

SUPERIORITY James 4:6–8

CONNECT

1. The past two weeks we have explored from the Bible the strongholds of fear and shame, pointing to Jesus as the one whose death and resurrection strips fear and shame of their power and sway. Share with those around you how God is helping you break free from these strongholds.

CELEBRATE

2. The stronghold of “superiority” can be defined as “a smug attitude or spirit that looks down on others.” Talk about this definition. How would you define or describe superiority?
3. In Genesis 3:12 we read that Adam, having been confronted about his rebellion in the Garden of Eden, instinctively projects contempt toward those around him—Eve and God—attempting to put himself in a better light than they. In what ways do you see the stronghold of superiority demonstrated in your life today? Talk about ways this smug attitude or spirit manifests itself.
4. 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 finds the Apostle Paul addressing the reality of spiritual strongholds in our lives. What is the primary means by which we dismantle these in our lives? See Colossians 3:1–4 for further insight.
5. Now read what the Apostle James says about pride (superiority) in James 4:6–10. How might one use the wisdom of 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 and Colossians 3:1–4 to address the pride dynamic written about in James 4:6–10? In other words, how can we take our thoughts toward superiority and pride captive unto Christ?
6. Carefully read through Philippians 2:3–11. What are ways does our Lord Jesus model how to live? Moreover, in what ways does Jesus’ humiliation, death, resurrection and ascension take down the stronghold of superiority?

CONTRIBUTE

7. Memorize Psalm 131. How do these words direct you to avoid the temptation to smugly look down upon others and how does that influence your connections with people around you?
8. For help to dismantle spiritual strongholds in your life, see the available resources at newhopechurchmn.org/strongholds.