



The Christian life is not always easy. Every morning as we crawl out of bed, we go to war. Unlike our friends and loved ones in Iraq or Afghanistan who live in constant danger as they come face-to-face with their enemies, we cannot see our enemies.

We are in a spiritual battle, but a battle nonetheless. Satan has declared war on God and everything and everyone associated with God. We must fight. We cannot allow the world, the flesh, and the devil to defeat us or force us to retreat into apathy, indifference, surrender, or defeat.

Just as physical enemies sneak into occupied territory seeking to set up strongholds and take control, so Satan uses sin to set up strongholds in our hearts and minds forcing us to live weak, anemic lives separated from the mighty power of God. As we battle sin and temptation each day of our lives, we have to ask if sin has not already established a stronghold in us.

Is there any area of your spiritual life in which you live in constant, daily defeat wondering if you will ever experience victory? What battle do you lose on a daily basis? What sin has such a strong hold on your heart that you cannot make it release its life-threatening grip no matter how hard you try? Left to ourselves we will live in defeat.

We are so weak in the flesh; we can't expect to live victorious Christian lives. We can't do it! But God can! Our battle is a spiritual battle, and God is stronger and mightier than any power, any enemy, or any sinful stronghold we struggle with. This series is devoted to the principles found in:

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)."

The Stronghold of a Wicked Tongue

- **The Complaining Tongue:**
Numbers 11:1, John 6:43, Philippians 2:14
- **The Crooked Tongue:**
Psalm 119:29, Proverbs 12:22, Ephesians 4:25
- **The Cutting Tongue:**
Prov. 31:26, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 4:31-32
- **The Corrupt Tongue:**
Exodus 20:7, Ephesians 5:3-4, James 3:10
- **The Controlled Tongue:**
Psalm 19:14, Psalm 141:3, Ecclesiastes 5:2

The Stronghold of Wrong Friends

- **Learn to say "no" to the wrong kind of friends:**
Proverbs 1:10, Proverbs 9:6, Proverbs 13:20
- **Use discretion in choosing your friends:**
Proverbs 2:11-15
- **Turn away from selfish, sinful friends:**
2 Timothy 3:2-5
- **Choose loving friends who want the best for your life:**
1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- **Choose friends who will strengthen your walk w/ God:**
Psalm 119:63, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:17
- **Choose friends who hold you accountable in doing right:**
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Stronghold of Worldly Thinking

- **Keep God's attitude toward your enemy, sin:**
Genesis 6:5, Psalm 97:10, Romans 12:9
- **Keep your commitment to please your Lord and King:**
Psalm 19:14, Psalm 94:7-11, Isaiah 26:3-4
- **Keep your enemies as far away as possible:**
Proverbs 4:14-15, Matthew 6:13, Romans 13:14
- **Keep your weapons close at hand:**
Psalm 119:9-11, Psalm 119:15-16, 2 Cor. 10:4-5

The Stronghold of Wasteful Living

- **Living like a lazy SLOTH:**
Proverbs 24:30-32, Proverbs 26:13-14
- **Living like an indolent SLUG:**
Proverbs 6:9-11, Proverbs 20:4
- **Living like an industrious ANT:**
Proverbs 6:6-8
- **Living like a diligent SERVANT at home:**
Ephesians 6:5-7, Colossians 3:22-24
- **Living like a disciplined STUDENT of God's Word:**
Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:33-34, 2 Timothy 2:15