



Put on the  
Full Armor  
of God  
Ephesians 6:14-18

## Scripture of the Quarter

*<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup>casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the **obedience of Christ**, <sup>6</sup>and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NKJV)

## Strongholds Part 2

Let us review the meaning of the word, “Stronghold” anything which one relies on that does not align with God’s will **and His plan for your life.** (Ref. **Jeremiah 29:11**). Another important fact to remember is that God gave all humans free will, the right to make choices. Once someone **is truly saved**, the power of choice is not taken from us. In all of our newsletters we use the term, “**TRULY SAVED**” which means you have been bought with a price, the blood of Jesus, and you are now His and have **surrendered all body, soul, and spirit to Him and His will.** (Ref. **Romans 9:9-10**), (Ref. **1st John 4:4**). Remember what Jesus said to the Pharisees? **Matthew 15:8** *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.* Surrendering **all** means you give your heart to the Lord. (Ref. **Matthew 15:19**) **For out of the heart** proceed evil

thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

We must pull down the strongholds in our lives to close the doors that we have opened up to the demonic into your thought patterns. A door is a gateway for the demonic. It is our responsibility to identify and close these doors. Our own opinions can become an opening (entry point, a door) for the enemy.

Let’s think about this situation: A prominent “Man of God” has fallen into sin and we start having critical thoughts about him. And our opinion must be right because the facts can be proven. Then the Lord speaks to you and says this man has changed the face of a Nation because of his powerful ministry. Well, we certainly didn’t think of him like that! We are critical and speak evil of the man who calls himself a man of God, leading many people into

deception. We are being Judgmental and are focusing on his present situation. Therefore, we have separated ourselves from God. Why? Because, we are agreeing with the accuser instead of God. So, our stronghold of Judgementalism rose up to condemn this man. Our Lord God shows us we have a problem (**Matthew 7:3-5** we have a plank in our own eye) **a stronghold**, and we are required by our LORD to **pull down**. **Repent of being judgmental** and **ask God to forgive us**. We all know, God can use anyone to accomplish what He desires for His Kingdom purposes. At this point, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of the scripture in **Isaiah 55:8-9** *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,”* says the Lord. *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Sometimes we judge things in a moments time and we believe well this has happened before and this is the way it will always be. We allow ourselves to get into the flesh and listen to the enemy. Then we actually start speaking and let the enemy’s words become our words and we begin speaking what the enemy wants to happen. We have developed a critical spirit; a stronghold and our poison infect others. Now we have become a prophetic voice for the plans of the devil. What does God say about our words? **Proverbs 18:21** <sup>(NKJV)</sup> **21** *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- Remember we empower the plans of the devil when we have a stronghold.
- Anytime you don’t agree with God you are going to empower satan and that

gives the enemy access to you! Because you are agreeing with what satan wants to happen over what God wants to happen. Then we open our mouth and prophecy evil over a person or situation.

- Anytime you agree with what satan wants to happen whether you know it (realize it) or not! ***My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.*** (Ref. **Hosea 4:6**).
- You agree with the forces of darkness rather than God and the power of His light!
- This in turn gives us attitude problems which are negative in nature and not positive.
- A stronghold keeps us from seeing our part in a relational issue! Or any other issue!

Question—have you ever said something to encourage someone? Only to find out the other person wasn't encouraged at all. Your words actually hurt that person's feelings. Fact, sometimes what we hear is really something different than what they said. The person **translates** (through their strongholds — mindset) that what you said to a completely different thought. Example; *Wow, you are really looking so much thinner.* They interpret it as — *He or she thought I looked Fat.* That is a **STRONGHOLD, that filters** what was said, and it becomes **twisted** a wrong perception. Remember, “Our perception is our reality” or “Your perception is your reality” Whether it is a lie or the truth!

### Common strongholds:

- Our Opinions
- Our reasoning — Justifying
- Offenses — we all know when we are offended

Offenses are very serious as they become our strongholds. Jesus warned us about offenses in the following scriptures: **Matthew 5:23** *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, Matthew 5:24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your*

*way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.* Jesus makes it plain that **we must forgive and be reconciled** with our brothers and sisters. Important fact to think about, if we have forgiven our brother or sister we will not carry that offense. And when we do this it eliminates that offense. Eliminating the offense keeps it from taking root — **BITTERROOT!** Eliminating another Brick in our/their Wall. The Wall of our Strongholds that keeps us hunkered down behind believing we are now protected from letting them hurt us again.

What we are doing is helping the other person so that a bitterroot stronghold doesn't develop in them!

Stronghold of offenses doesn't come because we fail to release or forgive the offense! Jesus did not say when you were offended by your friend that he or she needs to come to you and apologize. When we are offended the burden is on us, as to how we will handle the offense. The offense is our problem and our responsibility.

Satan makes us think; I'll forgive them if they come to me. This is a **STRONGHOLD!**

Failure is an enormous stronghold which again keeps us from our destiny God has for us. The enemy implants thoughts and hides our failures in how we view things or try to do things that we were gifted to do and because of fear of failure. Spiritual paralysis makes you afraid to try anything new because we already perceive failure. This is a **STRONGHOLD!**

### A review of what strongholds are:

- ❖ Strongholds are arguments against who and what God says we are.
- ❖ Strongholds are gateways that allow demonic access into our lives and our families.
- ❖ Stronghold attitudes keep us from embracing Christ likeness and keeps us believing our actions are justified. (Ref. **Romans 15:5**).

- ❖ If we embrace offense it can develop into a bitterroot stronghold. A brick that we secure into our Wall for protection.
- ❖ When you have a stronghold of failure, it can lead to a spiritual paralysis which will keep you from trying anything new.

In closing — how do we get rid of strongholds?

1. Recognize the stronghold start with what offends you.
2. Repent and ask God to forgive you about the lies you have been believing.
3. Say to yourself is this what God is saying about me?
4. Does it line up with God's Word?
5. This one is **VERY IMPORTANT** does it line up with what God says about you or are you believing what satan says about you?
6. This is a telltale sign that a stronghold operation is reoccurring in your life is the “Why Me” mentality.

Having the mind of Christ does **NOT** condone Physical or Mental Abuse in any form. The Word of God says We Must **FORGIVE** & Pray for our enemies. You do **NOT** have to **STAY** in Abusive Situations, Forgive and move on.

We are like everyone else. We have all had strongholds in our lives. Some that we may have even had from the time we were just children. Opinions and beliefs passed on from our parents, teachers, and friends. There are strongholds that we developed because of pain from an offense from someone that was supposed to love us. Sheree, and I have had to repent from and remove bricks in our walls. Many that we had securely in place for the protection of our hearts. We must start to agree with what God says about ourselves and others to have the Mind of Christ. We pray these words of Wisdom from God's throne room has helped you be set free from the bondage of **STRONGHOLDS!**