

# Demolishing Strongholds Video Series

God's Way to Spiritual Freedom

Mike and Sue Dowgiewicz

## Chapter 3, Further Effects of Adam's Fall

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



Freedom In Jesus Series

*(Part 2)*

## Chapter 3, Part 2 Further Effects of Adam's Fall (Genesis 3:1-4:7)

A few other consequences of Adam and Eve's sinful distrust and disobedience are important enough for you to be aware of.

These seven effects also entice people into searching for ways to sinfully compensate for the emotional discomfort they produce.

The first couple's sin brought about SHAME in them. Feelings of condemnation that they'd never before experienced came upon them, and subsequently upon all mankind.

That shame *should* have propelled them in humble repentance back to their loving Father. Instead, driven by their newfound knowledge of evil, they regarded as shameful the bodies God had given them. They compensated for that shame by hiding their nakedness.

"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."  
(Genesis 3:7)

Feelings of shame can be a positive motivator to drive us toward our Lord. We're told in our relationship with Him that "the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." (See 1 Peter 2:6.)

Yet strongholds keep most people from using their feelings of shame to draw them closer to Jesus. Instead, they often compensate for their shame through sinful pursuit.

When we get to chapter 5, *After You've Demolished the Strongholds*, we trust this won't be true for you.

Second, RATIONALIZATION, which is hiding from God and His righteousness, became part of man's makeup. Again, Adam and Eve could have approached their Father with penitent hearts, but chose instead to run from Him.

"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'"  
(Genesis 3:8,9).

When you've done wrong your mind often immediately begins to rationalize. It's automatic.

You start to have thoughts like, "It wasn't *that* bad", or, "I didn't really *hurt* anybody."

When you sin, rationalization is so automatic, it really takes a lot to stop yourself. Just remember: God's way for you to deal with sin is completely opposite your initial inclination.

Third, FEAR, even a *dread* of our loving God, entered the soul of man. This fear isn't the awesome regard we need to have for our Lord.

Rather, it's the terror of consequences that prevented Adam from coming to Him. That same unrighteous fear keeps people today from crying out in repentant trust.

"[Adam] answered, 'I heard you in the

garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'" (Genesis 3:10)

Hiding is a normal human inclination when people sin. I remember once as a boy breaking something important of my mother's while she wasn't home. My parents found me just before sunset hiding in a tree.

We've met Christians who felt they'd sinned so grievously that they believed God could never forgive them. Rather than trusting in His complete forgiveness, they hid. How?

They started doing all kinds of good things for others — proving to our Lord that they were worthy of His forgiveness. This course of action becomes legalistic perversion which we discussed in an earlier segment.

A fourth effect of Adam's sin is BLAME. Not only are you unwilling to take responsibility for your actions, you make others responsible for your failure.

"And [God] said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?' The man said, 'The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'" (Genesis 3:11-13).

Remember, even after the man and woman ate the fruit they could have humbled themselves and asked forgiveness. But that unholy combination of shame, dread, and rationalization caused them to compound their sin. They

turned to blame.

God intends for guilt to drive us toward repentance. But instead, blame is what people who sin or do wrong use to balance their own feelings of guilt. Blame is often used to lessen the weight of personal responsibility, or even to negate ALL responsibility.

If you're a parent, you've seen it all too often: When you stop your children in the middle of a disagreement, each of them blames the other.

Fifth, mankind has been relegated to live under a CURSE instead of a blessing.

"To the woman [God] said, 'I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.'"

"To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat of it," cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return'" (Genesis 3:16-19).

Not only will reproduction be a painful event, but Eve and all women thereafter will desire the place of rule that their husbands have.

**(Explore:** Newsletter 2003-09, *"You Will Rule"*)

Adam's pleasant work of tending the Garden of Eden was replaced by back-breaking labor amid harsh circumstances. And after a lifetime of ceaseless struggle, the man and the woman would taste death.

God held Adam responsible for following his wife's offer rather than obeying God's explicit command. Men today are still the ones God holds accountable for their families. Men and women have been wrestling with these curses ever since!

Sixth, feelings of REJECTION began to plague the mind of man. The skins of animals that had been killed to clothe them were a constant reminder that they'd been cast from the holy presence of God.

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.'" (Genesis 3:21-22)

The painful consequences of their sin came to pass. Theirs wasn't a fond farewell! God *drove* them out from His presence into a land full of thorns and thistles. And there was no way they could return.

"So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:23-24).

So the stage has been set for all mankind. Our sins deserve death, and have alienated us from our God. At this point of the account, we'd all be as lost as Adam and Eve.

But even in their eviction God set the stage for His redemptive plan that would culminate in Jesus. He told Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head..."

Now all mankind is VULNERABLE TO SATANIC ATTACK. And, finding freedom from this attack is the focus of our workbook *Demolishing Strongholds* and this video.

As we have shown in prior segments, whenever you turn away from our Lord to sin, you'll find eager demonic bystanders at work so that you *won't* repent and turn back to God.

"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it'" (Genesis 4:6,7).

In Chapter 5 we'll show you how to combat these effects that have come upon us from Adam's disobedience. The Bible calls the demonic influences in our soul "strongholds". (See 2 Corinthians 10:4,5.)

As we've shown, these fortresses of unclean spirits distort your relationship with God and with others. If you don't deal with them, you'll *continue* to experience the effects of the Fall.