

## Demolishing Strongholds

### The Source Of Our Strongholds

**A stronghold is any sin, habit, or emotion that has a level of control in my life that keeps me from living fully for Christ and drawing closer to God.**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup>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.

#### Four Ways We Deal With Strongholds

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Give up         | 2) Make excuses |
| 3) Get discouraged | 4) Fight them   |

#### Three Sources of Strongholds

##### 1) Satan

1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

James 4:7-8 - Humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

Ephesians 6:10-12 - Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

##### 2) Selfishness

James 1:12-15 - God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. <sup>14</sup>Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup>These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

##### 3) Family

Exodus 20:4-6 - You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

• **We do not suffer the punishment for family sin but we are affected by the consequences.**

• **Righteousness is more powerful than sin.**