

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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January 2014  
The Mountain Called Truth

Dear Friend,

Let's begin by looking at a verse that isn't easily understood yet powerful and life changing when applied. (Mark 2:22)

**“No man puts new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred, but new wine must be put into new bottles.”**

Most people reading this verse know what wine is and bottles, or in that time period, wineskins. A person can also recognize the fermentation process, which is being described here. They can identify and know all the natural aspects of this illustration and still wonder what in the world Jesus is talking about. In fact, none of the people Jesus spoke to, barring special intervention from the Holy Ghost, could have understood what He taught because it required a person to be born again, which none of them were. My point is this, it is very possible to know and understand all these words, even to the point that you can quote them, and still not grasp the Truth that Jesus is conveying. For example, an atheist could quote these verses by memory and yet never receive the revelation because they are spiritually dead. Please don't misunderstand, reading the scriptures over and over to the point of memorization is fine, but the real objective is to have the Truth within those verses unlocked and revealed to you. This is what we call a revelation.

Praying in tongues is a revelation gift. In other words, reading the scriptures and praying in tongues empowers the Holy Ghost to be our Teacher and reveal Truth to us. Without revelation knowledge, man is left to his own intellect to try and understand what is being said. But, intellectualizing the scriptures does not produce faith. What it does produce is more denominations with more intellectual interpretations of the scriptures, void of true revelation knowledge. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, (Romans 10:17). Just hearing with your ears is not enough for faith to come. It is when the

understanding, or better said, the revelation of the Truth comes that faith to operate in those words is made available to us.

Referring back to Mark 2:22, what is Jesus describing? Can we agree that it must be about more than fermenting wine and bursting bottles? Pastor Dave received this revelation from the Holy Ghost and shared it years ago. First, I had to listen to him explain it and mentally understand what he was saying. That still did not mean that I had the revelation of this verse. At that point, the initial groundwork was being laid in order for the Holy Ghost to do in me what He had already done in Pastor Dave; reveal the Truth of this verse. Then it was up to me to pray in tongues and roll this verse over and over inside until the revelation was formed in me.

Jesus is teaching about how fasting will effectively change out our wineskin, which symbolizes the part of a person that did not get born again, and give us access to something as close to our glorified body as possible while still on this earth. As we fast, the new wine, our reborn human spirit, matures like fine wine in a bottle. Fasting attacks the junk that survived in our flesh after we were born again. Fasting attacks and destroys it so the enemy won't be able to use it against us, risking the destruction of our bottle and the spilling of our wine. A quick example of what this might look like would be the self-destruction we witnessed years ago of the television preachers who fell to all kinds of fleshly sins and became public spectacles in front of the entire world. All of that could easily had been prevented had they utilized the power in fasting and put to death the things in their flesh that lured them into sin.

Until these words describing bursting bottles and spilling wine are unlocked and the mystery revealed all a person sees is bursting bottles and spilling wine and they miss the awesome revelation of the benefits of fasting. But, just reading this or hearing it explained to you is not enough; it still has to become bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. Praying in other tongues will empower the Holy Ghost to teach you and allow Him to unlock revelation to you. As long as these verses only describe bursting natural bottles and spilling wine you are not able to enjoy the fruit of this Truth.

God doesn't want His children to remain in the dark regarding His Truth. (Why would He provide us with a new nature having the capacity to know the things of God and want to leave us ignorant?) Nor does He want us trying to mentally interpret His Word. God isn't to blame for the amount of Truth, or lack thereof, that we are walking in; we are. The moment we are born again we are given everything necessary to comprehend Truth through the revelation of His Word. We receive a nature having the capacity to know the things of God. In addition to

that, He gives us the ability to receive the Holy Ghost and to empower Him to be the Teacher of our new nature by praying in tongues and meditating His Word. Everything necessary to receive revelation knowledge has been made available to us, so why is it that we aren't walking in more Truth? "Mark, how can you say that?" If we were walking in more Truth, the evidence would be the manifestation of miracles at every turn and we would see the outpouring of God as they did in the Book of Acts. Moreover, why is it that once we are born again we don't all immediately have the same understanding of the scriptures? Think about it, we all have the same capacity to understand Truth with our reborn human spirit. Obviously, simply having the capacity to comprehend Truth and utilizing that capacity are two different things. So, here's the question; "What is it inside of us that limits our ability to receive Truth?" That's what we need to find out.

Since praying in tongues originates in our spirit, then the Holy Ghost must somehow be utilizing our spirit as the doorway by which He passes revelation knowledge through to our mental understanding. That being the case, could it be that the smooth flow of revelation knowledge from our spirit to our soul can be hindered by barriers in our soul? I believe the answer to that is yes. Let's say a person gets born again and filled with the Holy Ghost and establishes a lifestyle of praying in tongues, so they are empowering the Holy Ghost to set the stage for them to receive revelation knowledge. If no barriers exist, a person should be able to read the bible and pray in tongues and experience a constant, unhindered flow of revelation knowledge and walk in perfect understanding of the scriptures from day one. Since this is clearly not happening we need to understand why it's not happening. Jesus explained how barriers do exist in us and described them in Mark 4, which we will get to in a moment. First, let's understand how and where those barriers originate. We will do this by looking at the lives of three fictitious people.

The people we will be looking at come from vastly different backgrounds. What's similar is that each one has recently received Jesus and has begun their individual discovery of Truth. By looking at their lives, both past and present, maybe we will be able to determine possible hindrances that would impede the Word from producing faith in them. Our first convert is a convicted serial killer who found Jesus while in prison. After 40 years on the loose committing one horrible crime after another this person finally surrendered their life to Jesus. Not only do they have the 40 years of wrong thinking born out of all their criminal activity to overcome, but also the years of abuse as a child at the hands of their parents. It's foreseeable to think that a person in this position might suffer from a host of issues regarding the way they think about themselves, as well as, others. These thoughts can be like bars on a cell door holding them captive to patterns of thinking linked to emotions. For example, this person might recall their

childhood and the abuse they suffered and immediately find himself seething with rage. These thoughts are directly tied to emotions. Perhaps you can imagine the possible negative thought patterns tied to negative emotions and it is easy to see the war that awaits them as they attempt to receive revelation from the Word.

The second person we will look at has spent 40 years in a cult and was indoctrinated with lies their entire life. They also suffered mental and physical abuse during this time. They accepted Jesus in the later years of their life and began their discovery of Truth. The patterns of thought in this person won't be the same as the serial killer, but will be equally binding. The effect of the lies to which they were subjected over the years might best be described like **ruts cut into a dirt road**. No matter what they are told, their thoughts gravitate towards those ruts. Imagine attempting to plant the Word of God inside a person with these kinds of ruts in their thinking and it's easy to see the battle they will face to receive revelation knowledge. Just receiving the revelation that Jesus loves them will be a monumental discovery to them.

The last person is a churchgoer who has spent the past 40 years of their life attending a church that teaches how salvation is all there is, miracles have passed away, God is using sickness to teach us something, everyone who is saved has all the Holy Ghost there is, and finally, tongues is of the devil and we are just old sinners saved by grace. Miracle of miracles, after 40 years of warming a pew, this person finally makes Jesus Lord. Unlike our first two people, our churchgoer doesn't have unbelievably horrible thought patterns to overcome. But, our churchgoer has been subjected to wrong doctrine, which has created thought patterns tied to emotions, which now must be uprooted and replaced. This is as difficult to overcome as the thought patterns in our first two people because it requires a person to **unlearn doctrinal error they thought to be Truth**.

Over the course of each of these people's lives patterns of thought have been established about themselves, others, and God. For the former serial killer and cult member, we'll assume they have had no previous church influence. Therefore, their patterns of thought have been developed by their personal experiences and the lies told to them by others. For the one who attended a church where wrong doctrine was preached their thought patterns about the scriptures constantly gravitate towards the ruts of error they have been taught. Consequently, before these people will ever be able to receive the Truth in the scriptures they will each have to undergo a gradual purging of the thought patterns born out of the abuse, the years of lies, and the false doctrine in order to make way for the Truth to come in unopposed. No matter who we are, we have patterns of thought that have developed in us that are not correct. Maybe they

were there before we got saved or maybe they have developed after we were born again. Whatever the case, these patterns of thought are what will stop revelation knowledge from being able to pass from the Holy Ghost to our reborn human spirit and onto our mental understanding. That's why we are told to "renew" our mind (Romans 12:2) in order to undergo a transformation process in our soul.

Take Paul for example, as a child he grew up being taught the Law at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Yet, later in life he **thought** he was doing God's work by killing Christians. After Paul's conversion it was imperative that he undergo a "renewing" of his mind in order to be able to receive revelation from God. Apparently Paul did so and here's the proof. (2 Corinthians 12:7)

**"And lest I should be exalted above measure because of the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan sent to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."**

No one could convince me that at this point in Paul's life he still struggled with thoughts about whether or not killing Christians was right. So, where did those thoughts go? "Oh, Mark, they just vanished the instant Paul got saved." Did all your carnal thoughts vanish the instant you were born again? No! All those thought patterns he had developed about walking according to the strict rules of the Law were like ruts in Paul's mind that had to be renewed. Imagine a person like Paul so messed up as to believe killing Christians would please God. Now, take that same person and see them changed to the point that the revelation knowledge they are walking in makes them so dangerous that the devil has to assign a demon to stop them. The potential is there for anyone of us to walk in the same level of revealed Truth as Paul and become just as dangerous to the devil as he was. Why would anyone strive for this if it meant getting a demon assigned to them? The answer is simple, it's because the Truth we gave our lives to uncover might mean the difference between someone spending eternity in heaven instead of hell.

Here's an illustration that we will call, "Climbing the Mountain of Truth" to help explain the process we must undergo in order to walk in Truth. To begin with, picture every born again person alive on the earth, including yourself, climbing a mountain that we will call Truth. Once a person is born again they take their place at the mountain base, equipped and ready to begin their ascent. The first thing they notice as they look up this mountain is that it has no end. They also notice that many have stopped their ascent at different levels, joining "like-minded" climbers who have decided they have climbed the Mountain of Truth as

far as possible. A closer look at these climbers reveals **the real reason** they have stopped is because ropes, which we will call “strongholds” are tied to them and are pulling against them. A “stronghold” is a system of thought empowered by emotions. Every person has these “strongholds”, or ropes tied to them **in varying numbers**, depending on the individual’s background, which are constantly pulling against them. The lower on the Mountain of Truth a person has stopped the more ropes, or “strongholds”, are present in them.

**“Strongholds” live in people’s flesh and are patterns of thought about themselves, others and God that are empowered by emotions that have not yet been put to death.** The reason these “strongholds” have survived the born again experience is because they exist in the part that does not get born again. Here’s what Paul had to say about strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

**4 “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) 5 Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”**

These “strongholds” aren’t physical structures or demonic fortresses, as many people think. They are the wrong ideas and thoughts that have formed over the course of a lifetime that are reinforced by feelings or emotions. The emotional influence, no matter if good or bad, strengthens these thoughts and ideas and makes them that much harder to change. Remember when you were a child and you thought the boogieman was under your bed and the moment the lights went out he was going to pounce on you. Once the lights went out a trigger seemed to be flipped inside you turning on all those horrible thoughts and fear immediately followed. The boogieman was only a figment of your imagination, yet the thoughts about him pouncing on you raced through your mind and were reinforced by fear that may have even caused you to shake. That’s what each of us are up against; our own wrong patterns of thinking that are backed up by our feelings or emotions. Often, our physical body joins in on the fun and presents real feelings that feed the thought patterns that are empowered by emotions. That’s what a drug addict deals with; physical cravings that feed thought patterns empowered by emotions that promise a good feeling if only the person will shoot the poison into their arm. Otherwise, their body will gradually be wracked with more and more pain from withdrawals until it gets a fix.

“Strongholds” can be just as powerful when it comes to believing wrong doctrine. Let’s say a woman has been taught and believes that cutting her hair is a sin. Just having a pair of scissors close to her hair might make her break out in a cold sweat, let alone actually having a haircut. Or, for the person who’s loved one

committed suicide and has always been told by church leaders this sin is unpardonable, all hope for their loved one is lost. They could easily develop hatred towards God based on this false doctrine, which fails to take into account mental illness or just simply the weakness in a person's mind to withstand the mental attack of the devil. Neither the woman cutting her hair committed sin nor is the person who committed suicide guilty of the unpardonable sin. That being the case, the wrong doctrine that has formed wrong patterns of thought in the mind of the woman with the short hair and the family member left behind must be rooted out in order for revealed Truth to take root.

So, in the example of our three converts; can you see how their various wrong thought patterns might stand in opposition to Truth being revealed? That is why conquering "strongholds" is a lifelong endeavor that we should never assume to be complete. Failure to address "strongholds" hinders God's ability to work through us. Even at that, if God refused to use a person with "strongholds" **He would have no one through whom He could work because all of us have "strongholds"**. That being the case, the number of "strongholds", or lack thereof, can determine the degree to which God is able to use us. Thank God He loves us too much to send us into impossible situations in which the enemy would destroy us because of our "strongholds". He won't endanger the destruction of one of His children to save a million. Unfortunately, men have been destroyed because they did not continue to put to death their "strongholds" and eventually fell to the sin they preached against.

Going back to our illustration, the base of the mountain has the most people and those people have the most ropes tied to them. What's obvious here is that if a person begins listening to and accepts the message that says salvation is all there is, they seem to go no higher. They settle in with those who have accepted the same doctrine and live a life that amounts to trying to stay saved long enough to make it to heaven. That's not to say that they can't go any higher, but generally speaking, there doesn't seem to be the desire to go higher without the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and the evidence of speaking in tongues. Yes, we have seen renowned evangelists touch the world with a simple message of salvation, but imagine how much more could have been accomplished had they activated the teaching ministry of the Holy Ghost in their life by praying in tongues? For those who refuse to go beyond the message of salvation their wrong believing, or what Paul calls "filthiness of spirit", (2 Corinthians 7:1), keeps a ceiling over their lives that blocks the steady stream of revelation from flowing in them.

What would happen if all three of our converts were filled with the Holy Ghost and developed a lifestyle of praying in tongues? Receiving the baptism in the

Holy Ghost would propel them past the doctrine of those who say salvation is all there is and into the place where they must now answer the question, **“What has the Holy Ghost been sent to do?”** Many stay at this place believing salvation and the baptism in the Holy Ghost is all there is, never understanding what is necessary in order to empower the Holy Ghost to be their Teacher, by praying in other tongues. Some at this level see a few healed, but too often try to explain why healing isn’t available for every person every time. It’s sad to think of how much time is spent trying to explain why all things **aren’t** possible instead of why all things **are** possible to those who believe. Without activating the teaching ministry of the Holy Ghost the only thing people have to rely on is their own mental intellect to interpret the scriptures. To make matters worse, there’s still the constant pressure from the ropes, “strongholds”, pulling against them and opposing the Word. Jesus described all of this in Mark 4:3-20 when He taught about the sower sowing the seed of the Word of God. Why was it that every time the seed was planted a hundred fold was not harvested? Wasn’t it because there was something in the soil that restricted the productivity of the seed? Can you see the connection between what was in the soil and “strongholds”? First, the seed of the Word was sown by the wayside but produced nothing because the ground was too hard and the seed was stolen by the devil. In the next example, the seed was sown in stony ground where the Word was received with gladness. (Mark 4:17)

**“And have no root in themselves and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution arises for the Words sake, immediately they are offended.”**

So, the person heard the Word of God, but something within them caused them to be vulnerable to affliction or persecution. What made them vulnerable were the ropes, or “strongholds”, which became targets the enemy used as the focal point of his attack to draw the person into an offense so the Word would be rendered unproductive. It is inevitable, affliction and persecution will come for the sake of the Word, but what determines if it will defeat a person is whether or not an existing “stronghold” can be used to neutralize the Word. For example, let’s say our serial killer reads 2 Corinthians 5:21 and sees the words explaining to him that he is the righteousness of God in Christ. This man, who as a sinner murdered hundreds of people, must overcome all the condemning thoughts from the enemy telling him he is a monster and now believe that when he was born again he was born the righteousness of God in Christ. Most never seem to win the victory over these kinds of condemning thoughts and are consequently held prisoners in a “stronghold” that has them believing they aren’t really any different than they were before, only forgiven. There’s no bigger lie perpetrated by the



enemy than this. When we were born again our old man died the death of the cross in Jesus and we were born again, sons of God, the righteousness of God in Christ.

Let's say that the former cult member was told all their life that they are no good, worthless and will never amount to anything. Over the years of hearing that trash the person develops patterns of thought about themselves that is not at all the way God sees them. They too can see 2 Corinthians 5:21 that says they are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, but every time that seed is sown in them that "stronghold" opposes the Word like a machine gun firing thoughts telling them they are no good and they will never amount to anything. That seed of Truth will be challenged as long as the "stronghold" is present. Generally, this person will just settle at some level and continue to live a defeated life believing they are no good. In order to progress to higher levels up the Mountain of Truth we must free ourselves from the ropes, the "strongholds" that are pulling against us. We must attack whatever is in our flesh that the enemy can use against us to make us stop. **We are susceptible to being stopped at any level because of the ropes, the "strongholds", that we allow to remain in us that hinder the Word of Truth from producing a full harvest.**

Imagine that our three converts hear how it is possible to pray in tongues as much as they want and how this will empower the Holy Ghost to become their personal tutor of the Word. With an abundance of excitement and enthusiasm our believers jump in and begin praying hours in tongues. Before long, something happens and all that excitement and all that enthusiasm seems to evaporate and nothing inside of them wants to pray in tongues, nor do they even **want to want to** pray in tongues. A rope, a "stronghold", is making its presence known. This is an **impasse**. One of two things is going to happen, either they are going to stop praying and join the chorus of naysayers who claim that praying in tongues will make you weird, or they will continue praying and add **fasting** until finally that "stronghold" of **falling out of prayer** is destroyed. Once that rope is removed it is easy praying until the next "stronghold" appears. As a result of their newfound freedom, scriptures that were once confusing seem to open up like they are being seen for the first time. Up the Mountain of Truth they go with every step filled with more and more revelation.

The tools necessary to progress up the mountain are available to every person enabling them to ascend the heights of Truth. The only thing that can stop anyone are the "strongholds" allowed to remain that oppose the Word. Whatever "strongholds" are allowed to remain will be like those ropes pulling against us and keeping us from advancing in higher levels of revealed Truth.

Let's look at what else Jesus said would render the Word unproductive.  
(Mark 4:19)

**“The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.”**

The “strongholds” that remain in those at the higher levels are different than the ones they freed themselves of at the lower levels. These tend to be much more elusive. They are the things that everyone struggles with and most look at as harmless because “everyone else is like this too”. These are things like worrying, placing all your dependency on money and not God, and thinking a little more highly of yourself than you ought. No matter how “harmless” a person may think a “stronghold” is, it still has the capacity to render the Word unproductive in a person's life with the end result being they can go no higher up the Mountain of Truth until it is removed. Many people will be stopped by “strongholds” like this and go no further. Maybe they have a good life, all the bills are paid, and no one has been diagnosed with any killer diseases. So they think, “Why not just relax and settle in right here. The view is good from this height.” They think, “We are definitely better off way up here than we were when we had those other ropes around us. We only have a few ropes now that's good enough. We will just relax and maintain our position right here.” That all sounds well and good, but the moment a person stops pressing on and settles in at a comfortable level they become vulnerable. The devil won't leave a person alone just because they stop. What they know is a threat to his kingdom and he is obligated to do everything possible to steal, kill and destroy whatever he can in their life. There is no “time out” with the devil, no making peace with him. Our destruction is all he cares about and if we underestimate him he will destroy us. There are no peace treaties with the devil. If we refuse to continue dealing with those ropes, those “strongholds”, we are giving the devil open opportunity in our lives.

Those climbing the Mountain of Truth must not fall into the enemy's trap of comparing the circumstances of their life or ministry with other fellow climbers. We are each responsible for ridding ourselves of our own “strongholds” in order to fulfill our call. What's at stake if we choose to ignore our “strongholds” and limit the degree to which God will be able to use us? The consequences of such a decision may not truly be appreciated on this earth. But, there is point when each of us will stand in front of Jesus and give an account of how we stewarded the life He died to give us. Did we go after Truth with everything we possibly could? Did we continue to attack those ropes, “strongholds”, with prayer and fasting and meditation and confession of the Word and watch them destroyed one after the other? All the while, ascending one level to another up the

Mountain of Truth without stopping. Did we refuse to accept manmade doctrine in place of revealed Truth? Whether or not you were counted a success or a failure while on the earth, rich or poor, well regarded or despised, makes no difference. At the moment you are standing face to face with Jesus the only thing that will matter is this, **what did you do with what He gave you?** How far up that Mountain of Truth did you climb and **how many did you bring with you?** Did you stop at some level and claim this is all there is, no need to climb any further? Did you step on the fingers of others striving to ascend the Mountain of Truth or did you reach out your hand and do everything possible to try and help them up? Whatever you did is about to be weighed in the balance and the works of the flesh will be burned and whatever remains will be your reward. Think of it, Jesus actually gives you a reward for simply doing what you're supposed to do.

I would be remiss not to finish the parable of the sower. (Mark 4:20)

**“And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the Word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty fold, some sixty, and some an hundred.”**

Even in good ground there is not always a one hundred fold harvest, although that potential is always there. Sometimes there is thirty fold and sometimes there is sixty fold because for some reason we stop short of receiving the fullest possible harvest the Word is capable of producing. We settle; not God. God intends for us to experience one hundred fold every single time. He certainly isn't holding anything back from us because that would make Him a respecter of persons, which He is not. We are the ones that make the decision to let go short of one hundred fold harvest. Maybe, to hold on for the hundred fold requires faith that we simply believe to be beyond us.

In closing, whatever kind of person you were before accepting Jesus makes no difference. Regardless of how slimy the rock was that you climbed out from under, now you are a son of God and excuses are a luxury you cannot afford. Most every one of us have things we regret doing before coming to Jesus. All those things are under the blood. For us to constantly look back and wish things were different is a favorite tactic of the enemy used to hold us captive. Yes, many of us came into this new life with a ton of fleshly baggage we acquired before we were born again that must be dealt with if we are going to progress to higher levels of Truth. “Strongholds” in our flesh will have to be destroyed in order for the seed of God's Word to produce a great harvest in us and thought patterns will have to be changed. No matter what you were before you were born again: serial killer, cult member or church goer, makes no difference. Now,

you are a born again son of God and the heights of the Mountain of Truth are waiting for you. Will you forsake all and climb? Multitudes could very well be waiting you to bring Truth to them, resulting in an endless number of people spending eternity with Jesus. That's what this is all about.

~ Grace be with you

*Mark Jenkins*