

**CONQUERING ENEMIES IN THE PROMISED LAND**  
**2 Corinthians 10: 3-5; Joshua 1: 1-18**

**I. STRONGHOLDS MUST BE IDENTIFIED AND ATTACKED**

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)**

*<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,*

**DEFINITIONS:**

**STRONGHOLD:** A fortress, castle or similar enclosure, with thick high walls, designed to provide protection and security for those inside, and to keep enemies outside.

**SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS:** Forceful and stubborn arguments, attitudes, rationale, ideas, opinions, or philosophies that hinder human beings from acquiring an intimate knowledge of God. The walls in our minds must be torn down in order to open our hearts to the Gospel.

**ARGUMENTS (IMAGINATIONS)** Reasonings, thoughts, deceptive ideas and deductions

COMMON STRONGHOLDS IN OUR SOCIETY ARE:

(FEAR)                      (GUILT)                      (ANGER)                      (SHAME)  
(SEXUAL LUST)              (CHEMICAL ADDICTION)              (INTELLECTUALISM)  
(PRIDE)                      (PREJUDICE)                      (MATERIALISM)              (SEXISM)

- A. Strongholds are defensive and resist efforts to change
- B. Strongholds provide a sense of security which is often destructive
- C. Strongholds are often generational
- D. Strongholds are frequently governed by demonic forces

## II. STRONGHOLDS MUST BE PULLED DOWN BY SUPERIOR FORCE

A. God provides mighty weapons for spiritual foes

*Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--*

B. These spiritual weapons also need to be used inside the church!

## III. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY THE CHALLENGES AHEAD (Joshua 1: 1-18)

A. Be honest about your fears and rely on the Word of God.(v. 1-7)

*a. 2 Cor. 7: 5 For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had not rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears.*

B. We are commanded to be strong. We can't choose to be fearful (8-9)

C. Some strongholds will require full team participation (10-18)

**THE OBSTACLES ARE GREAT, BUT OUR GOD IS GREATER!  
WILL YOU TRUST HIM FOR VICTORY?**

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