



Shiloh Messenger

August 2017

Identity, How We View Ourselves (pt. 7)

Training in Righteousness:

Paul gives us some interesting insight as to how he participates in the process of renewing his mind in a fascinating passage:

*For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. **2 Corinthians 10:3-6***

Paul starts off by saying that though he lives in a physical body, he has spiritual weapons with divine power. These weapons destroy strongholds. Strongholds are encampments; places an enemy has fortified for himself that need to be flushed out. This perfectly describes the condition of the mind that is being renewed. There are places where thought patterns sown by the enemy have made encampments into our thinking that need to be broken down and flushed out.

How does Paul destroy these strongholds? He gives us three steps:

Destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God. This doesn't mean to make sure we have correct theology; it means to align our knowledge with God's. The "knowledge of God" is not knowledge about God; it's the knowledge that God has. God knows some things about us (who we are in him), and he forgets some things about us (who we were and our sin). Step one is to align our thoughts and opinions with God's.

Take every thought captive to obey Christ. This refers to guarding our thought life. There are many thoughts we have that aren't yet in line with who we are. Paul admonishes us to make sure that every thought ends in obedience to Christ. If we have a thought about ourselves that's not true, we recognize it as a lie (which we can do because of the first step); and because we know it is a lie, we rejoice in the truth that it isn't true.

Punish every disobedience to obedience. What we do with our thoughts; we do with our actions. Every time disobedience slips forth through our actions, we turn around and begin to reinforce the truth through our actions. We act on the truth and make the place we disobeyed a place of obedience.

Not every thought or action has its source in the renewed mind, but Paul admonishes us to make sure that every thought or action does end in the truth. We make sure that no lie of the enemy slips through the crack unnoticed; in everything, we train ourselves in the ways of righteousness.

Update: New Dorm to House More Men

Over the past couple of years we have had a waiting list for potential students. With a waiting list comes consequences. Many men have to wait for 90 days & we often lose them after that period. We do have a referral list of other ministries, but most of them insist upon being put on our waiting list. They tell us it is our success in ministry to others they know or it is them visiting our website that they choose to wait. The Lord spoke to me last year and told me He wanted another Dorm built. We complied and began construction last fall. We now have a 45 by 75 Ft. exterior building, that needs completion on the inside. This includes, Paint, Ceiling Tile & grid, 2 five ton Air Conditioning Units, Stained Concrete flooring, Showers and Plumbing (toilets, faucets, shower heads & valves).

The approximate cost remaining for completing the Dormitory is \$19,325.00. We ask that you pray about what The Lord would have you do to help us in restoring His most valuable and precious asset, "People." With your financial gift, it will make possible for us to quickly complete the Dormitory project, so we can mentor more broken men, for The Glory of Christ!!!!

Thank you again, to everyone who co-labors with us in reconciling men with God, so restoration can begin.

We love you,

Rocky & Debbie Fondren

(Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization. All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year)

Graduates Testimony

Hello, my name is Joel Stirneman. I'm 52 years old from Victoria, TX. I started smoking marijuana at 17. Although having a wonderful childhood and parents, I started experimenting with various types of drugs. But cocaine seemed to be the one that seemed to come and go the most, and stayed in my life the most. I quit school my sophomore year of high school. At 21, I got married and a year later my wife gave birth to our daughter Samantha. The marriage lasted seven years, and after the divorce my drug usage advanced into high gear. At 38, I was introduced to smoking crack cocaine. I was literally consumed by it. It destroyed everything in my path. Without exception, the drug was killing me. I lost grip of reality. Finally, my daughter and I sat down, and I told her I was tired of the way I was allowing my life to be



lived and that I needed help. My daughter found out about Shiloh through a graduate and it was here that I cried out to Jesus and surrendered my life to Him. My life has been transformed through the mighty works of God. I am a new creation and a son of God. Thank you Pastor Rocky and Sister Debbie and the wonderful staff at Shiloh, as well as everyone affiliated with this ministry. Today I am the Righteousness of God in Christ and a mighty man of God! God bless you all!

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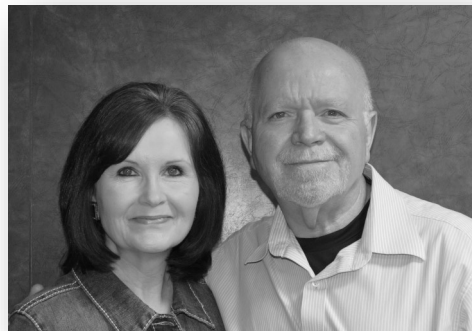
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**Rocky & Debbie Fondren
Founders & Sr. Leaders, Shiloh Ministries**