

You Must Rid Yourselves of the *Iniquity* of Past Generations

For the love of Jesus help your family and fellowship experience the freedom He promises.

Two evil forces at work go mostly unchallenged in Christian families and fellowships today: **iniquity** and **sin**. Many think these two biblical terms are synonymous, but they aren't! Three times in Psalm 51 these words are addressed separately:

"Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (v.2). "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (v.5). "Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities" (v.9).

Iniquity is a weakness, a predisposition toward something contrary to God that is passed along from generation-to-generation in a family. **Sin** is a personal attitude or action in direct rebellion against God's Word.

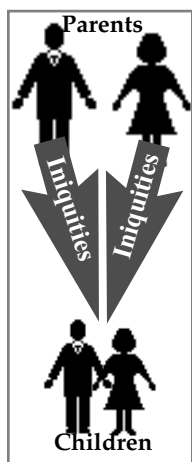
One of several examples in the Bible of the weakness of iniquity being *passed along for generations* begins with Abraham:

- Fearing King Abimelech, Abraham **lied** that Sarah was his sister (Genesis 20:2).
- Their son Isaac, fearing King Abimelech, **lied** that Rebekah was his sister (Genesis 26:7).
- Wanting his father's blessing, Jacob **lied** telling Isaac that he was Esau (Genesis 27:32).

Only the *iniquities* of our forefathers, that is, their *predisposition* to a particular weakness, are passed along to us — **not** their sins. The Lord assures us:

"I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me" (Exodus 20:5).

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation" (Exodus 34:6,7; also Numbers 14:18, KJV; Deuteronomy 5:9, KJV).



The iniquity of our forefathers is often passed down via **generational strongholds** that are neither confronted nor renounced and cast down. As you were growing up, how you viewed and interacted with the world around you was continually influenced or controlled by the strongholds in your soul — the weaknesses within your family.

In one family these weaknesses might be overwhelming feelings of

fear and insecurity; in another, **rejection**; in still another, **bitterness**, and so forth. Through those strongholds, the devil had a place to operate from within the souls of your family for generations (see Ephesians 4:27) — ever more entrenching these weaknesses with each generation.

But there's great news! You and your entire family and relatives have divine power in Jesus to *take back* the ground you and your forefathers have given over to Satan (see 2 Corinthians 10:3,4). Once the strongholds have been demolished, you and your family are able to *"take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* And thoughts which you submit to Jesus make you *available* to do the will of our Father, thereby enabling you to escape a life of iniquity.

You Must Acknowledge *and* Rid Yourselves of the Iniquities of Your Forefathers

And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers (Nehemiah 9:2; see also Daniel 9:16, Jeremiah 14:20 KJV).

You confess *your* sins first, assuming personal responsibility for them. Nobody "made you do it." Confessing your own sins also acknowledges that you *did not appropriate* the grace of God (see Romans 5:20) which is sufficient for you to overcome the weaknesses passed on by your forefathers. By confessing the iniquities of your parents, you're telling God you're aware of the weakness that has come down to you.

On the next page we've listed strongholds in which iniquities have been passed along from generation-to-generation. Also, as we've done *Demolishing Strongholds* workshops in fellowships throughout the country, we've found the majority of those in each faith community are influenced by the same demonic spirits, that is, the same iniquities. Also, when we've given out the list to Christian businesses, many of the key employees have identified the same predominant strongholds.

The overwhelming evidence has shown that it's as though spirits in the strongholds ATTRACT individuals to each other. Rejection attracts rejection, rebellion attracts rebellion, and so forth. The people involved feel COMFORTABLE with each other. They think, **"They're just like ME!"**

You'll never experience the freedom Jesus promises as long as there is iniquity or unconfessed sin in your family or fellowship!

(For more on iniquity and sin, please go to <<http://restorationministries.org/html/LifeBytes.html>>
Download: Lifebyte 40. Do You Confront For Jesus? Or, Placate For Satan?)

Are There Demonic Strongholds In Your Family Or Faith Community?

Is Jesus or Satan at the center of your relationships and fellowship?

Use the questionnaire below with your family and/or faith community to see if there are demonic strongholds (iniquities) in your lives. The **bold words** represent different demonic strongholds. Below each are the symptoms produced when a stronghold is present in you.

Place a number from 0-10 in the *first space* next to each symptom that is **habitually present** in your life. The number indicates the *intensity of influence or control* the symptom has on you. We stress that the symptom must be **habitually present**, not just a fleeting feeling or occasional situation.

After you've put your numbers down, have someone who knows you well go over your answers and put their evaluation number for you in the *second space*. When you're finished, compare your results with others in your family or faith community, as appropriate. You'll be able to see how demonically connected you are.

<p>DECEIT</p> <p>___ Lying</p> <p>___ Fantasies</p> <p>___ Delusions</p> <p>___ Rationalizations</p> <p>___ Wrong doctrine/ misuse of Scripture</p>	<p>BITTERNESS</p> <p>___ Resentment</p> <p>___ Racism</p> <p>___ Unforgiveness</p> <p>___ Anger/Hatred</p> <p>___ Violence</p> <p>___ Revenge</p>	<p>HEAVINESS</p> <p>___ Depression</p> <p>___ Despair</p> <p>___ Self-pity</p> <p>___ Loneliness</p> <p>___ Unconfessed sin</p> <p>___ Suicidal thoughts</p>	<p>JEALOUSY</p> <p>___ Spiteful</p> <p>___ Gossip/slander</p> <p>___ Betrayal</p> <p>___ Critical nature</p> <p>___ Judgmental</p> <p>___ Suspicious</p>
<p>CONFUSION (DOUBT & UNBELIEF)</p> <p>___ Suspicious</p> <p>___ Apprehensive</p> <p>___ Indecisive</p> <p>___ Skeptical</p> <p>___ Unsettled</p>	<p>REJECTION</p> <p>___ Addictive behavior</p> <p>___ Compulsions</p> <p>___ Seeks acceptance</p> <p>___ Unworthiness</p> <p>___ Withdrawal</p>	<p>PRIDE</p> <p>___ Vain</p> <p>___ Self-righteous</p> <p>___ Self-centered</p> <p>___ Insensitive</p> <p>___ Materialistic</p> <p>___ Seeks positions</p>	<p>RELIGIOSITY</p> <p>___ Seeks activities</p> <p>___ No spiritual power</p> <p>___ Spiritual blindness</p> <p>___ Hypocritical</p>
<p>INDEPENDENCE & DIVORCE</p> <p>___ Insensitive</p> <p>___ Lonely/Aloof</p> <p>___ Self-determined</p> <p>___ Devil's advocate</p> <p>___ Withdrawn</p> <p>___ Excuse making</p> <p>___ Lack of trust</p> <p>___ "Martyr" complex</p>	<p>STUPOR & PRAYERLESSNESS</p> <p>___ Distanced from God</p> <p>___ "Cold" love</p> <p>___ Distracted</p> <p>___ Spiritual blindness</p> <p>___ Laziness</p> <p>___ Deceived self-appraisal</p>	<p>REBELLION</p> <p>___ Self-willed</p> <p>___ Stubborn</p> <p>___ Pouting</p> <p>___ Strife</p> <p>___ Factious</p> <p>___ Divisive</p> <p>___ Anger leads to argument</p> <p>___ Independent</p> <p>___ Unteachable</p>	<p>FEAR & INSECURITY</p> <p>___ Inferiority</p> <p>___ Inadequacy</p> <p>___ Timidity</p> <p>___ Pleasing people, not God</p> <p>___ Lack of trust/worry</p> <p>___ Phobias</p> <p>___ Perfectionism</p> <p>___ Dread of failure</p> <p>___ Inability to set goals</p> <p>___ "Motor-mouth"</p>
<p>CONTROL</p> <p>___ Manipulative</p> <p>___ Striving</p> <p>___ Lacking trust</p> <p>___ Devil's advocate</p> <p>___ Insensitive</p> <p>___ Desiring recognition</p> <p>___ Violent</p>	<p>SEXUAL IMPURITY</p> <p>___ Lust</p> <p>___ Seductiveness</p> <p>___ Masturbation</p> <p>___ Fornication</p> <p>___ Adultery</p> <p>___ Frigidity</p> <p>___ Homosexuality</p> <p>___ Pornography</p>	<p>IDOLATRY</p> <p>___ Frustrated</p> <p>___ Hopeless</p> <p>___ Greedy/selfish</p> <p>___ Financial problems</p> <p>___ Wrong goals/decisions</p> <p>___ Living a lie</p> <p>___ Apathetic</p>	<p>FALSE PROPHECY/ANTI-CHRIST</p> <p>___ Denies Jesus as God and Man</p> <p>___ Bondage to Man-made Teaching</p> <p>___ Manipulation</p> <p>___ Prophecy for Pay</p> <p>___ Prey to Cults, Heresies</p> <p>___ Encourages Lawlessness</p> <p>___ Counterfeit Miracles</p> <p>___ Contrives Dreams/Visions</p>
<p>WITCHCRAFT/FAMILIAR SPIRIT</p> <p>___ Blasphemy</p> <p>___ Preoccupied with Evil</p> <p>___ Psychic Experiences</p> <p>___ Rebellious</p> <p>___ Devalues Life</p> <p>___ Identifies with Sinful Nature</p> <p>___ Fixated on Future</p>	<p>INFIRMITY/DESTROYING</p> <p>___ Physical Manifestations</p> <p>___ Unconfessed Sin</p> <p>___ Abuses Body</p> <p>___ Devalues Life</p> <p>___ Chronic Grumbling</p> <p>___ Thoughts of Suicide</p> <p>___ Drawn to Danger</p>		

Now, look inside yourself and ask the Holy Spirit:

- **Is there any unconfessed sin in your life right now? Yes ___ No ___**
- **Are you in full fellowship with our Father and His Son, Jesus? Yes ___ No ___**

If you find any of the symptoms are *habitually present*, download our free workbook, *Demolishing Strongholds*. Go to <<http://restorationministries.org>>, and click on "Books/DVD/CD". Or, use this link in your browser: <<http://restorationministries.org/pdf/books/dms/DemolishingStrongholds.pdf>>.

In the workbook you'll find how to free yourself from the strongholds. And, how critical it is that you have your God-given seven needs met as He prescribes so the strongholds won't return.