest. If that is so, let us expose the nature of man and uncover that aspect in us which can become the “construction material” within which a spirit might lodge.

To secure deliverance, Jesus explained,” When [the unclean spirit] comes, it finds [its house] unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first (Matthew 12:44-45).

If we are going to be successful in spiritual battle, we must seek more than just relief from our enemy; we must pursue conformity to Christ. Thus, for deliverance to bear fruit, the nature of Christ must be assimilated into the delivered soul. Otherwise, there is danger that the “last state of the man” might become “worse than the first.” (Matthew 12:45; 2 Peter 2:20).

It is important to recognize that when we speak of strongholds we are not talking about random thoughts or occasional sins. Rather, the strongholds that affect us most are those which are so hidden in our thinking patterns that we do not recognize them nor identify them as evil. As mentioned above, Jesus revealed that unclean spirits are seeking “rest.” The sense of rest they

seek originates from being in harmony with their environment. In other words, when our thought-life is in agreement with unbelief, fear, or habitual sin, the enemy has rest.

### Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ

While we may find comfort in being Christians, being a Christian has not made us perfect. There are still many strongholds within us. Therefore, let us identify some of these spiritual fortresses. Rare is a Christian who is not limited by at least one of the following strongholds: unbelief, cold love, fear, pride, unforgiveness, lust, greed, or any combination of these, as well as the possibility of many others.

Because we excuse ourselves so readily, it is difficult to discern the areas of oppression in our lives. After all, these are our thoughts, attitudes and perceptions; we justify and defend ourselves. As it is written, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV). In other words, the essence of who we are exists in our thought-life. Therefore, before any deliverance can truly be accomplished, we must honestly recognize and confess our need. We must stop pretending everything is all right. We must humble ourselves and seek help. Indeed, as previously mentioned, the first stronghold that God must remove is pride. For until one is willing to admit that he needs deliverance, he will never be free from strongholds.

Let us also realize that only Jesus can be Jesus. As we yield to Him in increasing degrees of surrender, as we abide in Him and His Word abides in us, He brings forth life that is not simply like His own, but is His very life!

We must learn to look objectively at any thoughts or attitudes that fail to conform to the likeness and teachings of Jesus. Those thoughts must be captured and wrong attitudes crucified. We must make way in us for the coming of the Lord. We must allow the increase of His presence to be so absorbed into our spirits that we not only believe in Him, we believe like Him. His love, thoughts and desires flow out from within us as we naturally as fruit of the vine.

To be continued...