

Praying To Break Demonic Strongholds

- The Philistine city of Gaza in the Bible is the 'type' of a demonic stronghold (its name means stronghold)
- A place with 'giants' (Joshua 11:22)
- A place that resists God and His people (Joshua 10:41, 11:22)
- A strongly held fortress of Satan
- A place that keeps being 'reoccupied' by evil

Areas Dominated By Satan

- **Revelation 2:12-13 HCSB** (12) "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "The One who has the sharp, two-edged sword says: (13) I know where you live--where Satan's throne is! And you are holding on to My name and did not deny your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan lives.
- There are strongholds created by the worship of the Devil or of pagan deities such as Baal, Zeus or Dagon
- These places become very hostile to the spread of the gospel

Personal Strongholds

- **Matthew 12:43-45 MKJV** When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he walks through dry places seeking rest, and finds none. (44) Then he said, I will return into my house from where I came out. And when he has come, he finds it empty, swept, and decorated. (45) Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and live there. And the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so it also shall be to this evil generation.

The Flesh And Strongholds..

- **Galatians 5:19-22 MKJV** Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, (21) envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- The works of the flesh = a basis for a stronghold to develop

Curses As Strongholds

- Genesis 3:1-19, 9:25
- Deuteronomy 7:25,26
- Deuteronomy 27:15-26, 28:15-68
- Exodus 20:4,5; Deuteronomy 5:8,9

Unforgiveness

- Matthew 6:14,15
- Matthew 9:1-8
- Matthew 18:21-35
- Forgiveness frees us and others
- Unforgiveness binds us and torments us
- Resolve-Resent-Reject-Revenge
- Gaza is a place of unforgiveness!!!

The Battle

- **Ephesians 6:10-13 MKJV** Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Therefore take to yourselves the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Our Authority

- Ephesians 2:6, 1:20 – our heavenly exaltation
- Matthew 11:11-13 – our new status
- 1 Corinthians 6:2,3 -angels judged
- Mark 16:17, Acts 8:7, 16:16-18 – demons cast out
- Acts 19:11-17 – the seven sons of Sceva
- Revelation 12:10,11 – Satan cast down
- Romans 16:20 – Satan under our feet

Our Weapons

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-6 MKJV** (3) For though walking about in flesh, we do not war according to flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, (5) pulling down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ; (6) and having readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Our Weapons -2

- **2 Corinthians 6:3-7 MKJV** (3) We are in nothing giving cause of stumbling, in no way, so that the ministry may not be blamed, (4) but in everything commending ourselves as God's servants, in much patience, in troubles, in emergencies, in distresses, (5) in stripes, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; (6) in pureness, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love unfeigned, (7) in the Word of Truth, in the power of God, through the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

Our Weapons - 3

- **Ephesians 6:14-18 MKJV** Therefore stand, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness (15) and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. (16) Above all, take the shield of faith, with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, (18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching to this very thing with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Resisting The Devil

- James 4:7 - the Devil will FLEE from us
- 1 Peter 5:8-10 - resisting strengthens us
- Luke 21:14-15 - God given words & wisdom
- Acts 6:9.10 - Jews unable to resist Stephen

Rebuking The Spirits

- Matthew 8:26, 17:18,
- Mark 1:23-28, 9:25-27
- Luke 4:33-35, 39, 41
- Storms, fevers and spirits can be rebuked!
- Evil spirits are often told to be quiet and to not harm the person being delivered.

Binding & Loosing

- Demons try to 'bind and blind' people so they cannot believe and be saved.
2 Corinthians 3:14-18, 4:4, John 11:44
- An important part of evangelism is to rebuke the spirits involved in stopping people from responding to the gospel
- Matthew 16:18,19; 18:15-20; Authority & Unity
- Revelation 20:2 – The Devil is bound

Praying In The Spirit

- Ephesians 6:18, Jude 1:20,21
- Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 14:14,15
- Warfare prayer involves both praying in the Spirit, both in tongues and in one's normal language
- Praying in tongues is edifying and there are many testimonies to its usefulness in spiritual warfare – but it is a fairly minor spiritual gift

Discernment, Wisdom & Knowledge

- We often 'do not know how to pray'
 - Romans 8:26
- Many spiritual warfare situations require discernment of spirits which is generally for mature believers
 - Hebrews 5:14
- God can give discernment, wisdom and insight
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Philippians 1:9
- Matthew 11:25-30 - Revelation and inspiration rather than legalism
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 - the process of revelation