

# **Spiritual Strongholds**

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

***Coordinator***

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**Topic:**

**SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS**

**Bible Text: 2 Corinthians 10:1**

**Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi**

**Prayer**

We bless You, Our Lord and God, we thank You for the life in us this evening, we humbly ask that you teach us to understand at this moment through the power of your Holy spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ I pray. (Amen)

**2 Corinthians 10:1 KJV**

Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

**Study**

The apostle Paul started his letter by pleading with the Corinthians, in some of these letters to different churches, we can see that he pleaded to beseeching them by the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Paul would not address them with harsh words nor command them but keep pleading with them as those who are saved and are joint heirs together with him in Christ. The meek nature of Christ and gentleness is expressed here by Paul for them to be able to see the reason they should take it to his words for Christ is seen through him and his messages. He addresses them in a very mild and humble manner despite the provocations from them, he shows humility and mildness from the consideration of the meekness and gentleness of Christ and

desired that these great examples make the same influence on the Corinthians. This tells us that when we find ourselves to be tempted or inclined to be rough and severe towards another person we should think of the meekness and gentleness of Christ that appeared in him in the days of His flesh, in the design of His undertaking and in all the acts of His grace towards poor souls.

Paul spoke this way making them know that he does not want to come to them in a severe manner. He chose not to come to them with the rod. He made his physical presence in terms of his nature known to them as lowly, Jesus Christ said "learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart." **Matthew 11:29 KJV** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. From this we can see that Paul was a true servant of Christ, for he carried Christ's nature. If we are reading Paul's letters and we begin to look upon his personality through what he wrote, there is a tendency to view him as one who is proud and rough towards people, but in the real sense, in the physical he's not. This was why the Corinthians said **2 Corinthians 10:10 KJV** For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

It is seen here that at times one cannot judge a man's character/nature through what he writes but until one comes to him physically. Paul was a man humble in spirit free from self-assertive pride, we must be carefully also to carry this nature about, lowliness and meekness starts from the heart we must constantly look at our hearts and view ourselves as those who are little and are of less importance,

we should overview ourselves as one who is common and others are better than with all meekness which is the ability to endure injury with patience and without resentments, not violently reacting, we must be down to earth. Paul says whenever he's absent from them he's both towards them, that is he's fearless and outspoken. Most servants of God when seen from afar seem to be fearless and outspoken especially when they are preaching and teaching the word of Christ but in reality they are simple and one would not but wonder if they were actually the ones who are being that bold.

**2 Corinthians 10:2 KJV** But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

Here, Paul told the Corinthians that he would not love to come to them with fearless, strictness and outspokenness to which he wrote to them, this is meant for them to heed to his request for their obedience to the words of Christ. He begs them to give no occasion for him to be bold or to exercise his authority against them in general as he has determined to do against some of them who unjustly charged him as walking according to the flesh, that is, they are insinuating that his instructions and conducts are not from the Holy Spirit and even his ministerial actions are according to carnal policies or worldly views. These are the things Paul had denounced at his conversion and for them to be saying these shows that they were saying he had gone back into the world, the things which he had once forsaken which are contrary to the design and the Spirit of the gospel and which were not Paul's

aims. Paul says, **2 Corinthians 10:3 KJV** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* he is saying though their spirit man is housed in the body which he refers to as flesh. This should by no means be interpreted as "the old man" it is simply "the body" all Christians walk in the flesh but not work according to the flesh. We walk about bodily in this world, we do not live by the standards of this world. We are not governed by the passions and lust of this world like those who are not saved and sanctified. Those who think the apostles walked according to the flesh would have thought they would come to them and make quarrels with them according to the flesh using physical weapons but Paul made it clear to them that they do not war physically, nor do they fight their own battles physically nor attack physically but they do that spiritually. **2 Corinthians 10:4 KJV** *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

He went further to tell them their own weapons are not made by humans but rather they are powerful weapons from God and with these weapons is people's defense, that is, their arguments are destroyed. Looking carefully into these verses of the scriptures we will see that Paul talked about strongholds.

*Dismantling strongholds— demolishing arguments, opinions , trust theories councils and philosophies* **what then are strongholds?**

## **Strong holds**

When talking about strongholds it can also be referred to as a fortress. A fortress is something that fortifies, defends or

strengthens. Paul is making us know that there are demonic strongholds that serve as opposition to the light of the gospel. These are rebellious castles where the enemies hide, taking defense and launching attacks. Pulling down strongholds is not easy and when we begin to fight we will certainly experience resistance. These powers would not like to watch us demolish their walls of defense so they also try as much as possible to resist. Fighting spiritual battles is one that requires serious persistence.

**Proverbs 21:22 KJV** A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

We must be wise enough to scare the city of the mighty in our fight with the enemy. There are strongholds that require consistent and persistent attacks to break through while there are ones that require only a little effort, the stronger the power in charge of a stronghold the stronger the stronghold. These demonic powers so much trust their own strongholds and are confident that they are enough to protect them. But the power of the Lord Jesus Christ working in believers can pull it down. It is the duty of every serious soldier of Christ to pull down strongholds. Paul says there are

**Arguments:** these are reasons given for and against a matter of opinions, these are beliefs stronger than impressions and less strong than positive knowledge.

**Theories:** These are unapproved assumptions

**Counsels:** These guided thoughts or intentions.

**Philosophies:** These are the most basic beliefs, concepts and attitudes of an individual or group.

Looking at all these, they have to do with the thoughts and they must be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Satan and his demons placing strongholds in the lives of men this is why many do not believe the gospel. **2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

When sharing the gospel, we might encounter strongholds of hell as soldiers of Christ going about in our armor and weapons which are spiritual, setting out to conquer the world for Christ but soon we find obstacles. The enemy has erected strongly fortified garrisons to resist the truth and thwart God's plan of redemption. If people would accept Christ then the strongholds erected against their minds must be broken. There are strongholds the enemies have erected in the lives of the children of God. Some strongholds have been guided for four years and presently a great wall of resistance to the truth. None of these strongholds prevents a Christian soldier from acting and doing what is expected of him to pull it down, in as much as he makes use of the right weapon and by the miraculous power of God he penetrates through the walls and batter it down. He then enters the ruins and leads captives, subjecting them to the obedience of Christ.

**There are different strongholds Christians battle with today.**

1. Strongholds of lust
2. Strongholds of addiction
3. Strongholds of false theories and philosophies
4. Strongholds of pride
5. Strongholds of fear

Examining this stronghold one would see that they are indeed strong on those who have not brought them down. They exalt themselves above the knowledge of Christ and would not be easily brought down until they are forced to.

1. **Strongholds of Lust:** This is a major stronghold at work currently in the lives of the children of God in this end time, Satan has erected this stronghold in the lives of God's children even before they got saved and is using it to keep them in perpetual bondage of sin. The stronghold of lust manifest in two ways in the life of God's soldiers according to **1 John 2:16 KJV** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

(a) Stronghold of the lust of the flesh

(b) Stronghold of the lust of the eyes

Satan and his demons are tirelessly at work to keep Christians in this stronghold so that they do not become free.

(a) **The stronghold of the lust of the flesh:** This has to do with those things that have to do with an unholy appetite sponsored by the flesh. Examples are sexual passions, and

bodily pleasures which are against the word of God. Many want to be free from masturbation, fornication, prostitution, worldly movies and songs but they are unable to. They have tried and tried, yet it's getting to be as if there's no solution to their problem. It's because this has a stronghold in their lives which now makes it seem as if they can no longer be free. But the truth remains that freedom can be secured if the right weapons will be channeled towards that direction.

(b) **The stronghold of the lust of the eyes:** This is another major stronghold Satan is using against God's children to make them remain captives through what they see, it can be the wealth of this world as he showed to the Lord Jesus Christ when He was on earth. The stronghold of lust has kept many under the bondage of pornography, voyeurism (Peeping Tom) without doubt many Christians still struggle from these strongholds. Only if they would fight using the right weapons they will overcome, it will be disastrous to leave the strongholds undisturbed claiming all is well with us when it's clear that all is not well. Be rest assured that the moment you begin to fight against these strongholds the more you feel like the tension and pressure on you is increasing because the enemy wants you to retreat and surrender. You will be the one to choose to retire or refire!

2. **Strongholds of addictions:** This is another stronghold majorly erected by the enemy in the lives of God's children and those of God's children who would not rise to be fighters would remain defeated and would keep lamenting and feeling depressed, behind every addiction there is force strengthening it and fuelling its fire. For anyone to overcome any form of addiction he must be ready to address it both

physically and spiritually, it is impossible to stop an addiction without first demolishing the spiritual stronghold the devil and his demons have erected in your life that supports it. Strongholds are like pillars that strengthen the building of demonic evasion in the lives of people.

Many are addicted to pornography, masturbation, drinking, alcohol, and soda, hard drinks, incest, fornication, exhibition, worldly songs and movies etc all these are strongholds when you find out that you are unable to let them go easily. This is why you must fight to let Satan remove his grip over you.

**3. Strongholds of false theories and philosophies:** This can come in the form of false teachings like "Once Saved Always Saved" which says that one cannot lose his salvation. It can also be the belief that the doctrine of God is not concerned about your outward appearance but your heart only, or the doctrine of rapture before tribulation, it can also be the doctrine of the worship of angels, Mary and idols. When you find it hard to do away with false teachings that are rooted in the philosophies of man and human wisdom despite being confronted with the truth of God's word. Such has become a strong hold in your life which must be pulled down.

There are many demonic inspired ideas, theories and assertions even counsels, there are many who easily give in to these things, they just cannot help themselves. It is until they fall into these things and then begin to see its negative consequences that they then begin to regret, they feel compelled under these strongholds because they are stronger than them. However those who choose to be free by seriously contending with the enemy will certainly be free.

**4. Strongholds of pride:** There are those who are held grip under the stronghold of self-glorification and exaltation. They cannot just do otherwise, they have proud looks and talk with pride. Satan has lied to them that they are more than what they are, he has shown them their achievements which in reality are temporal in this passing world and has helped them to build their focus on these vain achievements as such he has succeeded in building a strong hold in their lives and held them captives. He has made them trust in their strength and have made them to sit on exalted thrones which are constructed in their hearts, they look upon their own excellence and sufficiency and make them assert their independence from God. The strongholds of pride are very effective in the hands of Satan in putting God's children under perpetual bondage because it pushes God far away from them. **James 4:6 KJV But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.** This strong hold is mostly common among the ministers of God who are not careful enough. They begin to see themselves as those who are bigger than God. Nevertheless, we can breakthrough if we are intentional about it.

**5. The stronghold of fear:** This stronghold helps the enemy put God's children under the yoke of faithlessness, hopelessness, and lack of trust in God. Many of God's children now operate under fear. Fear of the unknown, the future, fear of demonic powers, which has made them unable to see the power of God. The presence of fear shows the absence of faith in God. The moment the enemy is able to build a stronghold of fear against a man, the battle is half won by him. He is afraid of those who are bold and confront

him in that spirit, God recognises Satan's deception and devices that is why he makes it clear to us that we have not been given the spirit of fear. **2 Timothy 1:7 KJV** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Then He says we have not received the spirit of bondage to fear. **Romans 8:15 KJV** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

There are many other strongholds of the devil in the lives of people and they all have the same method of overcoming, it's just the application of the weapons that might be different, none of these strongholds can withstand the weapons given to us by God for our weapons are mighty in God. We Christians too have God as our strong tower. **Proverbs 18:10 KJV** The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. **Psalms 61:3 KJV** For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. We hide ourselves in the name of the Lord as we fight to conquer the enemies and pull down their strongholds. It is good to hide oneself in the strong Tower of the Lord's name before launching attacks against the strongholds of the enemies. Many do not know that how the enemy constructs spiritual strongholds in their lives is that he tries to win their hearts through hurts or disappointments. The moment we allow this to affect us he quickly plants the seeds of lies in our hearts because our hearts have already become a fertile ground for him, he then begins to lay bricks of inaccurate ideas about God to us. He can come up with thoughts that if indeed God is real, why does He permit evil to happen; he

then begins to give erroneous interpretations of how God sees us and feels about us when we sin. Such then begins to find it hard to trust in God. Therefore, the moment we buy into Satan's lies and agree with him then the area becomes a stronghold which Satan holds onto to keep us under control.

## **Sources of Strongholds**

**1. Covered and unconfessed sins in your life:** In most cases demonic powers get a way into the lives of people through covered sins, they use this as a legal ground to make them remain captives and put them under perpetual bondage. Sin is like a crack in the wall of anybody's life and creeping animals (demons) can pass through that crack. Living in unconfessed sins is like advertising a vacancy into one's life for demonic powers to operate in freely. Many people do not know that the word of God is one of the major constitutions used in the kingdom of darkness. This might sound strange but it is the truth. If cases are brought to spiritual courts for judgements, the satanic judge does refer to the word of God before a case can be decided and sealed, many become guilty because the word of God that should vindicate them has already condemned them. **Proverbs 28:13 KJV** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

The word of God says such would not prosper so the strongholds of poverty and failure already have a legal ground in the life of such a person. You must know this, if you observe that you are not prospering in every aspect of life, check your life if there are any unconfessed sins. Confess them to God and to man where necessary and repent in order to be able to confront that stronghold to

receive deliverance. **1 John 1:9 KJV** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**2. Unforgiveness:** This is another major source where strongholds have legal grounds to operate in the lives of people. If you are nursing unforgiveness in your heart then you are most likely to be and remain under bondage, satan uses this to make sure that you do not get free. Unforgiveness shortens the delivering hands of God from helping you. Forgiveness is an act of mercy; those who don't forgive are far from receiving God's mercy. Does it seem as if God has forgotten you? And the stronghold of Satan has kept you captive under the yoke of stagnancy and frustration? You need to close the source through which they came and secure your Deliverance. The spiritual weapons given to us are not working in the lives of many because the source of where the strongholds are operating from are still open. Some receive temporal deliverance because the source has not been closed. To receive permanent deliverance you must forgive no matter what the person did to you. The Lord said you should forgive seventy times seven times in a day. **Matthew 18:21-22 KJV** Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? [22] Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Some should have soared higher but because they keep nursing unforgiveness in their heart, they remain in the belly of the tormentors for they are already swallowed up by them.

*May the power of God deliver you from every stronghold of Satan keeping you hostage in Jesus Christ's name*

**3. Curses operating in the lineage:** if you have curses operating in your lineage, it can be from your grandparents or parents this can serve as a legal ground for strongholds to operate. The scripture says in **Proverbs 26:2 KJV** *As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.* This means that if a generation is cursed, if that curse is a genuine curse, it will surely stand. Many are operating under legal curses, that is, the curse is affecting their lives because it has a genuine reason. A man can be saved and still be operating under a curse, it is the responsibility of every child of God to break curses operating in their lives using the spiritual weapons available or else a man can die under an operating curse. It is only a curse that has no genuine reason that will not stand. Jabez was operating under a curse yet he knew the God of Israel. **1 Chronicles 4:9-10 KJV** *And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. [10] And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.* He could have claimed that since he knows the God of Israel he has no problem and refused to break the curse but he prayed to break it and it was broken, he would have died like that if he had not prayed.

*Recently, we had a deliverance session for a young girl and when the spirit in her started manifesting, it said that it would*

*not leave her, then we asked for its name just the same way the Lord Jesus Christ asked that mad man and he said "legion". So we also asked and it said its name is CURSE, we were surprised to hear that. Then I said she's already saved so what legal ground does it still have over her, the spirit answered saying that yes, she has accepted Jesus Christ but she has not sent it out of her life, it also said that it gained access into her life through lies. It's unfortunate that the sins many commit today which they see or count as little can put them under serious strongholds outside their knowledge. Thank God the young girl is free now.*

The descendants of Gehazi inherited a curse from the mouth of God's servant. **2 Kings 5:27 KJV** *The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.* Gehazi did not only become leprous, it included his children too, if he had given birth. This curse stands till date because it has a cause, even if the seeds of Gehazi get born again. Until they intentionally break that curse it will stand.

*I pray that the Lord will give you the required knowledge and power to break every ancestral curse working against your life in Jesus Christ's name. Amen*

In this kind of situation, enquiry prayers must be prayed for God to reveal the curse one has inherited from his ancestors which is affecting one's life, so that such would be broken using the right spiritual weapon. Most especially in Africa, our ancestors were so fetish that they have done many evils, this has brought a curse on their generation. These curses have opened doors for the legal operation of strongholds to keep us under bondage.

We must then not remain victims but rise up to victimize the enemy. At times this stronghold operates as an evil family pattern. Which then begins to look like curses in a family. E.g. a family that is well-known for womanizing. Once you observe that your forefathers died womanizing, it occurred to your grandparents and then your parents too, and you are now seeing such things manifesting in your life too then you need to rise up to scatter that stronghold or else it would also be passed to your children. You must be ready to pull down strongholds as Paul said, they must not be left untouched.

## **Invitation**

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven. Please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

*Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Saviour, I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today and I make a decision to obey and follow You, come into my life now, and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ name I pray, Amen.*

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer please WhatsApp +2347067511039, and tell me that you just got saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

## **Prayer**

Father, we thank You for Your word that has blessed our souls, we pray that You would remove every veil that has blinded our minds and let Your light shine upon us so that we be able to focus more on You and not be distracted by the frivolities of this world so that we can reign with You eternally, in Jesus Christ's name. AMEN

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