

Demolishing Strongholds Video Series

God's Way to Spiritual Freedom

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Chapter 1. Creation: God Created Us
With Seven Needs (Part 1 of 5)

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



Freedom In Jesus Series

(Part 2)

Chapter 1. Creation: God Created Us With Seven Needs (Part 1 of 5)

Over the years when people have read Chapter 1 of *Demolishing Strongholds*, it's seemed like we're throwing them a curve ball by stopping to discuss the seven needs our Lord instilled in every person.

But we've found it helpful for lasting freedom that we lay a complete foundation of the unseen forces at work within us.

One of the most potent of these unseen forces are the seven needs that motivate all human beings. Although these innate driving forces are instilled by God for our GOOD, Satan can use them to entrap us into sin and demonic oppression.

So a good starting point for us is to help you understand the needs you were born with, and how their drive within you can be MISUSED by demonic spirits.

A study of the first two chapters of Genesis reveals that from the beginning, God created in us seven distinct needs.

These needs are inherent motivations that drive ALL humans. You can't fully understand yourself as a child of God unless you fully understand the motivations God has instilled in you. By knowing the nature of these seven needs in yourself, and searching out in the Bible how our Lord intended for these needs to be met, you can better cooperate with HIS plan to meet these needs.

The seven needs God created in Adam and Eve are instilled in every person. You have a need for dignity, for authority, for

blessing and provision, for security, for purpose and meaning, for freedom and boundary, and for intimate love and companionship.

As you seek to meet these needs within God's biblical framework, you're providing the spiritual environment for ever-increasing conformity to the image of Christ. In other words, our Father's desire is that as you seek HIS way to have your needs met, you'll become increasingly conformed to the character and motivation of His Son, Jesus.

On the other hand, when you struggle to meet your needs in a way that SEEMS right to your mind, will, and emotions but is NOT God's way, you'll suffer spiritual, and sometimes physical, consequences.

Trying to have these needs met OUTSIDE of God's will is one of the major sources of strongholds in many followers of Jesus. So, as we discuss each of these needs, see which ones YOU long to have met most in your life. And when we get to chapter 5, entitled "After You've Demolished the Strongholds", you can seek our Lord's way to have these more crucial needs met.

The first need we want to address is probably the foundational one for all the others. Our God created us with a need for dignity.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,' ...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26,27).

The dignity of being made in the image of God elevates mankind above all other

forms of life in creation. His image gives each one of us an eternal spirit that no other creature on earth has.

Dignity encompasses your sense of honor, your self-respect, and your personal distinctiveness. The more you grow in dignity, the more you grasp the WONDER of who your heavenly Father really is.

Satan assaults your dignity because he hates God, and you are made in God's image. You're also Satan's enemy because, as a follower of Jesus, you're the temple of the Holy Spirit.

That's why we're forewarned that Satan MAKES WAR against those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

If you fail to experience the dignity your Father intends for you, you're vulnerable to all kinds of satanic attacks. And, because Satan has footholds in so many families, he often uses family members to rob each other of dignity.

Dignity is often eroded in families who use guilt as a motivator to control behavior. Maybe you've heard some of these phrases: "You didn't come to see me yesterday because I'm not important to you", or, "If you loved me, you'd...."

These phrases are manipulative and controlling. They certainly don't respect your dignity or your free will to act on what you believe is right or best. Manipulative words aim to diminish your sense of dignity by inflicting false guilt on you.

(Explore: Going To The High Places study guide: Chapter 2. "Fearing Invasion")

Again, the loss of personal dignity keeps you from understanding how precious you really ARE to our Father. Many who have a diminished sense of dignity get trapped into feeling that you have to EARN the love our Father has already freely given you through Jesus.

We've observed that anyone who struggles to earn God's acceptance always seeks out religious forms and practices. By taking part in these, they're trying to prove to our Lord how REALLY acceptable they are.

But our Father yearns for each of His children to grow in intimate relationship with Him. It hurts His heart for people to NOT experience His dignity as they struggle to earn what He's already given.

Any attempt to use religious forms to make yourself acceptable to God is called "self-justification." Another term for trying to earn God's acceptance through obeying His laws is "legalistic perversion." We discuss this extensively in Part 1 of our Freedom In Jesus series.

(Explore: See Part 1 of *Freedom in Jesus*, Segment 1.07 — "Satan's War Against Us: Lawlessness & Self-Justification")

People who DON'T experience the dignity our Father desires for them will always be susceptible to the trap of self-justification. They believe that by meticulously keeping religious rules and practices they'll be welcomed in heaven.

But try to envision yourself from your heavenly Father's vantage point. First, He sees you as made in HIS image. Your sin nature didn't lessen His love for you.

On the contrary: You're so precious to Him that Jesus gladly shed His blood to make the way for you to be reconciled with your Father and have intimacy with Him.

That loving reconciliation makes it possible for us to escape the bondage of sins that have enslaved us. Through the Spirit of Jesus, our NEW self can be continually renewed as we grow more in the image of our Creator.

You are so important that Jesus became man for you. For YOU He was willing to be despised and crucified by mankind. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for your sins, the sins that separated you from your heavenly Father. Because you are LOVED with such intense determination, God intended that all mankind should experience dignity.

After being tossed out of heaven to earth, Satan had other plans to thwart God's desires. Through Satan's insidious lies and agitation, people would NOT experience the specialness of their dignity.

Look at how the enemy of our souls has succeeded. Multitudes today are plagued by rejection and insecurity. Even some of you watching this video may not be experiencing the dignity our Father desires for you.

The apostle Paul was so concerned that his beloved family in Thessalonica had been overcome by Satan that he had to send Timothy to check on them!

"That is the reason why, after I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your trust. I was afraid that somehow the Tempter had tempted you, and our hard work had been wasted" (1 Thessalonians 3:5).

It's only through Jesus that ANY of us has hope of experiencing the full breadth of being made in the image of God. Demonic forces have been devastating human dignity ever since Eve chose to pick the forbidden fruit.

Only through Jesus can you ever experience the personal dignity of being our Father's child. And without dignity, you'll never understand who you really are, and who you can become in Jesus.

If you aren't walking in the dignity of being God's child, you won't develop your own unique identity. Instead, many of your actions will be controlled by what you perceive other people THINK of you, or want FROM you. Self-worth and respect are hard to maintain in this type of captivity.

I was 47 years old when I first experienced dignity the way my heavenly Father wanted. I'm now 59 years old. If the Mike Dowgiewicz of my first 46 years could talk with me today, he wouldn't know who I am. The change dignity makes is that dramatic!

If YOUR sense of dignity has been violated, you may respond to people around you through strongholds of rejection, or fear and insecurity.

Feelings of inadequacy and inferiority may have caused you to develop wrong relationships. Or, you may be participat-

ing in activities that are outside the will of God because you want so desperately to be accepted by others.

Under the influence of the stronghold of rejection you may have an abnormal need to seek acceptance. Your fear of rejection drives you to do anything to keep people from ignoring or making fun of you.

What an awful pit! I've been there! People used to think I was a nice guy, but I was really just trying to make people like me.

Maybe you pull away from people through stronghold symptoms of unworthiness and withdrawal. That's how I responded to the longstanding influence of the spirit of rejection.

Sue's Testimony

Even as a girl, I'd been fearful of saying or doing anything that would cause people to not like me. In fact, in high school, my nickname was Goody. I was the one who never got into trouble! But that wasn't because walking uprightly was a good thing to do! I just didn't want to be rejected.

When I yielded my life to my Lord Jesus, I loved Him with my whole being! Whenever I was home I'd sing praise songs and read the Bible. But I just couldn't bring myself to talk about Jesus to anyone else.

In 1977 our son and I spent 2 months traveling in the Far East, following Mike's ship. I found myself getting so angry because Mike could so freely share his relationship with Jesus with everyone he met, and I couldn't. I was really getting frustrated!

Finally, the day before our son and I were to fly back to the States, we were on Mike's ship in port in Tokyo.

One of the sailors handed Mike a package. It was a cassette tape from his mother with a wonderful testimony of things God was doing in her life. We decided to record a tape and send it back to her.

I wanted to tell her how our Lord had saved my son and me from drowning on a ferryboat while crossing over to Korea during a storm. But all that came out of me was garbled noises. Mike said my face was contorted! He slammed off the recorder and ordered, "In the Name of Jesus, you get out of my wife!"

This dark cloudy thing emerged from me and hovered between us. Then it disappeared through the wall.

After that demonic spirit left me, I was able to joyfully recount story after story of my Lord's intervention during our trip. That night back at the hotel, I spent 3 hours in the lounge with a woman I'd never met before sharing testimonies about Jesus!

The spirit of rejection that had convinced me I needed to withdraw or keep silent no longer had control over me. Hallelujah!

