

Pulling Down Strongholds of Bitterness in Marriage:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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.

- The field where more battles ['ba-təl](#) are fought is the human mind
- The objective of the enemy is to conquer the human mind, because if it succeeds, it can govern people's life
- What kind of words do you speak in your home? Those that produce thoughts of faith or fear?

What is a Stronghold?

- In the natural, a stronghold is like a fortress, a walled castle ['ka-səl](#) or a strong tower.
- In the spiritual it is an impenetrable place that is built in the mind of a person, where the enemy makes his lies and hides with the purpose of destroying and damaging.

Negative Thoughts Create Strongholds

A mind that has not been renewed will repeat cycles of negative thoughts. Every cycle begins like this:

1. **A suggestion:** Satan's thoughts almost always come to our mind in first person; as if they were our own.
2. **When we approve them, they become a mentality.** A mentality is a thought pattern. Habits are born. These, in turn, produce an attitude that reflect the hearts of people.
3. **A mentality builds a stronghold.** A mentality is a thought pattern that negatively modifies a person's behavior.
4. **A stronghold leads to a reprobate** ['re-prə-bā](#) **mind.**
Controls someone's life and reduce it to nothing.
5. **A reprobate mind leads to an apostasy from our faith.**
God gives the reprobate minds to the enemy.

What do mental strongholds do?

- Block ['bläk](#) your perception of God
- Determine your way of thinking
- Modify your behavior
- Stagnate ['stag-nāt](#) you
- Resist change

What is the stronghold of bitterness?

It is anguish ['an-gwish](#) of the soul that causes resentment, sadness and repressed anger. That anguish comes as a result of having believed Satan's lies.

Causes of bitterness:

1. Physical, verbal, emotional and spiritual abuse. What is abuse?
The loss of someone or something.

Genesis 27:34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “ Bless me – me also, O my father!”

How is the stronghold of bitterness built?

1. Bitterness is rooted in self-hatred.
2. Bitterness is rooted in self-justification.
3. Bitterness has its roots in self-pity.

Consequences of living in a bitterness stronghold

1. It contaminates many. Every person who is bitter is poisoned.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing ['spring-in'](#) up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

- Contaminated means “infected”
There are many marriages in this situation, because with the same mouth they declare blessing, they also curse.

James 3:10 “These things ought not to be so. Does a spring forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?”

2. It confines us to a prison. This causes people to not enjoy their family or their marriage.

How do we recognize a bitter person?

They are never happy. They complain continually. They live in the past. They always act with hostility. [hă-'sti-lə-tē](#) They isolate. They are always trying to pick up a fight. They are difficult to please. They always look for the bad side of things and the worst in people. Since they live with unforgiveness, their heart becomes hardened. They lack compassion.

Spirits associated with the stronghold of bitterness

1. Schizophrenia. The bible calls it “double- mindedness.”

['mīn-dəd-nəs](#)

James 1:8 A double-minded man, is unstable in all his ways.

2. The spirit of deceit.

Matthew 24.4 Every bitter person is a victim of deception. This is why Jesus warned us “Take heed that no one deceives you.”

How do we pull down a stronghold of bitterness and become free?

1. Truly repenting.
2. Surrendering all bitterness, abuse, rejection and shame to Christ.
3. Praying and fasting.

Activation: Guide them to a prayer to be free of bitterness

Pray for they can be filled of the holy spirit.

Marriage and Finances

What requirements must be met for Gods blessings to flow in a married couples finances?

1. The man must be the provider for the family.
 - A man who seeks God in prayer and allows Him to guide his decisions will inevitably i-'ne-və-tə-blē be financially blessed.
 - If at home there is not enough ask yourself if you have been trying to do things in your own strength and not counting on God.
 - The responsibility of being the provider of his house is the mans, not the woman's.

1Timothy 3:5 for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?

2. A married couple must live according to the Word of God.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- Your personal relationship with God must be your priority, more important than your spouse, your children, and your business.
3. Planning
 - Is it necessary to have a budget of income and expenses, that is, of your expenses in the short, medium, and long term.

- Not everything that is good is Gods will for your life and your family.
- Never make decisions without praying and asking God first.
- Put your priorities in order and be disciplined to do them.

4. Do everything with excellence.

- In God there is no mediocrity, mē-dē-'ä-krə-tē but excellence!
- Seek God with all your heart so that the path of your financial blessing may be revealed to you.

5. Limit credit completely.

Proverbs 22:7 “The borrower 'bär-ə-wər is servant to the lender.”

6. Set goals according to Gods will, and not by what the worlds system and people tell you.

- When you look at your sides, you may want to copy or compete.
- When you look up, your heart may want to envy,
- And when you look down your heart can despise.

When this happens, we pervert Gods will in our lives, get into debt, squander 'skwän-dər money, and fall into financial slavery.

7. Work to honor God.

- Your employment is only a means that God uses to bless you.

8. The priority must be to obey the Word of God.

- Tithing and giving offerings are not optional. Tithing is a command from God and a sacrifice before him.

9. It's key that they come into agreement on which are your family's financial priorities.

10. The importance of saving.

2 Corinthians 12:14 - New International Version

¹⁴ Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

11. Maintain honesty and integrity.

- Honor and respect is not only for those who are above you, but also for those under your authority.
- Respect tax laws.

Matthew 22:21 - New International Version

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

- Don't accumulate ill-gotten wealth.
- Accumulate with the blessing of God so that this wealth can be transferred to our generations to expand the kingdom of God on earth.
- Do not love money see it as a means and not an end
- If the balance of your monthly budget is positive this means that your income is greater than your expenses and you have a healthy economy in your home.

Activation:

- Pass out budget sheets
- Have a calling to have finances in order
- Minister the couples who constantly go through cycles of scarcity, poverty or financial ruin, and break these generational curses for them to be free, declaring the Father's blessing upon them.

I Need the Holy Spirit

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

G4156 παράκλητος **paraklētos**, n. [5] [$\sqrt{4123 + 2813}$]. counselor, intercessor, helper, one who encourages and comforts; in the NT it refers exclusively to the Holy Spirit and to Jesus Christ: – advocate (4), advocate to help (1)

- We are in the feast of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost – The feast lasts 2000 years – we are in the year 1986.
- The first breath of the Holy Spirit was in Acts 2
- We are now experiencing the second breath.

Who is the person of the Holy Spirit?

- The third person of the Trinity
- The Father is the one who anoints.
- The Son is the anointed one.
- The Holy Spirit is the anointing.
- One of the names of the Holy Spirit is the Witness
- The Holy Spirit witnesses to the life of Jesus His Death and His Resurrection.
- The Holy Spirit is a legal witness.

The Holy Spirit testifies to The Truth.

John 16:13

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- Truth is the highest level of reality.

The Spirit of Life

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Psalms 33:6

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

רוּחַ **rûah**, n.f. [378] [√ 8118; 10658]. breath, wind; by extension: spirit, mind, heart, as the immaterial part of a person who can respond to God, the seat of life; spirit being, especially the Spirit of God

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

- Many say: “We must maintain order.” The goal is not order; the goal is life.
- How many of the decisions we have made have been guided by The Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- The Holy Spirit will never lead you to a lie
- Jesus was guided by The Holy Spirit – disciplined in The Holy Spirit. He was sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

Three things that make Christianity different from other religions (4000 religions)

1. The cross of Jesus
2. The supernatural
3. The Holy Spirit

We need to return to:

1. The person of the Holy Spirit
2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:31

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

3. The power of God

The need for the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit is not an option, it is a commandment.

Acts 1:4

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me;

2. Without the Holy Spirit we are illegal witnesses
3. Without the Holy Spirit we cannot know Jesus
4. The criterion krī- 'tir-ē-ən for ministry is to be anointed by the Holy Spirit
 - The anointing is given according to the purpose.
 - Without The Holy Spirit we cannot meet human needs

2 Timothy 3:5

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

- Merely an appearance
5. The person of the Holy Spirit brings freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

6. Without the Holy Spirit there is no life

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit:

1. He moves like wind, but he is not wind – he is a person.
2. He purifies like fire, but he is not fire

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

3. The Holy Spirit is like a dove.
 - Characteristics of a dove:
They are sensitive to movement.

The Realm of the Spirit

Who is God?

God is a supernatural Spirit who has supernatural abilities and attributes and who demands to be worshiped in Spirit and Truth.

God exists in the realm of the Spirit. He cannot be defined outside of being a supernatural spiritual being.

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

What is the realm of the Spirit?

The Greek word for spirit is “pneuma” the Hebrew word “runch”, both mean spirit, wind, breath, and gushing wind. The realm of The Spirit is an order of existence beyond the visible universe, which transcends above and beyond the natural realm, natural laws, space, time, and matter.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

What is the flesh?

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Flesh is the Greek word “Sarkos” which means carnal nature, carnal instincts, Adamic nature, sinful nature, the old you. Flesh is anything outside the control and influence of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Psalm 29:2

Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Romans 8:6

For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

- What is to satisfy the flesh? What thoughts dominate your mind?

Galatians 5:16

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

What is to walk in the Spirit?

- Walk speaks about the conduct of your life.
- Walk in The Spirit is a decision and commitment.

What is satisfying the desires of the flesh?

- The impulses of the flesh must be surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

2 Kings 6:17

And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots 'cher-ē-ət of fire all around Elisha.