

# Demolishing Strongholds Video Series

God's Way to Spiritual Freedom

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## Preface

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"*



Freedom In Jesus Series

*(Part 2)*

## PREFACE

Over the past 15 years, Sue and I have helped several thousand people demolish the spiritual strongholds that have hindered and hurt them for so long.

We've seen the LASTING FRUIT of changed lives, of healed relationships, and in some cases, of medical symptoms eradicated when the influence of demonic strongholds has been eliminated.

As you go through the different video segments with us, keep in mind that we're dealing with DEMONIC FORCES and not just psychological problems.

We aren't advocating some sort of exorcism technique. We're emphasizing how important it is for you to appropriate the authority that's represented in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In HIS NAME is the summation of all authority in the universe. And as our Father's child, you have the privilege to trust in the Name of His Son, Jesus, to walk in freedom to serve His purposes.

You can rest your assurance on His power. That's why we want to emphasize how important it is for you to trust in the authority of the Name of our Lord Jesus, the Name above all other names.

Let's look at a few verses that record the greatness of the authority of Jesus' Name.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'" (Matthew 28:18).

"Therefore God exalted [Jesus] to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the

name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

Because of WHO Jesus is and the authority He's been given, never forget that demons are subject to Jesus. He has given His followers the authority in His name to demolish demonic influence in our lives. In the Name of Jesus we can serve the demons eviction notices.

### What Are Demons?

The Bible tells us that demons are fallen angels whom God cast down to the earth from heaven.

"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and HIS ANGELS WERE THROWN DOWN WITH HIM" (Revelation 12:9).

Keep in mind that demons are here on earth! They're not yet confined to hell as so many wrongly believe. Nor are they a figment of imagination. As one study showed: Over 50% of Christians don't even believe demons exist. Just like the chaplain on Mike's ship whom he spoke of in the last video segment, many prefer to deny the reality of demonic activity.

Scripture references to the ability of demonic spirits to influence individuals in specific ways abound.

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons" (1 Timothy 4:1).

Can you picture the reality of this passage? People will depart the faith to embrace the teachings of demons.

And we need to remember that each one of us who now trusts in Jesus once belonged to Satan.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” (Ephesians 2:1,2).

Yes, we who now follow Jesus once belonged to Satan. And, as we’ll see later, our minds will need to be renewed from his patterns of thinking, and to develop the mind of Christ.

I’d first become AWARE of demons aboard that Navy ship. But, Sue and I became acquainted with demonic strongholds and their influence in people’s lives while we were administrating and teaching at a church retreat center in Connecticut from 1983 to 1993.

We’ll cover this much more in later segments, but let’s look at an initial definition of a spiritual stronghold:

Demonic strongholds are an internal fortress of influence in your soul from which demonic spirits can agitate, oppress and afflict you. These spirits arouse and incline your mind, will and emotions toward attitudes and actions that are CONTRARY to the will of God.

In the summer of 1989 a prophecy was given at a conference on Long Island, New York. “God was looking for a humble, faceless people who had only the

face of Jesus shining through. On November 30, 1989, the Lord was going to use these people in something special He was about to do.”

We shared that prophecy with a clergy group that met at our retreat center each month. They agreed in their spirit that these words were from God.

Throughout the fall of 1989 I was haunted by the question, “Was I humble and faceless? Would I be one of those the Lord was going to use?” I even looked in a mirror one morning and asked myself, “Is THAT a humble face?” The mirror didn’t answer.

As I read my Bible the morning before the prophesied date of November 30th, I pondered Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”(Ephesians 3:16-19).

As I sat there in my recliner, I was convicted that the amount of the love of Jesus that I’d EVER experienced, even after many years in ministry, was about the size of a decimal point. The love I’d experienced had no depth, breadth, or width for me, and it certainly didn’t surpass my knowledge...

Later that day I was playing golf with a close friend. As we walked along the course I shared with him my deep conviction from my reading in Ephesians that morning. I told him, "I'm not going on in ministry until I feel this height, depth, and breadth of the love of Jesus." He joined with me in prayer right there...

The next morning, on November 30, 1989, at 8:00, I received a phone call from a pastor who lived about an hour away from us. Somewhat irritated he asked, "Mike, what's your problem? God woke me up at 4:00 this morning and told me to call you at 8:00 to tell you that He's heard your prayer." When I explained to him my prayer on the golf course the day before, we both sensed that this was the reason the Lord had awakened him earlier. I continued in my ministry, waiting for God to show me the next step.

We expected God to act quickly. But a few months went by and, in February, 1990, we received a letter from a friend in Washington State. He wrote that God had shown him in prayer that our ministry was being hindered by a SPIRIT OF DECEIT. Mike and I prayed, but we had no discernment that our friend was right. Several more months went by.

We got the book, *The Three Battlegrounds*, by Francis Frangipane. As I sat in my recliner reading one morning, my eyes fell on these words: "Once a person is deceived, he doesn't recognize that he is deceived, because he's been deceived!"

Get a firm hold on this truth: Once a person is deceived, he doesn't recognize

that he's deceived, because he's been deceived.

As I pondered those words I could hear the Holy Spirit say, "Mike, you DO have a spirit of deceit. Now renounce it in the name of Jesus." As I began to pray, a vision appeared in the room right in front of me. Now, visions aren't an everyday occurrence with me.

We believe God permitted Mike to have this vision because of the IMPORTANCE of this matter. Our new awareness of spiritual warfare was intended to not only bring US freedom, but also help OTHERS to walk in the fullness of freedom our Father desires.

Visions of preparation have biblical precedent. When God wanted Peter to minister to the Gentile Cornelius, He gave Peter a vision. Our Father wanted to undergird the importance of the change Peter needed to undergo as a devout Jew to minister to a Gentile.

The vision God gave me looked like a big, black rock about five feet high and five feet wide. On it was written the word "DECEIT." As I prayed in the Name of Jesus, renouncing the spirit of deceit, a veneer like an onion skin fell off the rock. Underneath this veneer was the word "REJECTION."

As I stared at it, God began to show me painful memories of my childhood — many of which I'd forgotten. As I watched the scenes unfold, a growing sense of humiliation grew inside me.

Then the Holy Spirit revealed, "Those feelings of humiliation laid the foundation for the STRONGHOLD OF REJEC-

TION to be built in you. Now renounce that spirit's influence in your life." As I renounced the spirit of rejection in the Name of Jesus, the black object disappeared. I was changed, but I didn't know in what way.

The day after Mike's vision and deliverance from the spirits of deceit and rejection, he took part in a difficult meeting with a group of church leaders. Their denomination was introducing some very unbiblical teachings, and these men were yielding to the pressure.

I encouraged them to not give in but to uphold God's Word at all cost. They got really angry with me. But at that moment I realized I loved them DESPITE their reaction to me. I realized that, WITHOUT the spirit of rejection influencing me, I was able to love them rather than react against them.

As time went on, we were able to see how the spirit of deceit had kept Mike from seeing a LOT of things clearly. Our friend's words about deceit now made sense. Up until the time of his deliverance from these strongholds, Mike had always painted a rosy picture of his upbringing.

I'd believed and convinced many others that my home was ideal in order to hide my feelings of humiliation. In time, a spirit of deceit had taken over and inclined me to deny the reality of my past.

With deceit gone, the spirit of rejection could be evicted. Without these demonic influences, Mike's blood pressure dropped. The tension that had been caused by the symptoms of rejection was gone!

Months later we showed my mom the list of spiritual strongholds found in chapter 4 on pages 36 and 37 of the *Demolishing Strongholds* workbook. She immediately pointed to the stronghold of rejection and said, "This is the one I have. As a matter of fact, our whole family has it."

Her words began the process of breaking the influence of the spirit that's burdened our family for generations. Through what we've learned and experienced, we've been able to help many followers of Jesus break the demonic enslavement of strongholds.

(**Explore:** Newsletter 2002-02, "*Our Father's Purpose and Criteria for Fellowship in Him*")

Over the years we shared the truths found in this workbook with entire families at the retreat center: grandparents, parents, and children. We discovered that some strongholds are passed along from one generation to the next, growing in control with each generation.

As we'll discuss later, spiritual strongholds are the number one cause of divorce and of conflict among believers. These unclean spirits are also the greatest hindrance to our Father's children experiencing His love and the freedom Jesus promises. And, these evil spirits keep us from fulfilling His purposes for us in His Kingdom.

The workbook and these video segments are designed to help you demolish the strongholds in your own life and in your family. We want you to join us in bringing all the glory we can to our Father in our time here on earth!

May you experience the truth of Jesus' words in your own life, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36)