



**TREE OF LIFE**  
**TABERNACLE**

PROVERBS 3:18

# Relational Authority

Part 5

Attacking Strongholds

# Part Four Highlights :

- Spiritual warfare is primarily fought in the realm of thoughts, imaginations and strongholds; Satan's primary weapon is suggestion and deception. **2Corinthians 10:4-6, Genesis 3:1-6, Matthew 4:1-11**
- Strongholds form when repeated thoughts become agreement, action and entrenched patterns of thinking.
- Ahab is an example of a mind progressively opened to deception through continual rebellion. **1Ki 22:3-26**
- Demonic deception often works through multiplied voices, repetition, popularity and intimidation; truth is frequently isolated or rejected. **1Kings 22:13-23, Exodus 23:2.** Gods Word prevails **1Ki 22:29-38**
- Satan targets the imagination because imagination is powerful and was created by God for vision, hope and planning. Fearful imaginations become openings for oppression. **Genesis 3:5, 2Corinthians 10:5**
- Fear is Satan's calling card; God has not given His people a spirit of fear. **1John 4:18, 2Timothy 1:7**
- Yeshua defeated temptation by responding with Spirit-led Scripture, not panic, emotion or human reasoning. God leads His people progressively and "by stages," not through reckless leaps or self-produced striving. Abram journeyed toward the Negev "by stages." **Gen 12:9, Psa 37:23-24, Pro 16:9**
- Believers are responsible for resisting the enemy and refusing to give the devil a foothold. **Eph 4:27, 1Pet 5:8**
- Scripture is our legal evidence; truth exposes lies, corrects error and tears down accusations. **2Tim 3:16-17**
- Satan prowls looking for agreement and permission, but God actively searches the earth to strengthen those who remain faithful to Him. **Zechariah 4:10, 2Chronicles 16:9**
- When fear, intimidation or confusion dominate the mind, believers must discern the source and return to the ways and Word of God. **Exodus 33:13, Psalm 19:8**

# Spiritual Authority & Warfare

- Authority doesn't work automatically. If all we ever say is "I rebuke you, Satan" but we never use the tools God gave you, you will keep losing battles in the primary arena of conflict, your thoughts.
- God has "Weapons" (Plural) that we use, not just a phrase!

**2Corinthians 10:3-6** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full. ~ ASV

# Step 1. Thoughts:

- Satan rarely begins with open rebellion, he begins with a thought, a question, a fear, a suggestion or an imagination.

**Genesis 4:6-7** Then Adonai said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, it will lift. But if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the doorway. Its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

- 1. Thoughts: May not be evil, possibly just a suggestion or a question. It’s designed to make you take the next step in the imaginary process.

**James 1:14-15** But each one is tempted when he is dragged away and enticed by his own desire. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is full grown, it brings forth death.

# What are these thoughts playing to?

**1Johnn 2:15-17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the boasting of life—is not from the Father but from the world. The world is passing away along with its desire, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

- **Gen 3:1** “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from all the trees of the garden?’”
- **Mat 4:3** “If You are Ben-Elohim, tell these stones to become bread.”
- **2 Sam 11:2-3** “David saw a woman bathing...”
- **John 13:2** “the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Him.”
- **Acts 5:3** “Why has satan filled your heart to lie to the Ruach ha-Kodesh...?”
- **Num 13:31-33** “We seemed like grasshoppers in our own sight...”
- **1 Kings 19:2-4** “It is enough! Now, Adonai, take my life...”
- **Mat 16:21-23** “Far be it from You, Lord” Yeshua replies: “Get behind Me, satan!”

# Step 2. High thing that exalts itself against the Knowledge of God

- Now, Satan begin to openly contradict what God has said...
- Gen 3:4-5 **“You most assuredly will not die...”**
- Mat 4:5-6 **“... throw Yourself down...”**
- Gen 11:4 **“Let us make a name for ourselves...”**
- Exo 5:2 **“Who is Adonai, that I should obey His voice?”**
- Num 16:3 **“All the congregation is holy...”**
- 1 Sam 13:12 **“So I forced myself...”**
- 1 Ki 22:8 **“I hate him, because he never prophesies good concerning me”**
- Dan 4:30 **“Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself built...”**
- Mat 16:22-23 **“This shall never happen to You!”**
- A thought becomes a high thing when it begins to challenge God’s authority.
- High things are arguments that elevate human reasoning above God’s Word.
- Satan’s goal is not merely to tempt you, but to build a way of thinking that contradicts God.

# Step 3. Imagination

- Satan intrigues your imagination so that it plays to the original thought. What if I did that? What if this happened? He wants you to try that thought on, see how it fits, see how you like it.

The imagination is powerful because God created it for:

- vision
- hope
- planning
- faith

But Satan seeks to corrupt it into:

- fear
- fantasy
- dread
- pride
- false expectation

- This is why Paul says: **2 Corinthians 10:5** (KJV) “Casting down imaginations...”

The Greek (*logismos*) includes:

- reasonings
- mental constructions
- internal narratives

# Step 3. Imaginations

- **Genesis 3:6** “the tree was good for food... pleasant to the eyes... You will be like God... desirable to make one wise...”
- **Matthew 4:8-9** “All these things I will give You...”
- **1 Kings 22:30** “I will disguise myself...”
- **Deuteronomy 1:28** “The cities are large and fortified to heaven...”
- **1 Kings 19:3-4** “I alone am left...”
- **Matthew 26:14-16** “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?”
- **Luke 12:16-21** “I’ll store all my grain and my goods.” ”So take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry.”
- **Matthew 14:30** “seeing the wind, he became afraid...”

## Step 4. Strongholds

- Finally, a Stronghold. A pattern of defeat that you fall into every time you are in certain situations or circumstances.
- A stronghold is not merely a bad moment, it's a fortified pattern of thinking and behavior that repeatedly produces defeat.
- Genesis 3:6-24 “... she took and ate...”
- Genesis 4:5-8 “... Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”
- Numbers 14:1-4 “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”
- Judges 16 Samson repeatedly: ignored boundaries, pursued Philistine women, toyed with temptation
- 1 Samuel 13 → 15 → 28 Saul progressively develops patterns: fear of people, self-preservation, partial obedience, jealousy, paranoia, consulting a medium (Occultism)

# Step 4. Strongholds

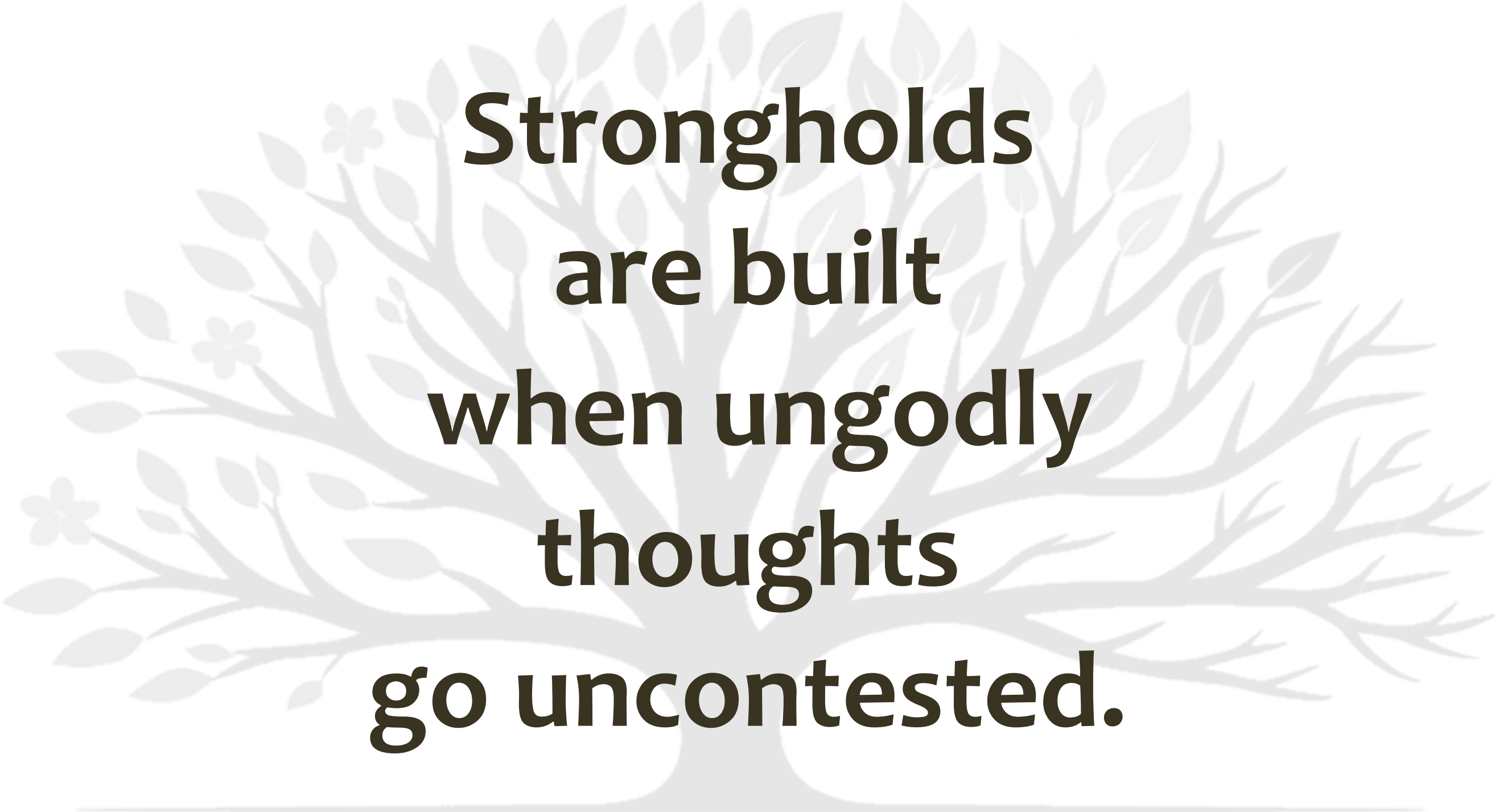
- 1 Kings 21:25-26 **“There was none like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil...”**
- John 12:6 **“... he was a thief...”** Greed, secret sin, death. Luke 22:3 **“Then satan entered into Judas...”**
- Exodus 8-14 **hardened heart, fought God.**

**Matthew 4:1-11** Yeshua never allowed:

- thought
- contradiction
- Imagination

... to mature into agreement.

- Therefore: no stronghold formed; Instead: truth interrupted the process immediately
- A stronghold is a repeated agreement with lies until they become a way of life.
- Strongholds form when wrong thoughts are entertained long enough to become identity and behavior.
- What you repeatedly agree with eventually governs you.



**Strongholds  
are built  
when ungodly  
thoughts  
go uncontested.**

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# Identifying Strongholds in your life:

- Stop & think of a “weakness” in your life...
- “I have a weakness with, lust, anger, pride, greed, gossip, anxiety, people pleasing, bitterness etc...”
- Those are really strongholds we’ve given ground to...
- When we tell ourselves it’s only a weakness, it’s our way of making a stronghold acceptable. We’re justifying it.
- If we continue to call it a weakness, we’re on a path to stay defeated
- When you call it a stronghold (what it is, the truth) you’re shining a light on the enemy and opening up your eyes to the truth!
- Stop & think... “What business does the enemy have opening up a stronghold in my life?”
- Satan has a stronghold in your life, you’ve let him build it! You may not have wanted it, Maybe you didn’t know how to stop it.

# A sound judgement of yourself

**Romans 12:3** For through the grace given me, I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think—but to use sound judgment, as God has assigned to each person a measure of faith.

**Deuteronomy 29:19 (29:18)** If there is such a person, when he hears the words of this curse, he will bless himself secretly, saying to himself, 'I will be all right, even though I will stubbornly keep doing whatever I feel like doing; so that I, although "dry," [sinful,] will be added to the "watered" [righteous].'

- That's why we're going through the detailed steps, so you can tear that stronghold down and keep it from having an impact on you!

# Fours in scripture

- Four steps in this progression: Thoughts, High thing, Imagination & Stronghold. Four is prominent in scripture.

## There are FOUR:

- Classes of demonic spirits
- Earthly Elements: Earth, Air, Fire, Water
- Directions: N, S, E, W
- Four Oceans
- Four Seasons
- Four living beings (Lead tribes of Israel).
- Lands, Tongues, Families & Nations (**Gen 10**)

# The Creator of ALL - YHWH

- Three things existed before creation (YHWH, Yeshua, Ruach), everything else beyond three is created.

**Gen 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was chaos and waste, darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the Ruach Elohim was hovering upon the surface of the water.**

- The fact the Spiritual darkness is identified in four categories, tells you they are created beings.
- They are not omnipotent, all knowing or all powerful like God, the creator. God created them!
- They are not equal & opposite, just opposite.
- God will give us the tools to overcome them. They are apart of creation and they can be dealt with. (**1Cor 2:7-8**).

# The not so powerful enemy

- Satan doesn't know all:

**1Cor 2:7-8** Rather, we speak God's wisdom in a mystery—a wisdom that has been hidden, which God destined for our glory before the ages. None of the rulers of this age understood it—for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- Satan didn't know! Had he known it, he would not have stirred up the crowd. He had no idea it was his own undoing.

- He's not some big powerful God, He's just got a big mouth:

**Isa 14:16-17** Those who see you will stare at you, reflecting on what has become of you: “Is this the one who shook the earth, who made kingdoms tremble, who made the world a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who never opened the house of his prisoners?”

# Make your position known:

- Thoughts of temptation is what enters our minds, its temptation (**1Johnn 2:15-17**) because our flesh wants to do it!
- Don't think that you lost the battle just because the thought hits.
- Don't think that you lost the battle just because your flesh feels like it wants to do the wrong thing!
- “You might as well go do it, you know you want to” ~ Satan
- But the greatest thing you can do when you want to indulge, is pray and ask God to help you. “***I take this thought captive***” (out loud).
- God's authority is above them, but that authority doesn't work unless we submit to it and use the tools. That's why we respond with the spoken word. The Sword of the Spirit.
- Puts the devil in fight or flight situation. “***He will flee from you***”

# Strongholds & Idols

- Idolatry is never spiritually neutral. Behind false worship are demonic powers seeking influence, agreement and bondage.

**Deuteronomy 32:16-17** They made him jealous with strangers, with abominations they angered Him. They sacrificed to demons, a non-god, gods they had not known—to new ones who came in lately, ones your fathers had not dreaded.

**Revelation 9:20** But the rest of mankind, those not killed by these plagues, did not repent and turn away from the works of their hands—they would not stop worshiping demons and the idols of gold and silver and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. (Psalm 115)

- God wants us to remove ALL the idols in the land, and in us!

**Deuteronomy 7:25** “The carved images of their gods you are to burn with fire. You are not to covet the silver or gold on them or take it for yourself—or you could be snared by it, for it is an abomination to Adonai your God. You are not to bring an abomination into your house—for you, like it, will be a banned thing. You must utterly detest and utterly abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction. (Mat 7:19)

# Tearing Down Strongholds

**Judges 6:23-27** But Adonai said to him, “Shalom to you. Fear not, you will not die.” So Gideon built an altar there to Adonai and called it “Adonai-shalom.” To this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. Now it came to pass the same night that Adonai said to him, “Take the young bull that belongs to your father and a second bull of seven years old, pull down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father, cut down the Asherah that is beside it, build an altar to Adonai your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take the second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah pole that you will cut down.” So Gideon took ten of his male servants and did as Adonai had spoken to him. But since he was too afraid of his father’s household and the townspeople to do it by day, he did it at night.

- **When we tear down idols/strongholds, it brings the shalom of YHWH!**
- **Replace a stronghold of the enemy with a strong hold of Gods Peace!**

# Idolatry in our Hearts

**Ezekiel 14:2-5** The word of Adonai came to me saying: “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts. They have put the stumbling block of their iniquity right before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? Therefore speak to them, and say to them, thus says Adonai Elohim: ‘Every man from the house of Israel who sets up idols in his heart and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity right before his face, and then comes to the prophet—I, Adonai, will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, so I may take hold of the house of Israel in their hearts. For they have all become estranged from Me through their idols.’”

- In the Torah, God commanded Israel to remove idols from the land; today, we are the temple, and God still calls His people to remove every competing idol from the heart.
- Anything that competes for the fear, trust, affection or obedience that belongs to God becomes an idol.

# Start the process:

**Numbers 31:21-23** Eleazar said to the men of the army who had gone to war, “This is the regulation of the Torah Adonai gave to Moses: The gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead, and anything able to pass through fire is to be put through the fire and will then be clean. It is also to be purified with the water of cleansing. Anything that cannot stand the fire is to be put through the water.

- **Water: Repentance, Cleansing & Forgiveness: Mark 1:4, Acts 2:38**
- **Fire: The Holy Spirit & Purification: Mat 3:11 Mal 3:2-3**
- **Everything we allow into our lives should endure both the washing of the Word and the testing fire of God: 1Cor 3:13, Phil 4:8**
- **Remove what causes stumbling and ask God to restore your heart: Mat 5:29 “pluck out an eye” Psa 51:10, Ezek 36:26**
- **Pray for strength against temptation: 1 Cor 10:13, Mat 26:41**
- **Tear down all idols in your Temple: Deut 7:25, 1Cor 3:16, 2Cor 6:16**
- **Shema with everything, all aspects, all parts: Deut 6:4-5, Mark 12:30**
- **Stand firm and resist the devil with the Word of God: Jas 4:7, Eph 4:27, 1Pet 5:8-9**

# Rebuild that Empty Space:

- Empty houses become vulnerable again: **Matthew 12:43-45**
- Filling the space with God's Word
- Fill your mind and temple with God's Word and Spirit.

**Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Messiah dwell in you richly..."

**Romans 12:2** "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

**Psalms 119:11** "I have treasured Your word in my heart..."



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**T A B E R N A C L E**

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# **Relational Authority**

**Part Five**

**Attacking Strongholds  
Questions & Comments!**