

Summary

- a) This session is the seventh of ten sessions that looks at a vital principle that fosters Spirit-led living. The seventh principle that we will examine is this: Renewing your mind comes from meditation, and meditation always determines your orientation, whether you live from the spirit, soul, or body.
- b) This session looks at mental strongholds and the need to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. More specifically, this session looks at the stronghold of rejection, including the causes and results of rejection, and how to be healed and delivered from the root of rejection.

Introduction

- a) In 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Paul said, “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, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”
- b) Notice that obedience to Christ is linked to how you think: “We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”
- c) Complete obedience is bridal readiness. Therefore, a key part of making yourself ready as a bride for Jesus Christ is waging war against the mental strongholds that block or hinder Christ’s life from flowing within you.
- d) Obedience to Christ’s commandments is crucial to abiding in Christ and producing the fruit of the Spirit. To obey like this is accomplished one thought at a time. Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Destroying mental strongholds results in obedience, obedience leads to abiding, and both obedience and abiding produce bridal readiness.
- e) In this session and the next several sessions, I will describe several mental strongholds. These mindsets of the flesh function like ancient city walls, keeping Christ out while keeping self-life insulated.
- f) In the last session, we looked at the stronghold of unworthiness. In this session, we will look at the stronghold of rejection.
- g) The key to living a victorious, Spirit-led life is deconstructing these fleshly thinking patterns one lie at a time. How? By confronting each lie with truth.
- h) Jesus said, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).
- i) Knowing the truth always brings freedom from mental strongholds, paving the way for Christ in you to live His life through you.

2. A Stronghold of Rejection

- a) God created us to be loved by Him and others and to love Him and others. He designed us for the first and second commandments—to love God with all our hearts and to love others as we have been loved. Love for God and others overflows from experiencing love first.
- b) 1 John 4:19 states, “We love, because He first loved us.”
- c) We have a strong innate need for social connection and acceptance. Whenever you experience rejection, it threatens this fundamental need, creating many different types of responses.

- d) Whenever someone refuses to accept, acknowledge, approve, or consider you, you experience rejection.
- e) You can experience rejection by friends or family, social interactions, romantic relationships, your career, ministry, creative work, and more.
- f) Whenever you experience rejection, it can evoke a range of emotional responses, including sadness, anger, frustration, and low self-esteem.

Seeds, Roots, Trees, and Fruit

- a) Rejection starts as a seed planted into your life through something that happens to you.
- b) Trees have roots, and roots determine fruit.
- c) Bad fruit comes from a bad root. Good fruit comes from a good root.
- d) Whatever soil your root system is rooted and ground in will determine the type of fruit you produce in your life.
- e) If you are rooted and grounded in God's love for you, you will produce the fruit of the Spirit (Eph. 3:17-19).
- f) If you are rooted and grounded in rejection, you will produce the rotten fruit of rejection, including low self-esteem, inferiority, insecurity, rebellion, independence, judgmentalism, anger, control, etc.

A Tree Rooted in God's Love

- a) Paul said, "That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:17-19).
- b) A tree rooted and grounded in God's love produces the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).
- c) If you are rooted and grounded in God's love:
 - You will be patient, kind, and free from jealousy (1 Cor. 13:4).
 - You will not brag, boast, or be arrogant (1 Cor. 13:4).
 - You will not be rude, selfish, easily offended, or resentful (1 Cor. 13:5).
 - You will not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoice in the truth (1 Cor. 13:6).
 - You will bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things (1 Cor. 13:7).

A Tree Rooted in Rejection

- a) A tree rooted and grounded in rejection produces the rotten fruit of rejection, including:

• Rebellion	• Independence	• Anger
• Bitterness	• Insecurity	• Inferiority
• Escapism	• Distrust	• Jealousy

- Judgmentalism
- Depression
- Cynicism
- Withdrawal
- Fear
- Defensiveness
- Competition
- Isolation
- Hopelessness
- Hardness
- Perfectionism
- Control

Everyone Is Affected by Rejection

- Demonic powers want to create a stronghold of rejection in your life. Even just a small seed of rejection can cause a wound and open your soul for the devil to build a stronghold in your heart and mind.
- Almost every adult has been seriously affected by rejection.
- Healing and deliverance from the root of rejection can often be a painful process. For example, my mother-in-law just had hip replacement surgery. Before her surgery, she was in such pain she had trouble walking. After having surgery, she's in more pain now than before, but this pain is the necessary part of the process toward healing and restoration.
- Even though facing your pain is hard, I encourage you not to suppress the pain of rejection you have experienced. Instead, face it in prayer, in God's loving presence, so that you can be healed and delivered. Face the pain of your rejection so that you can be transplanted from the soil of rejection to the soil of God's love.

My Root of Rejection

- Over twenty-five years ago, the Lord revealed to me that I had a root of rejection. I had no idea. It was such a powerful, life-changing revelation. When the light of revelation shined into my heart and soul and I saw that who I had become stemmed from the root of rejection, it transformed my life.
- In all honesty, I shouldn't have had a root of rejection. I was raised by incredible parents who loved God and always showed me love. But looking back at this season in my life, I can see clearly it was a strategic, demonic assignment against me, seeking to build a stronghold of rejection in my soul.
- Growing up, I didn't experience a ton of rejection, especially when compared to what others experienced. For me, the devil worked in my mind to form a stronghold of self-rejection. I often rejected myself.
- Until the Lord revealed the way rejection affected me, I was blind. I didn't realize how the root of rejection created low self-esteem, inferiority, rebellion, anger, judgmentalism, perfectionism, and even a struggle with alcohol and drugs.
- When the Lord deals with the root of rejection in your life, it's painful. You must face the rejection you experienced and look honestly at how the root of rejection has shaped your life. This is the only way to experience healing, deliverance, and freedom from rejection.
- During this painful, healing, and freeing time, the Lord led me to Joyce Meyer's book, *The Root of Rejection*. I highly recommend this book if you have a root of rejection in your life. Much of the teaching in this session was what I learned through this book.
- As I talk about the root of rejection, I am speaking from experience. The Lord healed and delivered me from the root of rejection over 25 years ago.

The Causes of Rejection

a) The following are some common causes of rejection:

- Raised by one or more parents who had a deep root of rejection.
- One or more parents favoring another sibling above you.
- Abuse—whether physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional.
- Withheld and unexpressed love.
- Unwanted pregnancy.
- Contemplated or attempted abortion.
- Parents wanting a different gender (parents wanting a boy but having a girl).
- Born with some type of defect, such as a learning disability or physical impairment.
- Traits others make fun of, such as height, weight, or some other unique feature.
- Abandonment, whether by parents, a spouse, or a child.
- Death of one or both parents, especially at a young age.
- A parent with mental illness.
- Rejection by friends, a lover, or a spouse.
- Divorce, whether you divorced your spouse, they divorced you, or you were a child affected by divorce.
- Strife and contention between parents while you were growing up.
- A spouse having an affair or addicted to pornography.

A Confession of God's Love for You

a) Because facing rejection can be painful and even traumatic, I want to share a biblically-based confession that you can say about yourself.

I am who God says I am.

Before I was born, You knew me and you chose me before the foundation of the world (Jer. 1:5; Eph. 1:4).

You called me to Yourself and set me apart for Your purposes (Jer. 1:5).

You created me for Yourself, and You formed me the way You desired. Because Your hand is upon me, I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:14).

Your eyes saw me before I was born, and in Your book, You wrote down all the days that were ordained for me, even before a single day had passed (Ps. 139:16).

You think about me all the time and every thought you have about me is precious (Ps. 139:17).

Your thoughts about me can't be numbered, for your loving, kind, and caring thoughts about me outnumber all the grains of sand in the earth (Ps. 139:17-18).

I am My beloved's, and He is mine (Song. 6:3).

I am deeply loved and cherished (Eph. 5:29). I am forgiven and declared righteous in Christ (Eph. 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:21). I am beloved and chosen (1 Thess. 1:4).

God is my Father, and I am His chosen and precious child. You have inscribed my name on the psalms of Your hands, and You have called me by name (Isa. 49:16).

I am in love with God, and God's in love with me. This is who I am, and this is who I'll be. And that settles it completely.

The Creator of the universe knew me before I was born, chose me before the world was created, set His affections on Me before I existed, and called me to be alive at this time.

I am His special, precious, and beloved child—His beloved jewel, His precious pearl.

Because I am precious and chosen by You, You have called me by name; I am Yours (Isa. 43:1). I have been chosen by You to speak forth Your word. I have been chosen by You to minister to You and to pray for Your purposes.

God loves Me and I love God. This is my identity, and this is what gives me value and worth.