

# Holy Spirit— Destroying Strongholds

## I. Intro —

Holiness, Hunger & Thirst, Harvest.

## II. Holy Spirit, Abundant Life, Freedom

### A. The Kingdom, and Abundance

Jn 10:10b. I came that they may have life and have it **abundantly**.  
[sl. 1]

Abundance is a kingdom reality —  
Internal- Relational- Overflow

### A NEW NORMAL —> NEW CREATION

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The **old** has passed away; behold, the **new** has come. [sl. 2]

Internal —>Relational —> Overflow of SHALOM

[sl. 3] Our New Creation Nature is wired for  
Renewed Mind and Unified Heart  
Righteousness Peace Joy  
Truth Freedom

Internal —>Relational

5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, ...

15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him ...

16 From **now on**, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. ... (Already Not Yet)

1Cor 13:11 For **now** we see in a mirror dimly, but **then** face to face.  
**Now** I know in part; **then** I shall **know fully**, even as I have been fully known.

His PERFECT KNOWLEDGE... how does God know us?

Not from without but from within, not by observing us but by designing us.

In Heaven, we will fully understand others' lives not by looking at them but by "living" them.

## B. Thief's 3 Goals, 3 Common Weapons

Jn 10:10a The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

1. **Sin** — the **active** weapon of temptation into sin which produces **death**.

Matt 4:3 And the **tempter** came" *lies of reduction*

2. **Accusation** — the **passive** weakens, **paralyzes**. He **reminds** us of past failures and **amplifies** current difficulties.

Rev 12:10 ... for the **accuser** ... has been **thrown down**, *false categories*

3. **Strongholds** — the **dormant** or **hidden** ... make our lives **inconsistent** and **unstable**,... *barriers, and booby traps\**

*\*apparently harmless object containing a concealed explosive device designed to kill or injure anyone who touches it.*

*Our weapons...are have divine power.*

2 Cor 10:4 For the **weapons** of our warfare are not of the flesh but have **divine power** to **destroy\*** **strongholds**.

## II. Strongholds...Construction

A. How the thief enters and constructs a fortress prison...  
Father of lies...

Praying and thinking about **how** the thief enters and builds a stronghold enters and gets built...

**A Vivid Dream ...**

I was on a large old property,... **time** to go up to a stone hall for a meeting.

As I turned to go, I **noticed** my phone — suddenly half the screen was filled with vivid, fascinating images ...

These images SOON filled the screen, overriding everything else. —  
**out of control.**

I couldn't turn the phone off. Increasingly panicked, I only hoped for the battery to die. Then I woke up...

**Application:** Like corrupted data, the enemy's lies float in the atmosphere around around us, waiting for an interface that accepts the signal. Similar to a virus entering a cell of your body.

## B. Strongholds are built by Perceptions, Experiences

### INSERTION — INCEPTION [S 4]

1. A SINGLE **VIVID** EXPERIENCE (**producing powerful images or strong, clear images**) OF FASCINATION, PAIN, BETRAYAL, DISAPPOINTMENT, can insert a lie into our mind (heart)
2. REPEATED LESS VIVID ones can also... lead us to wrong conclusions, open us up to lies.

Once a lie **enters** and is **established** in our personality, it can distort and color everything else. It erects a barrier that keeps us from **consistent** freedom.

Every lie we hold as true produces slavery. The TRUTH will set us FREE and keep us FREE...

I will never.... I am no good... I'm not qualified... I'm too old...

There might be a Stronghold if.... you experience that you are **powerless to change** a situation you know is NOT the will of God...

**A SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLD is a mindset impregnated with HOPELESSNESS from which we accept as UNCHANGEABLE situations we know are contrary to the will of God.** [s. 5]

ROBS us of the capacity to believe & receive the word of God....  
WE **SETTLE FOR LESS** than the FULLNESS OF CHRIST

E.g. 1: **Forgiveness** is basic to freedom.

But you may find yourself unable to forgive ....

E.g. 2: **Family** is TOV. Not TOV to be alone. Societal corruption  
Children of **troubled** families. Adults w repeated failures!

**Woman at the well as new creation —>St. Photini!**

## C. Stronghold Fragments Our Hearts and Minds

When we read the Word of God or hear it preached, we **sincerely believe it**, even shouting AMEN, laughing, crying . Or daily devotions, praying in tongues for hours, rejoicing

But as we go ... the revelation is isolated into a compartment.

People disappoint us, or a situations overwhelm us, or a fear, an addictions, a painful loneliness, hits us and downgraded system of thinking and behaving takes over. We fail... Confused, discouraged, we might:

VIEW SITUATIONS AS HOPELESS... PERMANENT...

BE TRIGGERED BY PEOPLE, SITUATIONS

**TRAUMA IS REAL BUT NOT PERMANENT**

**POST TRAUMA STRESS IS A DISORDER**... it is meant to heal.

**Where is this coming from?** in this world we will have tribulation. Trauma, offense, cultural pollution, etc. can build false conclusions, categories, responses which displace Christ's victory into a separated compartment.

**What is going on?** [S. 6] **Fragmentation v. INTEGRITY of the soul, personality.**

James describes this:

**Jas. 3:9** With [the tongue] we **bless** our Lord and Father, and with it we **curse** people ... **10** From the same mouth come **blessing** and **cursing**. My brothers, these things ***ought not to be*** so.

Stronghold robs the **internal** → **relational** → **overflow expansion of SHALOM**

**DOUBLE MIND** (two-personalities) cannot obtain the clear benefits of God's truth... " a double-minded man, \*unstable in all his ways." (Jas. 1:8). \*uncontrolled

This instability **robs our peace, our SHALOM**, and the joy of fullness and superabundance of the kingdom of God.

## D. Strongholds Tend to *Exalt Subjective Feelings*

Corrupt cultural norm, schoolrooms, libraries [s. 7]

1. Often made up of good intentions and thoughts
2. Often develop in the shadow of our strengths and be TRIGGERED by trauma and **detonated** by crises.

**Strategic** → **Your challenges** → **Your Destiny**

"I will never forgive again. Never!" — **gift of mercy**

"I will never give money to the church!" — **gift of giving**

Overcomer, More than conquerors

In this world we have painful experiences. Don't let the enemy construct a stronghold with your reaction.

3. Strongholds divide our personality resulting in spiritual and emotional instability.

## Strongholds separate Feelings from Truth

### III. Destroying Strongholds

#### A. We Need Divine Help!

We have TWO Helpers

Pray for the Holy Spirit to GUIDE us into ALL THE TRUTH [s. 8]

**Step 1.** Ask **Holy Spirit** (Spirit of Truth) to show you your ungodly strongholds, lies, & beliefs.

Early this morning I recognized *an area of internal and relational lack*. Not satisfied with "living as mere human" I asked, He showed me a point of trauma I had forgotten. Fall of 1987.

**Step 2.** Ask **Jesus** to come into the places of trauma, offense, and cultural beliefs.

**Jesus** is the GOOD Shepherd... ask Jesus to show you the entry points and key traumas on which the stronghold rests.

There is no LACK in him. He will RESTORE YOUR SOUL... GIVE YOU REST... HIS PRESENCE (Reframes Victimhood, Eliminates Fear)... LEADS US TO THE Prepared Table, Fresh Anointing and Overflowing cup.

**Goal is:** fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. [s. 9]

**Step 3.** Repent for believing the lies and resulting offenses. Receive forgiveness and truth. Forgive and release ourselves, others, and any offense we had toward God.

## B. Access Grace — Grace SAVES Us!

**1. RECOGNIZE that a Stronghold means You have settled for less and that GRACE is available to FREE YOU**

**James 4:4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

**6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**2. Place yourself fully within the Kingdom of the King of all Kings. All authority is His! Make Jesus Lord of EVERY THOUGHT FEELING IMPULSE**

**7a** Submit yourselves therefore to God.

**Step 4.** Lord, I repent for building the stronghold causing double-mindedness, and I choose to replace it with Your truth.

**3. Now you are ready, resist the devil.**

**Refuse his offers. Push back with TRUTH, LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE. Command him to take his lies elsewhere. Prophecy your own sanctification, freedom, transformation. King Jesus has given you authority over all devils and demons. He will FLEE...**

7b Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**3. Continually pursue the ONE who is pursuing you!**

8a Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

**4. Clean up your Actions and Ruthlessly Purify your Desires and Motivations. —>**

**Expect the Outcome —> United heart, integrity**

8b Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**5. Godly Sorrow over Interrupted Indwelling Communion**

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

**6. Do All This in Hope!**

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and *he will exalt you!*

**Step 5.** Lord, I choose to renew my mind with Your Word, Godly confessions, and truths, and I invite You to encounter me. Jesus, I receive Your Kingdom inheritance of righteousness, peace, and joy, which is both here now AND still coming!

**ENCOUNTER WITH TRUTH Sets us FREE**

**— INTEGRATES OUR LIVES —**

**— SHALOM OVERFLOW— [s. 10]**