

Freedom in Christ



What stops us being the people we long to be?



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Our Sinful Nature**



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Our Sinful Nature

Galatians 5:16-17 (ANIV)

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.



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Our Sinful Nature

Old patterns of thinking



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Old patterns of thinking

Romans 12:2 (ANIV)

² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



What stops us being the people we long to be?

Our Sinful Nature

Old patterns of thinking

Unresolved personal and spiritual conflicts



What stops us being the people we long to be?

Our Sinful Nature

Old patterns of thinking

Unresolved personal and spiritual conflicts

Matthew 6:12 (NLT)

¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.



Strongholds



² **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ANIV)**

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.



⁵We 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.



A stronghold consists of:

Any thought, belief, philosophy, value and consequent action that opposes God's truth. They are powers of reasoning that are opposed to the truth of God. Mike Riches



Footholds



Ephesians 4:25-27 (ANIV)

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.

²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.



Ephesians 6:10-12 (ANIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

¹¹ Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



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Bad Behaviour



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2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (ANIV)

¹⁰ If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,

¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.



James 3:13-16 (NLT)

¹³ If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.



¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.



How do we respond?



How do we respond?

Use the armour God has given us



Ephesians 6:12-14 (ANIV)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,



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