

## Strongholds by the Internet, Holy Bible, and Mike Dorough

*What are "strongholds"?*

In history strongholds played a vital role, no army could successfully defeat an opponent and let their stronghold stand within conquered territory. One of the main objectives of armies were to remove strongholds within conquered territory. We as the Lord's army need to take notice, of the objective to remove strongholds. Like conquerors of old, we need to target the spiritual strongholds of our enemy, Satan.

Strongholds were points, which were hard to defeat, because of their design, walls, located on a hilltop, along with the offensive capabilities of an army within. The army could launch attacks, and then retreat to the safety of its walled city. Thus, their point of operation became a "strong hold". This picture of the physical stronghold is used to also represent the spiritual stronghold. Spiritual strongholds are represented in scripture, in the same way as physical ones. They are points of operation, where attacks are waged on outlying areas. They become points of offensive operations, which are hard to remove, unless concerted effort is made to remove them.

Spiritually speaking, Paul defines strongholds as an "*argument or high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God*". A stronghold is a point of operation from where Satan can keep the unbeliever captive or the believer incapacitated. See 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians below.

3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

Strongholds are areas that we have to work on. Some common areas are: pride, materialism, pleasure, greed, bitterness, fear, drunkenness, strife, jealousy, idolatry, witchcraft, and anger.

We all have areas we need to work on. It is common to have "strongholds" run in a family. What area(s) do you need to work on?

The answers to all problems are 1) the Fruit of the Spirit and 2) putting on the Armor of God.

### **How to Break Strongholds and keep them Broken!**

1. **AUTHORITY** -- Every believer has the right to use the authority of Jesus' name to bind and take authority over Satan's activities. "No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house" (Mark 3:27). Issue a spoken command to the devil that he is bound and he must leave the stronghold! Exercising authority in the name of Jesus will expel the Devil's influence. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues..." (Mark 16:17).

2. **INTERCESSION** -- Come together with other believers to pray and intercede against strongholds until you get results. There is intensified power in the gathering of more believers. Prayer with fasting intensifies faith, and faith will break strongholds. "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast him out? However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:19, 21).

3. **DISPLACEMENT** -- Establish the presence of God. Where Satan has been commanded to leave, fill it up with God's presence. Where the presence of the Lord is, the Devil isn't! Satan doesn't want to hang around where people are lifting up Jesus in worship, in singing and prayer. The presence of the Lord displaces the Devil. "For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

4. **RESISTANCE** -- Submit yourselves and draw close to God. The Bible says this is how we resist Satan and he will flee. The Devil runs from submitted, yielded Christians. He runs from your life, and will run away from where you go. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

5. **OCCUPATION** -- Give no place or vacancy to the Devil. With Satan departed, fill the void with God. Let righteousness be the standard rule and behavior. Provide no pocket of rebellion, corruption or immorality in which Satan can find refuge to rebuild his influence or strength. The scripture says to not "give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:27).

6. **FORTIFICATION** -- Clothe yourself with God's armor. Take upon you daily, the full array of God's spiritual equipment that you may maintain battle-ready status. With the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit (God's Word) and the other links of armor (Eph. 6:13-17), you will be ready to resist any satanic assault, and will be ready to engage the strongholds in others. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

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