

*sermon notes*

# PRISON BREAK

## *Part 1*

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:16-21 NIV

- Jesus’ first work is the Good news: **salvation**
- Then freedom for the prisoner, recovery of sight, freedom from oppression, and favor

## Freedom is right in front of us!

But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:22 NLT

Christ has freed us so that we may enjoy the benefits of freedom. Therefore, be firm in this freedom, and don’t become slaves again.

Galatians 5:1 GW

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38 NLT

But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 NLT

- **Examples of prisons:** anger, lust, anxiety, fear, rejection, addictions, habits, living below our potential
- Our perceptions and our past keep us from seeing ourselves as God’s sees us, and from His future for us

## Forgiveness... *plus* Freedom

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

- Pretension = pretending
- Arguments = contrary to a point of view
- Knowledge of God = the truth of what God thinks about you

# Stronghold: a prison locked by deception

Living life according to something that is not true

“Anything that exalts itself in our minds pretending to be bigger or more powerful than our God.”

Beth Moore

Strongholds will:

- Steal our focus
- Cause us to feel controlled and helpless
- Consume emotional energy
- Distract us from our purpose in life
- Rob us of abundant life

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

John 10:10 AMP

For when a strong man like Satan is fully armed and guards his palace, his possessions are safe— until someone even stronger attacks and overpowers him, strips him of his weapons, and carries off his belongings.

Luke 11:21-22 NLT

## Consider and discuss

- One of the verses Pastor Roy used in this message was Galatians 5:1. Do you have a testimony of a “prison” or ungodly habit you were set free from when you came to salvation?
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 contrasts “worldly weapons” versus weapons with “divine power”. Think about how these two approaches practically play out for issues such as the ones listed in the table below. Discuss in your group what your initial default *reaction* is (i.e. is it worldly or divine) and, based on the message, what you can do to transition to *responding* in the divine power God has for us.

	Worldly Weapons	Divine Power
Anger		
Anxiety		
Rejection		
Addictions		

- If you have an area in your life where you were able to tap into God's divine power to become victorious over a stronghold from your past, share it with the group.

## Personal Challenge

- What area did God highlight to you during this message? (e.g. anger, lust, anxiety, fear, rejection, addictions, habits, etc). What truth from God and His word can you apply to this area?
- Pastor Roy listed a number of negative effects that strongholds can have in our lives. As you look at your own life, do you see any of these effects? Ask God (and perhaps a trusted Christian friend) to help you identify the stronghold and what changes you can make to apply Godly principles and move to a place of freedom.