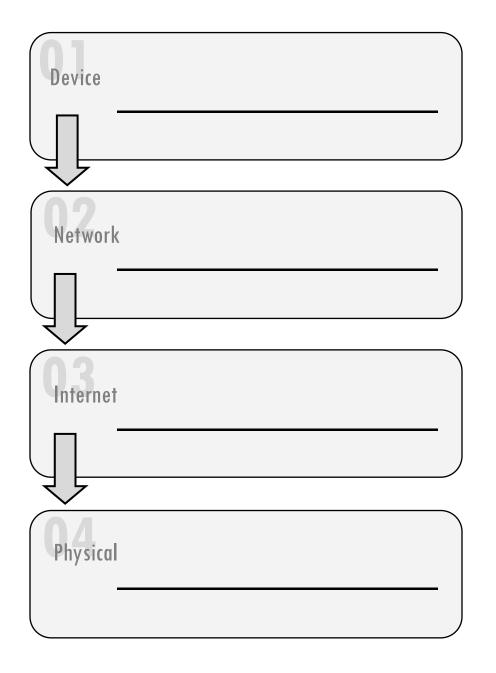
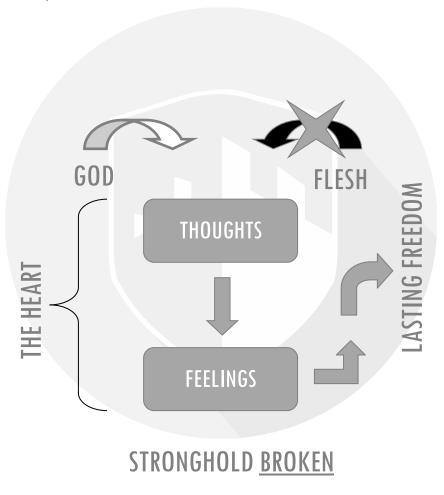


# MY ZONE STRATEGY



perfection, but with the power of God, we can certainly "sin less". He is mighty to tear down strongholds in the lives of hurting and hopeless people, but we have to let Him. Without Christ, one may only be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2) but with Christ, one may renew the mind through the transformative power of Salvation.



Evangelist Richard King (Berean Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri) preached a messaged based upon this subject at the Berean H.O.P.E. Attendees in June of 2012.

person cannot even please God (Romans 8:8). Therefore, an individual without God might occasionally do the "right" things but cannot do them for the "right" reasons.

This situation utterly prevents breaking down spiritual strongholds. The "natural" man without a relationship with God cannot receive the things of God (I Corinthians 2:14). In fact, the Bible says that the lack of understanding runs so deep that the mind with no relationship con-

siders the things of God foolishness!

On the other hand, a person who has what the Bible calls Salvation possesses a new source for thinking godly thoughts, and that by walking

"FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS"

close to Him, the influence of the powers of Evil becomes minimized. That person no longer enters the battle unarmed, but instead ready to fight and win.

#### SUCCESS EXPERIENCED

As a person walks with God, and learns from His Word, he removes the reinforcing power of the stronghold. As each imagination and "every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" is cast down, the way of escape appears. As every thought is brought in captivity to the obedience of Christ, a person leaves the ball-and-chain behind and walks without entanglement as a "New Creature" in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17). "For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he."

The Bible teaches freedom from addictions and entanglements. It does not teach that anyone in this life can reach sinless

## SESSION AGENDA

SESSION 1 ZONE : STRATEGY

SESSION 2 ZONE 4 : PHYSICAL

SESSION 3 ZONE 3 : INTERNET

**ZONE 2 : NETWORK** 

SESSION 4 ZONE 1 : DEVICE

SESSION 5 ZONE 0 : HOPE



The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Philippians 2:5)





For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. (Psalm 61:3)

Name

## MY RISK WORKSHEET

Instructions: Read each line carefully and select the one answer that most accurately describes your home. For each column, add together the values of your answers to find the over all Zone Value. Zone Values range from 0 to 8. Finally, use the form in the bottom right to calculate the Total Risk Value.

	Device	RISK RATING	G OVERVIEW	
	Mobile Phones:	☐ None	☐ Two or Less	☐ Three or More
	Desktop Computers:	☐ None	☐ One	☐ Two or More
	Laptop Computers:	☐ None	☐ One	☐ Two or More
_	Tablets or iPads:	☐ None	☐ Two or Less	☐ Three or More
	Column Values:	0	1	2
			ZONE 1 VALUE	

Network	RISK RATING	OVERVIEW	
WiFi in Home:	☐ None	☐ Open	☐ Password
Game Consoles:	☐ None	☐ One	☐ Two or More
Set Top / Smart TV:	☐ None	☐ One	☐ Two or More
Web Filtering:	☐ Full	☐ Passwords	☐ None
Column Values:	0	1	2
		ZONE 2 VALUE	:

the things of man. We know the things of man because we have the spirit of man in us (I Corinthians 2:11). That verse goes on to tell us that we can know the things of God by the Spirit of God. The lack of a relationship with God means no knowledge of the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, you have no other source for your thinking other than, as the Bible in one case says, "only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

Some might reject this idea. They might believe that they create original thoughts all the time, but the Bible talks about this—let us redirect our attention to Ecclesiastes 1:9. The Bible tells us that there is nothing new under the sun, which includes our thoughts.

Plainly put, the Bible teaches us to do right things. From God's Word, a person can learn to live a life that society would call "moral."

However, living an outwardly "moral" life will not provide true freedom from a stronghold. Furthermore, the Bible explains that without the relationship with Jesus Christ called Salvation, a



NO RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Now, we will consider this same silly scene played out differently. What if Bob turned around, rushed back to Al, and said, "Al, I'm sorry! I shouldn't have pushed past you, but I just got a call—my mother is going into the hospital." So, why did Al jump to the worst possible conclusion?

#### **SOURCES EXAMINED**

We see the power of thoughts. We see how the things we think affects the person we are. So far, though, we have yet to examine the source of those thoughts. Two, and only two, sources for our thoughts exist. One source is the Mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16), for the purposes of His goodness (Psalm 100:5), grace, mercy, and love (Ephesians 2:4&5). The other source is the power of evil, which goes by the Biblical names the Flesh, the Devil, and the World (Ephesians 2:2&3).

As we continue, you need to know that here is the catch. Without a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, you cannot know the Mind of Christ in your life. The Bible makes this distinction clear by explaining how we know about



Internet	RISK RATING	OVERVIEW	
Social Media:	☐ None	☐ Two or Less	☐ Three or More
Online Games:	☐ None	☐ One	☐ Two or More
Internet News:	☐ None	☐ One	☐ Two or More
Peer / Friend Apps:	☐ None	☐ Two or Less	☐ Three or More
Column Values:	0	1	2
		ZONE 3 VALUE:	
Physical	RISK RATING	OVERVIEW	
Family Devotion:	☐ Usually	☐ Occasionally	☐ Rarely
Nightly Collection:	☐ Usually	☐ Occasionally	Rarely
Alternate Pass Times:	☐ Many	☐ Few	☐ None
Unmonitored Time:	☐ Little	☐ Some	☐ Much
Column Values:	0	1	2
		ZONE 4 VALUE:	
ZONE 1	ZONE 2	ZONE 3	ZONE 4
+	+		+
	Т	OTAL RISK VALUE	=



think the same reinforcing thoughts. The inward man, or the Heart, eventually displays itself to the outside world.

#### SIMPLE EXAMPLE

Al meets Bob one day at church. They have known each other for years and have passed many pleasant conversations together. Today, though, when Al sticks out his hand in greeting, Bob shoulders by without even noticing. He did not pause to speak. In fact, it did not seem like Bob even noticed Al existed.

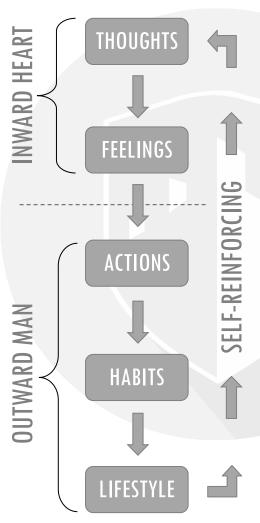
Now Al begins thinking (remember the diagram): Why did Bob treat me that way? After all, we've never been the best of friends, but surely, I deserves more than a snub on a Sunday morning. Maybe my car isn't quite as new as Bob's or I don't live in as nice a neighborhood, but this is church! I have been a member here a lot longer than Bob and all his pals. I don't think he ever liked me.

Soon Al's thoughts become feelings. He says in his heart, "You know, I don't like Bob that much. In fact, I am not sure if I ever liked him. Actually, I may really hate him."

We can see how the little story progresses from here. Now Al moves into the world of actions. If he's going to treat me like that, then I'll do the same to him. Since he feels hatred towards Bob, Al will now begin to avoid him. Those actions become habits, which in turn soon simply becomes a way of life. Al's lifestyle reinforces his thoughts. Now, regardless of what Bob says or does, to Al or anyone else for that matter, Al's mind turns Bob's behavior into a personal attack, which gives him even more reason to hate, and so forth and so on. Al has become a very bitter man.

Examine the diagram on this page and notice that the arrows move in a circular flow.

That reinforcing behavior works just like enemy reinforcements on a battlefield—just when you think you have made some headway, you find yourself back at square one.



This alone makes the stronghold impossible to breakdown in the power of the flesh.

A few can change a lifestyle by significant effort. Fewer still can break a habit by will power alone.

A handful might change their actions with a continual act of supreme self -discipline, and still be doomed to stumble again because they cannot win freedom from their thoughts and feelings.

It works like this: The thoughts a person thinks drives feelings. The feelings will eventually come out as actions. The ac-

tions, when repeated enough become habits. A collection of habits creates a lifestyle, and a lifestyle constrains the mind to

## **ZONE: STRATEGY**

My Strategic P	lan (Psalm 127:3):	
Count the Cost	(Luke 14:28):	
Shield the Hea	rt (Jeremiah 17:9):	
Guard the Min	d (Philippians 2:5):	
Build the Castle	e (Psalm 61:3):	
	2	



steer of asking that question. Yet self-help books fill the bookstores to the brim and never seem to produce any lasting results. With so many "experts" applying so much effort to the subject of self-help, surely by this point in history humanity should all be living healthy, wealthy, and wise! Yet, the evening paper seems to prove such a conclusion incorrect.

God provides us the key in His Word. All the self-betterment programs man has created throughout history without exception

PROVERBS 23:7A

"FOR AS [A MAN THINKETH
IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE"

misses this one key fact. Simply stated: we must not just deal with sin. That's a Bible truth for Salvation. Furthermore, though, even Bible-believing people must

deal with how they think about sin.

Regardless of whether a person knows the Lord Jesus Christ in Salvation or not, this fact remains true. It is just as true for the worst human who ever lived as for the dear church-lady grandmother never known to speak a word in anger. It is true for you and for me.

#### STRONGHOLDS EXPLAINED

Like a mediaeval castle, a spiritual stronghold can turn back all but the most determined assaults. However, also like a mediaeval castle, the right ally makes all the difference. The stronghold can be broken!

The Bible says that as a man "thinketh" in his heart, or the inward man, so is he (Proverbs 23:7a). In other words, change the thoughts to change the man—easy to say, but impossible to accomplish.

"INSANITY: DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN AND EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS" - (ATTRIBUTED TO) ALBERT EINSTEIN

#### SAD EFFECT

Whether you call it the ball and chain, the merry-go-round, or simply call it by the Bible name, Strongholds try to force us into repeating, over-and-over again, the exact same behaviors that keep us down.

Addictions, or what the Bible calls entanglements and besetting sins, often show up as visible (or even invisible) evidence of Strongholds.

Before going any further, though, we better clear the air and face facts: According to the Bible, every living person on the face of the Earth disobeys God (called "sin" in Romans 3:23 ), deals with the sin that so easily makes us stumble (Hebrews 12:1), and struggles with weak flesh (Romans 8:3).

The bad news is that the Bible certainly includes you in that number with the rest of us, and while it is not "good" news, perhaps it helps a little to know that you do not face these things alone. In fact, the Bible even tells us that there is "nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

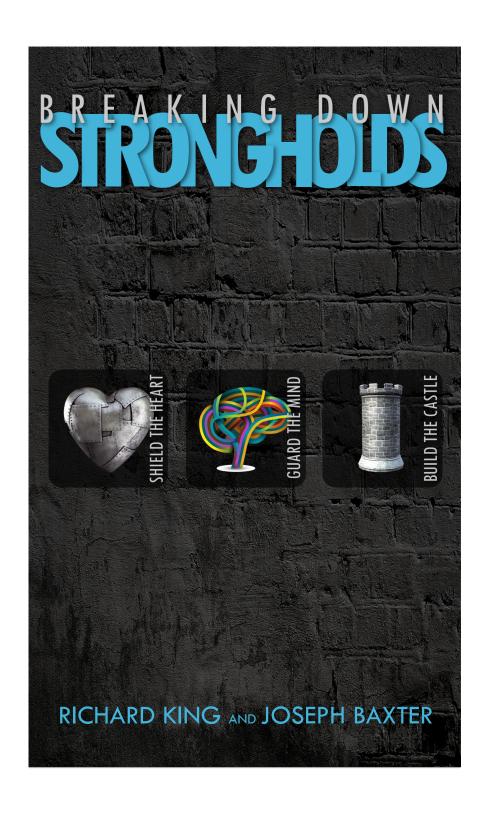
Thinking on these things honestly forces us to admit that our society and culture fall far short of ideal even in man's eyes, but also absolutely in God's eyes (Romans 3:12 ). Very few people would dare to claim otherwise.

The question centers instead on how to stop doing the things we know displease God and destroy our lives. The world might

## **ZONE 4: PHYSICAL**

My Zone 4 Plan (Psalm 127:3):	
Count the Cost (Luke 14:28):	
Shield the Heart (Jeremiah 17:9):	
Guard the Mind (Philippians 2:5):	
Build the Castle (Psalm 61:3):	
4	



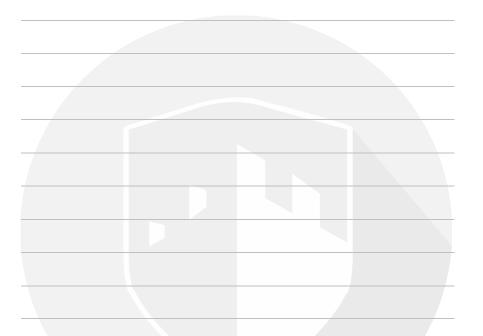


# **ZONE 3: INTERNET**

My Zone 3 Plar	(Psalm 127:3):		
Count the Cost (	Luke 14:28):		
Shield the Hear	t (Jeremiah 17:9)		
Guard the Mind	l (Philippians 2:5)		
Build the Castle	(Psalm 61:3):		
	· ·		
		6	

# **ZONE 0: HOPE**





- 1. Pause Be aware and stop immediately!
- 2. Pray Run to the only strong tower
- 3. Plead Plead the Blood of Christ
- 4. Praise Go blessing by specific blessing
- 5. Repeat Consistently, as often as needed

# **ZONE 2: NETWORK**

	My Zone 2 Plan (Psalm 127:3):
	Count the Cost (Luke 14:28):
	Shield the Heart (Jeremiah 17:9):
	Guard the Mind (Philippians 2:5):
	Build the Castle (Psalm 61:3):
11	8

# **ZONE 1: DEVICES**

	My Zone 1 Plan (Psalm 127:3):
	Count the Cost (Luke 14:28):
	Shield the Heart (Jeremiah 17:9):
	Guard the Mind (Philippians 2:5):
	Build the Castle (Psalm 61:3):
9	10