

⦿ Bringing Down Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:4

- ⦿ The Battle Ground
- ⦿ Living in the World - *II Corinthians 10:1-4*
 - We live in the meekness and gentleness of Christ
- ⦿ We live by the standards of the Kingdom of God - truth in love
- ⦿ We live in the world, but do not wage war as the world does – we live in grace
- ⦿ We live to further the mission of Jesus Christ - demolish strongholds

◎ ***Identify the strongholds in your land***

- Scripture, the Sword of the Spirit, along with the Holy Spirit will shine the light on the strongholds in our life. The first step is to make our life sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God. As we read scripture, where do you feel convicted by the Spirit

◎ ***Do you have fruits of the flesh?***

- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:19-21**

- ① *Do you have generational strongholds in your life?*
- ① In Families, we see there are strongholds of sins, which, can be traced back for generations.
- ① Deuteronomy 5:8-9
- ① Jeremiah 7:18-19 We can see in Jeremiah how this sin was transferred from family to family, eventually corrupting nearly the entire nation
- ① Generational strongholds, are ways of thinking and blindness transferred from generation to generation. Only the power of Gospel, has the power to break these generational strongholds, which can dominate families.

- ⦿ Idolatry is a sin transferred from generation to generation, maintaining a stronghold on a family. Many forms of family idolatry pass down the family line.
- ⦿ Most are familiar with alcohol; just about, everybody knows families affected by this stronghold. Generational strongholds can include quite a
- ⦿ number of variable forms, many of which might not seem so obvious.
- ⦿ **Love of money: Violence, Adultery, drugs**

- ① Cutting off supply Routes
- ② Our Words - We Demolish Arguments and Pretensions - *II Corinthians 10:5a*
- ③ From the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks - *Luke 6:45*
- ④ When words are many, sin is not absent - *Proverbs 10:10*
- ⑤ Out of the same mouth come blessings and curses - *James 3:1-12*
- ⑥ The tongue plots destruction and deceit - *Psalms 52:2-4*
- ⑦ A person reveals who they are by what the words they use and do not use.

- ④ **Our Thoughts - We Take Captive Every Thought - *II Corinthians 10:5b***
- ④ **People do not have in mind the things of God - *Mark 8:33***
- ④ **The mind of a sinful man is death - *Romans 8:6***
- ④ **The evil conceits of the mind know no limits - *Psalms 73:7***
- ④ **Unspiritual minds puff people up - *Colossians 2:18***
- ④ **A person lives by how and what they think.**

- ⦿ *Waging war on the stronghold*
- ⦿ **Actions** - We Punish Every Act of Disobedience –
2 Corinthians 10:6
- ⦿ Wisdom is proved right by actions - *Matthew 11:19*
- ⦿ Each person should test their actions - *Galatians 6:4*
- ⦿ Even children are known by their actions - *Psalms 20:11*
- ⦿ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious - *Galatians 5:19*

Bringing Down Strongholds

- ⦿ Going into Battle - Word and Spirit - *Ephesians 6:17*
- ⦿ **Spiritual Virtues**
 - Humility - *Philippians 2:3*
 - Love - *I Corinthians 13*
 - Faith - *Hebrews 11:1*
 - Hope - *Romans 12:12*
 - Peace - *James 3:18*

◎ Spiritual Weapons

- Prayer - *Ephesians 6:18*
- Fasting - *Matthew 6:17-18*
- Blessing - *Deuteronomy 11:26*
- Worship - *Isaiah 61:1-4*
- Confession - *James 5:15*

⦿ Facing the Enemy - *1 Peter 5:5-11*

- ⦿ 1. We resist the devil and evil including injustice, oppression and wickedness.
- ⦿ 2. We stand firm in the faith that God makes us righteous, holy and blameless.
- ⦿ 3. We proclaim the good news: salvation, deliverance, healing and sanctification

⦿ **Winning the War - *Romans 6:11-14***

⦿ Coming out of darkness into God's light – Transformation.

⦿ **2. Becoming Christlike in word, thought and deed**

- Pride becoming humility .
- Greed becoming simplicity .
- Anger becoming contentment .
- Lust becoming peace .
- Gluttony becoming moderation.
- Envy becoming joy .
- Sloth becoming strength .

◎ A Practical Guide to Bringing Down Strongholds

- Check the condition of your words, thoughts and actions.
- Confess your sins and weaknesses to God and ask Him to purify your heart.
- Humble yourself before God and seek His presence
- Meditate on the Word of God and let the Spirit guide you into His truth.
- Believe that God will move in people's lives: transformations .
- Trust in the Lord Jesus with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength .
- Endure the difficulties that comes with spiritual warfare: insults, persecutions, false accusations, suffering, oppression and temptation.

◎ In Encounters

- Listen to the words a person uses - **positive or negative?**
- Watch how a person lives - **healthy or unhealthy?**
- Look at the person's past behaviour - **reconciliation or conflict?**
- Demonstrate the virtues of Jesus Christ.
 - Humility - consider them better than yourself.
 - Love - always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres .
 - Faith - believe in the power of God for them to change
 - Hope - see a preferred future with God .
 - Peace - rest safe and secure in God's grace.

- ① Discern how to help the person as a servant of Jesus Christ.
- ① Prayer - asking God to help them out of their situation.
 - Worship - inviting them to praise God.
 - Confession - listening to the cry of their hearts.
 - Fasting - interceding for them over a period of time.
 - Blessing - speaking good things into their lives.
 - Word of Encouragement - affirming what God is doing in them.
 - Word of Faith - connecting them to the Word of God.

Endurance

- Remember that strongholds/bondages often blind people.
- Beware that strongholds/bondages often come from generational sins.
- Expose the sin in gentleness and meekness – seek the power of forgiveness.
- Seek help from pastors, counsellors and physicians - prolonged exposure is dangerous .
- Realize that God turns what was something evil into something good. Watch and pray.

- ⦿ Decisions to make
- ⦿ Move out of darkness by confronting the strongholds.
- ⦿ Grow - move closer to God by living in grace.
- ⦿ Belong - move into the community of faith by trusting others.
- ⦿ Serve - move with the Spirit of God by obedience.
- ⦿ Move away from sin
- ⦿ Many people choose to live with the strongholds they know rather than finding freedom in the grace of God. *Matthew 18:15-17.*