



Mind Your Business "The Father's Business" *Pastor Miles McPherson / August 26, 2018*

Opening Prayer:

Father, when our mind becomes torn in a million different directions, when we can't seem to focus on Your ways, teach us how to "think about our thinking". Show us what You desire for us and from us. Empty our minds of all things but Your voice. Give us the peace of mind that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Set our hearts and our minds on the things of the kingdom. You lead, Lord, and we will follow in Your ways and in Your power. Amen.

Icebreaker:

In part 4 of this message series, Pastor Miles' focus narrows to how to define and break through the A.N.T.S. (automatic negative thoughts) that have grown into strongholds. Define what a "stronghold" is, and identify some strongholds common to Christians in this generation.

Encouragement:

Pastor Miles has taught us how to leverage the power of our minds so we can be all about our Father's business, how to identify and overcome A.N.T.s, and how to physically change our brains through correct thinking patterns. The world tries to pull us in countless directions and often times we can get stuck in cycles of negative thinking that if unaddressed can become strongholds in our lives. **But God** tells us that when we meditate on His word; His power, His peace and His provision will be with us. What other disciplines can be brought to bear in the battle against strongholds listed in the icebreaker question?

Scriptures:

Strongholds are:

Broken by the power of Jesus' name:	Matthew 4:8-10
Based on a wrong view of God & self:	Acts 17:22-25
Incorrect thinking patterns:	Matthew 28:18
Established through demonic vows & legal agreements:	2 Corinthians 10:4-6

Prayer:

Spend one minute in silent prayer thanking the Father for His work in the overcoming of one of your previous strongholds. Then, take another minute and ask the Father to identify or confirm a stronghold you may still have. Finally, take a third minute to ask the Father to do the heavy lifting necessary to have complete and lasting victory over it. Ask Him to show you your part in this work and to give you the desire, the courage, and the power to complete your role in obedience to it no matter the time it takes.

Next Steps:

Fighting Strongholds: If you or someone you know or love are struggling with the cultural strongholds of this generation here are some resources to help in the fight.

COVENANT EYES: Overcome pornography with the power of accountability relationships. www.covenanteyes.com App / Software \$11.99 - \$15.99 (free 30 day trial)

CIRCLE: Manage, Monitor & Control all of your home's connected devices. Devices meetcircle.com \$99.00

PLUGGED IN: Entertainment Guide & Reviews from Focus on the Family. Website Pluggedin.com \$ Free

COMMON SENSE MEDIA: Helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Website www.common sense media.org \$ Free

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Holy God, though our sins may be few or many You see only a child of the Most High God, we come before You knowing it is not of ourselves but of the sacrifice of Jesus that makes and keeps us safe from the ultimate penalty of our sins. Our struggles in the flesh are not against the flesh but against the spiritual forces in this world and beyond. We ask and pray in Your Son's name to continue to go before us and prepare the way through the fortresses of our flesh. It is only by and with the full armor of God that we will have victory in these fights. In Your name we ask these things, Amen.

QUOTE:

*"It really wasn't that long ago, that it was **difficult** and it was usually pretty expensive to get hold of pornography. Today it's **difficult** and it's usually pretty expensive to **avoid** pornography."*

Tim Challies pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Toronto, Ontario,
Co-founder of Cruciform Press.

Notes:
