

**November 22, 2023**

## **Summary of Part 1 - The Battleground of the Mind**

To summarize part one of this book, let's look at key points to take-away and life application.

II Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV

[3] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, [5] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, [6] and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

In order for us to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to understand that our weapons in warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. Strongholds are fortresses where Satan and his legions hide and are protected. The three sources of strongholds are: 1. the world, 2. experiences, and 3. wrong doctrines.

The following are strongholds that many of us hold within us: arguments and lofty opinions raised against the knowledge of God, unbelief, cold love, failure, fear, pride, unforgiveness, lust, greed, and or any combination of these. Strongholds in our lives must be identified and pulled down.

Pulling down of strongholds requires submitting to God and humbling ourselves. We must walk humbly with our God and must "submit to God." Then, as we "resist the devil, he will flee" (James 4:7). Allow God to show us areas of our lives that hold strongholds of darkness, then repent. *Repentance precedes deliverance, and deliverance often leads to healing in other areas.*

To be effective in spiritual warfare, we must be discerning of our own hearts. Humbling ourselves is not only in times of spiritual warfare. It must be applicable in all situations.

As we get freer from the stronghold of darkness, we must fill our hearts with the Word and the presence of God. Hence, making the presence of God our stronghold.

Francis Frangipane alluded to "the goal is Christlikeness, not warfare." We must develop godly virtues rather than spending our day praying against the devil. Our individual fight is to be conformed in the likeness and image of God. Frangipane wrote "before you go into warfare, recognize that it is not you that the devil is afraid of; it is Christ in you!" So, "Position yourself in the presence of God." Because "our calling is to focus on Jesus."

In this church, we are always exhorted on spending time with God, cultivating a deep relationship with Him, and beholding Him so that we may become like Him!