

# How To Demolish Strongholds

## [2 Corinthians 10:4](#)

*4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **STRONG HOLDS**;) )*

I want to talk to you today about **STRONGHOLDS**. What are *strongholds*?

**A stronghold is a place that has been fortified (or strengthened) to protect it against attacks. Strongholds are usually *hidden* or unknown places.** (In fact, the location of strongholds are strategically chosen so that they cannot be easily reached.)

One well known stronghold in the Bible was the *Cave of Adullam*. When David fled from Saul he took refuge in the cave of Adullam. While he was there 400 mighty men gathered themselves to him and David went from a fugitive to a commander of a formidable army!

This is what strongholds do, they provide fugitive spirits a chance to strengthen themselves and become a formidable foe!

## [Luke 11:24–26](#)

*24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. 25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. 26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him **SEVEN OTHER SPIRITS** more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man **IS WORSE** than the first.*

When an evil spirit departs from a person they will often try to reenter their former “house.” If they’re able to regain access, they will gather other spirits to them in an attempt to strengthen and *fortify* their position.

Now, these spirits aren’t always able to reenter the person. They can’t force their way back in. They must be given *access*. They are given access when we *retain* things from our old life.

## [Luke 11:25](#)

*25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and **GARNISHED**.*

The word “garnished” means to put in order. This means things from this person’s old life was still present. They were simply *tidied* up and put in order!

We must never confuse *order* with *deliverance*! In order to have true deliverance we stop *managing* our issues (sins) and learn to **DEMOLISH** them!

### **2 Corinthians 10:3**

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, **WE DO NOT WAR AFTER THE FLESH:**

Although we may encounter attacks in the flesh, we must never war according to the flesh. We are not to war in the flesh, NOR are we to war with fleshly weapons.

### **2 Corinthians 10:4**

<sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are **NOT CARNAL**, but **MIGHTY** through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Since our warfare is *spiritual*, our weapons must also be *spiritual*. Besides, only spiritual weapons are “mighty” or *capable* of “pulling down” (*demolishing*) of strongholds!

### **2 Corinthians 10:5**

<sup>5</sup> Casting down **IMAGINATIONS**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

According to Paul, strongholds often come in the form of ‘imagination’ or *arguments*. These arguments can only be ‘cast down’ or demolished by the word of God.

### **2 Corinthians 4:3–4**

<sup>3</sup> But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup> In whom the god of this world hath **BLINDED THE MINDS** of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

This is what strongholds do—they blind people from seeing the truth. Moreover, it takes preaching to remove strongholds from men’s minds.

### **2 Corinthians 4:5–6**

<sup>5</sup> For **WE PREACH** not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, **WHO COMMANDED THE LIGHT TO SHINE** out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Once the stronghold is removed, the next thing we must do is capture or *take captive* our remaining thoughts.

### [2 Corinthians 10:5](#)

<sup>5</sup> Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT** to the obedience of Christ;

We must bring EVERY thought to the obedience of Christ. Otherwise, we will give the enemy an opportunity to build another stronghold in our mind!

Now, we assume that it takes a lot of *strength* (or power) to dismantle the enemy's strongholds. But, since Jesus has ALREADY defeated the 'strong man' and spoiled him of his armor, it doesn't take much strength to dismantle the enemy's strongholds. It DOES, however, require two things...

## **A WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER**

### [1 Peter 4:1](#)

<sup>1</sup> Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **ARM YOURSELVES LIKEWISE WITH THE SAME MIND**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

If we want to dismantle strongholds, then we must arm ourselves with a mind to suffer. Now, suffering in the flesh doesn't necessarily mean physical suffering. We suffer in the flesh whenever we refuse to live or walk according to the flesh!

### [1 Peter 4:2](#)

<sup>2</sup> That he **NO LONGER SHOULD LIVE** the rest of his time **IN THE FLESH** to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Whenever we're tempted to walk after the flesh and don't, our flesh suffers. (This is something many of us are unwilling to do. We don't want to endure the pain that comes denying the flesh! We keep sinning and giving access to the devil because we don't like to experience any pain or discomfort.

The second thing it requires to dismantle enemy strongholds is...

## **A LITTLE WISDOM**

## Proverbs 21:22

<sup>22</sup> *A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, And casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.*

## Proverbs 21:22 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> **One who is WISE can go up against the city of the mighty and PULL DOWN THE STRONGHOLD in which they trust.**

Notice that it takes a ‘wise’ man to pull down strongholds. In other words, you can dismantle strongholds with something other than strength (force). You don’t always need strength to dismantle the enemy’s strongholds.

## 2 Samuel 20:14–15

<sup>14</sup> *And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Beth-maachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him.*

<sup>15</sup> *And they came and **BESIEGED** him in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab **BATTERED THE WALL, TO THROW IT DOWN.***

Joab was the captain of David’s army. In this passage, Joab was organizing a manhunt for an individual named Sheba who had recently led an insurrection against king David. Joab had pursued Sheba until he came to a small town called Abel Beth-maachah. In order to lure Sheba out of the city, Joab decided to initiate a siege on the town. Therefore, Joab was prepared to starve the whole city just to root out one man. Needless to say, this was a real aggressive approach by Joab. (We tend to do similar things in order to root out sin/strongholds in our life.) Fortunately for the citizens, someone was able to get the job done without so much force/destruction.

## 2 Samuel 20:16

<sup>16</sup> *Then cried a **WISE WOMAN** out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.*

A ‘wise’ woman arose and convinced Joab that there was a less violent way to root out the traitor.

## 2 Samuel 20:19–21

<sup>19</sup> *I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to **DESTROY A CITY** and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the Lord? <sup>20</sup> And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it*

from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. <sup>21</sup> The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, **HIS HEAD SHALL BE THROWN TO THEE** over the wall.

Notice how Joab promised to spare the city if she was able to deliver Sheba. (Similarly, God will deliver/spare our life we deliver the head (mind) of the flesh.

### [2 Samuel 20:22](#)

<sup>22</sup> Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And **THEY CUT OFF THE HEAD** of Sheba the son of Bichri, **AND CAST IT OUT** to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

Notice how she used wisdom to both locate and kill Sheba. It takes wisdom from God to both locate and eliminate the flesh (*root cause*).