

**Introduction:** The parable of the swimmer

- He was popular
- He was a “party animal”
- He was a #1 athlete
- He swore profusely
- He is “in” and “cool”
- He was very unreligious
- He was dating a beautiful girl
- He was totally \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ
- His question: “Chip, why didn’t you...?”

**The Lesson:** I didn’t share God’s love with him because I believed a \_\_\_\_\_.

## 7 “Strongholds”:

### Lies we must demolish daily in order to share God’s love with our world

*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 10:4-5 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #1:** People are not \_\_\_\_\_!

*Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.*

John 4:35-36 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #2:** Sharing Jesus’ love is reserved for spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and people with outgoing personalities!

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #3:** Witnessing is something I do vs. something “\_\_\_\_\_.”

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #4:** Sharing the “good news” is an event vs. a \_\_\_\_\_.

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #5:** He/She will never come to Christ vs. God desires \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to be saved.

*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #6:** I'm just not bold enough vs. I just don't \_\_\_\_\_ enough.

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

- **Stronghold #7:** I need to “try harder” to love people vs. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ more of God’s love personally.

*I tell you, her sins – and they are many – have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.*

Luke 7:47 (NIV)

### Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the 7 strongholds do you tend to believe?
2. How does believing these myths impact our sharing Christ’s love with others?
3. How could you “love others for Jesus’ sake” in your relational network this week?

### Homework:

Meet a “need” of someone who you assume is not a Christian and winsomely identify yourself as a follower of Jesus.