

Demolishing Strongholds Video Series

God's Way to Spiritual Freedom

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Chapter 2, The Demonic Forces in
Strongholds (Part 3 of 4)

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



Freedom In Jesus Series

(Part 2)

Chapter 2. The Demonic Forces in Strongholds (Part 3)

In our last segment we discussed the arguments and pretensions that act like walls in the strongholds to hinder you from *receiving* our Father's love and truth.

We also mentioned that strongholds cause you to misperceive the *intent* of other people. Through demonic agitation you develop wrong conclusions about other people's actions toward you. You even project evil motives onto them, and convince yourself that you're a victim!

In this segment we want to consider the command we're given in 2 Corinthians 10:5, "and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

We'll consider this passage again in Chapter 5, *After You've Demolished the Strongholds*. In this segment we want to give you an illustration of what happens when you DON'T take your thoughts captive.

(Explore: *Going to the High Places* study guide, Chapter 7. "On the Shores of Loneliness")

After you demolish strongholds, you have a personal responsibility to help yourself STAY free. You need to continue to take every thought and every misperception CAPTIVE and make it obedient to Christ. This is going to be your ongoing responsibility after the strongholds are gone. No one can do it for you!

When you finish Chapter 4, the strongholds *will* be demolished by the authority of the Name of Jesus, and they'll no

longer occupy your soul. But, remember, the demons continually travel all over the earth seeking to devour those who aren't alert to their schemes. And how do they do this?

They begin by speaking to the minds of people who are willing to listen. Too many of our Father's children entertain the wicked thoughts these spirits induce. They think they're just hearing the voice of their own mind. But if you're willing to listen to thoughts that oppose God's ways, the spirits will hang around and INTENSIFY those negative thoughts. They'll agitate you to the point that your emotions are overtaken and you can't get those ugly thoughts out of your mind.

There's an old saying, "You ARE what you eat." Well, in spiritual warfare, "You BECOME like whomever you listen to" — either Jesus or Satan. Don't think that you can straddle a spiritual fence. You must make a decision EACH time the demonic voices tempt you. Will you walk according to the Holy Spirit? Or, will you walk according to the devil?

Never forget that our Lord is a jealous Bride-groom for His Bride! If you choose to entertain demons in your mind, will and emotions, you're committing SPIRITUAL ADULTERY. It's as vile as it sounds!

Paul sternly warns us against trying to have it both ways— righteousness and unrighteousness.

"What I am saying is that the things which pagans sacrifice, they sacrifice not to God but to demons; and I don't want you to become sharers of the demons! You can't drink both a cup of the Lord

AND a cup of demons; you can't partake in BOTH a meal of the Lord and a meal of demons. Or are we trying to make the Lord jealous? We aren't stronger than he is, are we?" (1 Corinthians 10:20-22)

"Sharing" or "having fellowship" with demons uses the same Greek word, *koinonia*, that describes the kind of fellowship we have in Jesus! It's THAT LEVEL of unholy intimacy when you allow a demonic stronghold to influence some part of your soul. That's why you're committing *spiritual adultery* when you entertain those unclean spirits by listening to them.

Let's rephrase Paul's warning as it pertains to *your* thought life. "You cannot entertain thoughts of Jesus and thoughts influenced by demons at the same time; the Lord and demons cannot occupy your soul together. You will become like whomever you allow to influence your thoughts."

This is why we're commanded to take our thoughts captive and *bring them* into obedience to Jesus. As you capture those thoughts and make a decision to think instead on that which is good, pure and holy, you'll become more like Jesus. And isn't that the goal of our sanctification? — Christ-likeness?

The following cartoon (see next page) vividly depicts the biblical injunction to resist the devil by taking your thoughts captive. The three-part cartoon sequence you're about to see was given to us years ago when we taught the principles of Demolishing Strongholds at our retreat center.

The first cartoon sequence depicts a woman who FAILS to take her thoughts captive. The consequences hurt her rela-

tionship with her housemate and bring glee to our spiritual enemy.

In the second sequence the same woman uses a popular Christian method of getting her thoughts back into positive territory. Yet the results are sadly the same — disruption in her relationship.

Finally, the woman realizes WHO is inspiring the resentment toward her friend. She takes appropriate biblical action, and the demon flees.

We can't emphasize enough that you'll need to consistently take captive your thoughts and bring them into obedience to Jesus.

After you've demolished your strongholds, you may want to revisit this segment to help you counter the schemes of the enemy.

Figure I

<p>Early A.M. ♪♪ Then sings my soul.</p>  <p>My Savior God to Thee ...</p> <p>Nancy sings praises to the Lord as she gets ready for work ... she hasn't even seen Sally yet.</p>	<p>How great Thou art ... How great Thou art ... Then sings ✕</p>  <p>TAP!</p> <p>I'll bet Sally didn't do the dishes last night!</p> <p>Because the thought starts with "I" Nancy assumes it's her own thought.</p>	<p>She's so lazy she never does her part of the house work! She's just using me! (etc., etc.)</p>  <p>The demon continues to build her anger by throwing in more negative thoughts about Sally.</p>
<p>Good morning ... How are you today?</p>  <p>HUMPH! Goodbye!</p> <p>By the time Nancy meets Sally she's so angry she isn't even civil to her. NOTE: Sally did the dishes last night but Nancy's too angry to notice.</p>	<p>What did I do?</p>  <p>She thinks she's so much better than me. She's always nasty to me!</p> <p>The demon begins to manipulate Sally; she accepts the thought because of the word "me."</p>	<p>Bye, have a rotten day!</p>  <p>SLAM!</p> <p>Both girls are off to a rotten start.</p>

Figure II

<p>Early A.M. ♪♪ Then sings my soul.</p>  <p>My Savior God to Thee ...</p> <p>Nancy sings praises to the Lord as she gets ready for work ... she hasn't even seen Sally yet.</p>	<p>How great Thou art ... How great Thou art ... Then sings ✕</p>  <p>TAP!</p> <p>I'll bet Sally didn't do the dishes last night!</p> <p>Because the thought starts with "I" Nancy assumes it's her own thought.</p>	<p>She's so lazy she never does her part of the house work! She's just using me! (etc., etc.)</p>  <p>The demon continues to build her anger by throwing in more negative thoughts about Sally.</p>	 <p>Wait a minute, I shouldn't be thinking these things ... I'll think about the Lord instead. Let's see ... "The Lord is my Shepherd ..."</p>
<p>But I had to take the trash out last night because she wouldn't do it!</p>  <p>TAP!</p> <p>"I shall not want ..."</p>	<p>Good morning ... How are you today?</p>  <p>HUMPH! Goodbye!</p> <p>By the time Nancy meets Sally she's so angry she isn't even civil to her. NOTE: Sally did the dishes last night but Nancy's too angry to notice.</p>	<p>What did I do?</p>  <p>She thinks she's so much better than me. She's always nasty to me!</p> <p>In this case Nancy herself tries to stop the flow of negative thoughts about Sally, thinking that the thoughts were her own. In doing this she is, in essence, resisting Satan in her own strength. She will always lose the battle because we humans are not, and never will be, stronger than Satan.</p>	<p>Bye, have a rotten day!</p>  <p>SLAM!</p>

Figure III

