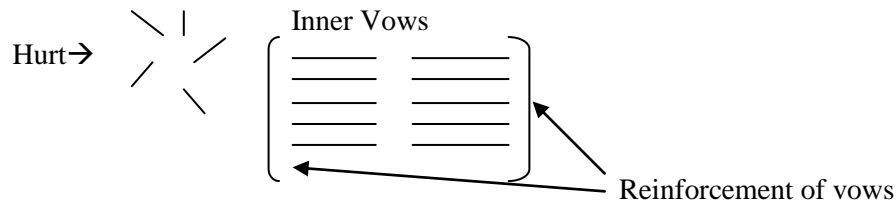


Development of a Stronghold¹

2 Co 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*

1. **A painful event occurs, perhaps repeatedly.**
2. **A negative interpretation is made of the event.**
3. **Certain beliefs are established as a result of the event or events.**
4. **Those beliefs are strengthened and confirmed by additional circumstances**
5. **We protect and rehearse those beliefs.**
6. **We see those beliefs as a source of safety and comfort.**
7. **We remove God from the picture and control our circumstances to protect that source of safety.**

Isa 30:1-5 *"Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin; who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation. For their princes are at Zoan and their ambassadors arrive at Hanes. Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who cannot profit them, who are not for help or profit, but for shame and also for reproach."*



The reality: God is much better able to protect us than we ever could ourselves. Our own protection actually destroys us.

Isa 27:2-6 *In that day, "A vineyard of wine, sing of it! I, the LORD, am its keeper; I water it every moment. So that no one will damage it, I guard it night and day. I have no wrath. Should someone give Me briars and thorns in battle, then I would step on them, I would burn them completely. Or let him rely on My protection, let him make peace with Me, let him make peace with Me. In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit"*

Overcoming the Stronghold

1. Identify the original source(s) of pain.
2. Identify the false beliefs resulting from these painful events.
3. Renounce the false beliefs.
4. Yield personal control to God's control.

¹ Colleen Stortvedt, On the Road to Freedom (Kearney, Nebraska: Morill Publishing, 2010), 168.