

A NEW CREATION 2

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GOOD STRONGHOLDS

- **When we are born again, our desires are changed to match God's desires. In spite of temptation, we should desire to do the right thing instead of the wrong thing. *Phil. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.***
- **We are supposed to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. This means that we can stand in the face of temptation and not give in to it. *Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***
- **The Lord is a stronghold for us, when we need protection from the enemy. Salvation brings us this secure refuge to keep us from falling. *Nah. 1:7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.***



BAD STRONGHOLDS

- **The enemy has strongholds as well. These are places in our lives that the enemy hides in to control us.** *2Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.*
- **Secret sins birth strongholds. When we hide sin, we are really hiding the enemy. He is protected by our secrecy and reclusiveness.** *John 11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.*
- **The more we secretly sin, the more we will try to sin secretly. Sin without immediate consequences can give us a sense of security and make us grow comfortable in a sinful state.** *James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*



PRACTICING SIN

- **A born again believer cannot practice sin. We all fall at times, but the decision to live a sinful lifestyle means that we have not been redeemed. *1John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.***
- **A person that has practiced sin for a long time will lose themselves in it. They will hold on to sin because they can no longer see themselves without it. This individual is reprobate. *Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.***
- **Deliverance can only take place when a person is ready to give up all for Christ. If a person is not ready to surrender all to God, then have they truly been born again? *Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.***



SUMMARY

Stockholm syndrome is a psychological response sometimes seen in abducted hostages, in which the hostage shows signs of loyalty to the hostage-taker, regardless of the danger or risk in which they have been placed. The syndrome is named after the Norrmalmstorg robbery of Kreditbanken at Norrmalmstorg in Stockholm, in which the bank robbers held bank employees hostage from August 23 to August 28, 1973. In this case, the victims became emotionally attached to their captors, and even defended them after they were freed from their six-day ordeal.

Many so-called believers today struggle with this syndrome when it comes to the enemy. They feel that what the enemy has offered them is good for them and they have fallen in love with their captor. They have been in bondage for so long that they have embraced it and do not feel they need deliverance or redemption. We see this in those that seek fame, fortune, and prestige. Some will even pledge their allegiance to Satan and subject themselves to demonic rituals in order to be what they feel he can help them become. There is no redemption possible if a person does not desire it. We must desire freedom from our captor in order to be set free. When we truly want freedom, it is available, but we must first be willing to forsake everything to accept it.

***Rom. 6:18 And having been set free from sin,
you have become the servants of righteousness
(of conformity to the divine will in thought,
purpose, and action).***