

WAR ZONE

“Don’t Be a POW”

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What is a stronghold?

A stronghold is a sin which, through _____,
has gained a significant amount of _____.

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like...” (Galatians 5:19-21)

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” (Romans 6:1-2)

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

A stronghold is established through a _____.

(1) All sin is _____.

“The wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23)

(2) Sin is _____.

“Evil men ... will go from bad to worse...” (2 Timothy 3:13)

“Man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.” (2 Peter 2:19)

(3) Unconfessed sin gives the devil a _____.

“Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26-27).

(4) Once the devil has a foothold he will _____.

“The weapons we fight with ... have divine power to demolish strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Examples of Strongholds:

Bitterness: *“For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.” (Acts 8:23)* Bitterness is like burning down your house to kill a rat.

Worry: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear ... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (Matthew 6:25,27)* “Worry does not empty tomorrow of sorrows; it empties today of strength.” (Corrie Ten Boom)

Greed: *“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15)* The Dead Sea is dead because it continually receives but it never gives.

Laziness: *“Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.” (Proverbs 12:24)* A certain boss was once asked how many people worked for him. He answered: “About half of them.”

Lying: *“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor.” (Ephesians 4:25)* “Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts.” (Baruch)

Sexual Immorality: *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity ... because these are improper for God’s holy people.” (Ephesians 5:3)* “I used to say that civilization was going to the dogs, but I have quit saying that out of respect for dogs. Today, mankind is guilty of some things beneath the dignity of dogs.” (Vance Havner)

Pride: *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5)* “God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.” (D. L. Moody)

How can I be set free?

"If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

*"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."
(2 Corinthians 10:4)*

Be certain of your _____.
*"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith."
(2 Corinthians 13:5)*

_____ to be set free.
"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked." (Mark 10:51)

Take personal _____ for your sin.
*"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."
(Romans 14:12)*

Identify the _____ in your life that need to be broken.
"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 Corinthians 10:5)

Identify the _____ of the stronghold.
"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

Ask God for _____.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

*"Repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."
(Acts 26:20)*

"Go and sin no more." (John 8:11)

As an act of your will, officially _____
that you have given over to the enemy.

"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 Corinthians 10:5)

Get serious about your _____.
"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

Be _____ with the _____.
"Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Galatians 5:13)

Memorize and claim what the word of God says about how to have _____.
*"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
(Psalm 119:11)*

Pray constantly and _____ in areas of your weakness.
"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith..." (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Remove all connection with _____.
*"In the cities of the nations the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes. Completely destroy them ... as the Lord your God has commanded you. Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods, and you will sin against the Lord your God."
(Deuteronomy 20:16-18)*

Establish _____ with another Christian.
*"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other."
(James 5:16)*

Pursue freedom based on the fact that _____.
"Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life." (Romans 6:22)