

BREAKING FREE FROM STRONGHOLDS **2Corinthians 10:3–5 (NIV)**

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

INTRODUCTION

A. Ever wonder why your life is such a struggle?

1. Galatians 5:16–17

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

- There is a Civil War on the inside.
- Gift of Faith is free; Life of Faith is a fight!

2. 1Timothy 6:12

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

B. The New Testament describes the Christian life as victorious.

- Remember—You can’t have a victory without a fight!

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. 2 Corinthians 2:14

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.”

3. Ephesians 6:10-11

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.”

4. 1 John 2:14

“I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

5. 1 John 4:4

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

6. 1 John 5:4

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

7. Revelation 12:10–11

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death”

PROPOSITION:

- Let’s look at: 1) STRONGHOLDS and 2) the WEAPONS that we have to demolish them.

I. WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?

A. Greek: *òchuróma*

- Fortified castle—literal (Kittle)
- Ready argument against
- Automatic obstruction to (pre-rational)

B. Beth Moore

“Something we hold onto for so long that it takes hold of us.”

C. Strongholds are internal:

1. Impediments to spiritual progress
 - Purpose: Ephesians 4:12–16 “*Grow up in Him*”
 - Strongholds impede growth.
2. Obstructions to spiritual relationships
 - Purpose: Ephesians 5:1–2, “*Be followers of God and walk in love.*”
 - Strongholds obstruct relationships.

BELIEVERS CAN HAVE STRONGHOLDS!

- Corinth—a great first century church

II. WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE STRONGHOLDS?

A. They can be arguments against Truth.

1. Atheism—“No God!”
2. Doubting Thomas—“Seeing is believing.”

3. Psalm 14:1

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God!’”

4. Genesis 3:5

“God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

B. They can be Pretentious.

1. Pride is an undue sense of superiority.

2. Proverbs 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

3. Proverbs 15:33

“The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

4. James 4:6, 10

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourself before the Lord and He will lift you up.”

5. 2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

C. They can be anything against the Truth of God.

1. 2 Corinthians 10:5–6

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2. Pharisees

D. Strongholds can be Bad Habits.

1. 2 Peter 2:19

“(False teachers) promise freedom while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.”

2. Addictions: Drinking and Over-Eating

- Two most common U.S. addictions
- Newsweek listed 200.

III. WHAT WEAPONS DO WE USE TO DEMOLISH THESE STRONGHOLDS?

A. The Power of God

1. Acts 1:8

“You shall receive power. . . .”

2. Luke 24:49

“I send the promise of My Father upon you; tarry in Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

3. Ephesians 6:10

“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

(NIV—“mighty power”)

B. The Word of God

1. Jeremiah 23:29

“Is not my word like a fire? says the Lord; and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

2. Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

3. John 8:31

“Jesus said to those who believed in Him ‘If you continue in My Word, then are you my disciples indeed.’”

4. Hebrews 4:12

“The word of God is quick (alive) and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

CONCLUSION: BREAKING FREE FROM STRONGHOLDS

- YOU CAN DO IT TODAY!

Impediment to spiritual progress

Obstruction to spiritual relationships
- GOD WANTS YOU TO BE FREE TO BE ALL HE DESIGNED YOU TO BE!