

Praying for the Lost

2nd Corinthians 4:3-4

3) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4) 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.

Introduction:

1. We have ministered

a. That Prayer is necessary because God placed the world under man's authority, and therefore God does not do anything in the world without man, so we

i. Bind and Loose according to the Scriptures

ii. Take back from the enemy what is ours through prayer

iii. Build boundaries around your family members and friends through prayer.

iv. Allow the Spirit to Direct us of Specific needs and times to pray.

v. Pray as if we are in warfare

1) We besiege the strongholds in our lives and the lives of others.

2) We shout the shouts of Victory as we march around the enemy's camp.

a) Like they did at Jericho

b) Like Jehoshaphat did in 2nd Chronicles 20 when he went to battle

b. That our battles are different than the battles of this world, so we need the weapons of God as declared in 2nd Corinthians 10:3-6

3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5) 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; 6) And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

c. We have also shared that through prayer

i. We support one another as

- 1) We stake ourselves to someone and carry them through the trial
 - 2) We take their burden and “lay it on us,” and carry it away from them through prayer as Jesus carried away our load of sin.
- ii. We intercede for each other
- 1) As we go between them and God to create a meeting with God
 - 2) As we go between them and Satan to sever the relationship with Satan and to sever the hold that Satan has upon their lives.
- iii. We re-present Jesus.
- 1) Who has already defeated Satan for us, but we must stand our ground and enforce the work through prayer that has Jesus completed
 - 2) Who has already promised us certain territorial rights, but we have to take those rights
 - 3) Who already done the work for us, so we do not have to redo the work of Jesus, but we re-present to the world and to Satan what Jesus has already done So
 - a) In Jesus’ name, we go to the Father, and present the need, with this confidence that our right to the Father’s throne is Guaranteed.
 - b) In Jesus’ name, we have the guarantee that the Father will respond, not because of who we are, but because of what Jesus has already done for us.
 - c) We bind the powers of darkness in the name of Jesus, and loose men and women from its effect because Jesus has already destroyed (luo) the works of Satan both Legally and Physically.
 - i) We proclaim the legal act through our prayer of binding and loosing,
 - ii) Then, through our faith, we continue in Prayer enforcing the physical act until something happens.
- iv. Therefore, we
- 1) Load our weapons and prepare for war
 - 2) March forward “treading”
 - a) On serpents and scorpions
 - b) On the territory that is ours given to us by Jesus exercising our power of attorney

c) Placing our feet on the neck of Satan, because Jesus has defeated him, and gave us victory over satan and all his work. We are victorious.

i) You can be forgiven.

ii) You can be healed.

iii) You can be delivered from that addictive personality.

iv) You can be delivered from oppression.

v) You can be set free from bondage.

Note: Listen to the promise of God

i. 1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

ii. John 8:36...If the Son therefore shall make you free, *ye* shall be free indeed.

iii. Matthew 16:18b...

Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it

iv. John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

2. We are a victorious church, people, family, and individuals. Therefore, let us enter our prayer chambers, and our worship services as warriors, ready to do battle, and with this confidence:

a. We will not lose:

b. We will win, because Jesus has already accomplished the work.

c. We are just re-presenting and enforcing what Jesus did.

d. The devil does not have a chance against God and the people of God.

3. In this message, I want to talk about praying for those who are lost with the confidence that we are victorious, and that God hears our prayers, and that our prayers are being answered.

a. This message is for the purpose of giving us an insight on how to pray for the lost.

- i. When praying for the lost, we need to take the initiative, as we do with other needs, and pray with wisdom and understanding.
- ii. We are fighting a Spiritual warfare, and dealing with spirits of darkness who are keeping our loved ones in darkness, so we need to know how to combat those spirits and that lost condition.

Note: If you are here, and you are lost, we are praying for you. You need to understand that you are involved in a spiritual battle, and those who are lost are bound in darkness, but now, today, Jesus has made plans to set you free.

b. Read text. 2nd Corinthians 4:3-4

3) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4) 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.

i. Definition of words and terms.

1) “Hid” in the KJV and “Veil” in the NIV comes from the Greek, “kalupsis,” meaning

- a) To hide
- b) To cover up
- c) To wrap around

2) Examples are

- a) The inside of a tree is “hid” or “veiled” by the bark.
- b) The inside of the human body is “hid” or “veiled” by the flesh
- c) The New Testament Greek word for “revelation” is “apokalupsis”
 - a) It is “kalupsis” with the prefix “apo” added to it.
 - b) “Apo” means off and away
 - c) So literally “revelation” is
 - i) An “unveiling”
 - ii) Or an “uncovering.”

ii. When we praying for or ministering to those who are not Christians,

- a) We are praying for people who have a “veil” or “covering” over their minds, which is put there by the god of this world, or god of this age, which results in “blindness” and an inability to see clearly.
 - i) They do not see the gospel because they cannot see it.
 - ii) They do not understand the gospel because they cannot understand it.
 - iii) They must have an unveiling.
 - iv) They must have a revelation.
- b) Therefore, we have to pray for an unveiling, or uncovering of their mind so they can see, hear, and understand the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: So I pray this morning that the Father will give revelation to us whose minds are veiled because of sin, unbelief, hurt, disappointment, etc so we may see clearly the promises and deliverance that belongs to you and I.

I. The Veil in the Unbeliever

A. There are strongholds associated with veils.

1. Any type of unbelief is because of a veil over the mind of individual
 - a. Those that are unsaved have a veil over their minds.
 - b. This veil or covering over our eyes is like a fog or smoke screen that varies in density, but it keeps us from seeing clearly.
 - i. So we have difficulty believing that Jesus desires to save us
 - ii. We have difficulty believing that Jesus desires to restore us
 - iii. We have difficulty believing God has more for us than what we have already experienced
 - iv. We have difficulty believing that we will ever be free from those old habits
 - v. We have difficulty in trusting Jesus to do the work in us, so we keep trying to do it ourselves, for you know “the Lord helps those who help themselves”

Note: So we continue walk around living below our privileges because there is a veil over our spiritual eyes which keeps us from seeing clearly what God has prepared for you and I.

2. Note the Scripture in 2nd Corinthians concerning Strongholds.

- a. In v3, “We do not wage war as the world does.”
- b. In v4 and 5, our weapons are not the weapons of the world, but
 - i. Our weapons “have divine power to demolish strongholds.”
 - ii. Our weapons “have divine power to demolish arguments.”
 - iii. Our weapons “have divine power to demolish every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.”
 - iv. Our weapons
 - Have divine power to take captive ever thought to make it obedient to Christ
 - 1) If the Word true, then Pray for the fulfillment of the Word in your life and others
 - 2) If the Word true, then “Demolish strongholds.”
 - 3) If the Word true, then “Demolish arguments”
 - 4) If the Word true, then “Demolish every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.”
 - 5) If the Word true, then “Take captive ever thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

3. Strongholds are not demons, but are places from which demonic spirits rule and operate

B. Minds covered by the veil used by the god of this world, have a distorted perspective (view)

1. Example

- a. A lady was driving home alone one evening, and she noticed a man in a large truck following her.
- b. She became frightened and tried to lose her pursuer, so she sped up, and exited from the freeway to drive up the main street of her town.
- c. The driver of the truck followed her, using his emergency lights so he could stay behind her
- d. Panicking, she stopped at a station, jumped from her car, and ran inside screaming
- e. The truck driver stopped also, ran to her car, jerked the back door open, and pulled from the floor of the car, behind her seat, a man that was hiding there.
- f. The lady was fleeing from the wrong person.

- g. From where the truck driver was sitting,
 - i. He could see the man in the car.
 - ii. He could see the danger that she was not aware of, but yet was very real.
 - iii. He was trying to save her, but she was fleeing her savior.
 - iv. He kept pursuing, until He was able to save her.

Note: Think about it. If she had never stopped running, then the truck driver could not have helped her, and eventually she could have went into an area where he could not go.

2. Jesus is our Savior.

- a. From his advantage point, he can see the danger that we are facing.
- b. Because of the veils that cover our mind, there are times that we are not aware of our danger.
- c. But He pursues us, because He loves us and wants to Save us.
- d. People run, trying to evade the Spirit of Christ.
- e. Jesus continues to pursue, but we need to understand that if we do not stop running, then Jesus cannot help us
- f. Our view is distorted and reality is dimmed. We are not able to see clearly, and we run from that which would benefit us the most.

C. Here is where we enter the picture.

1. We activate 2nd Corinthians 10:3-5 through prayer.
2. We pray for the “veil” to be lifted off the unbeliever, even off our own eyes.
3. We pray for “fog” to lift and the “smoke” to clear so they/we can see with a clear vision.

II. Those with a veil must have that veil lifted so “light” can enter their minds and “revelation” or an unveiling or uncovering can occur.

A. Look at 2nd Corinthians 4:4

“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.”

1. This word “light” come from a Greek word (photismos) meaning
 - a. It means “illumination.”
 - b. Illumination is from a Greek word (photizo)
 - i. Enlightened”
 - ii. To illuminate
 - iii. To shed rays
 - iv. To shine or to brighten up
 - v. To give light or to make to see.
 - c. Summing it up, it means to “let in light.”
2. We get our word photo or photograph comes from this same Greek word, and the idea behind the taking of a photograph is what happens when a person truly sees Jesus.
 - a. When you take a photograph, the shutter must open to let in light which lets in an image

Note: Regardless of how beautiful the scenery, if the shutter does not open to let in the light, then there is no image or picture.

- b. It makes no difference how glorious Jesus is, or how wonder the message is, or how well we may present it, if the veil (shutter) is not removed, then there will be no clear image (picture) of Jesus.

B. Here is the result when the veil is not lifted.

1. People may pray a prayer of repentance because we talked them into it, but because there is not a true “revelation” or unveiling, then there is no change.
2. Only 3 to 10 percent of the people in America who “get saved” become true followers of Christ, because there is not a true biblical repentance, which can only comes from biblical revelation.

C. When there is “revelation” or a true unveiling or uncovering of the mind, then true repentance occurs

1. In repentance,
 - a. We have a change of mind

- b. Our changed mind comes from a new knowledge or understanding
- c. Our changed mind occurs because there has been an unveiling or uncovering of our minds and
 - i. Then we then change direction or
 - ii. Then we turn from destruction and death to go toward light and life

2. Repentance

- a. Is a new understanding that comes from God through an unveiling (revelation)
- b. Is the reversing of the effects of the Fall through Adam
- c. Is forsaking our own wisdom, our own knowledge of good and evil, of right and wrong, and choosing a new knowledge which comes from God.

Note: Paul told King Agrippa in Acts 26:18 that he was called by Jesus

- i. To open their eyes, and
- ii. To turn them from darkness to light, and
- iii. To turn them from the power of Satan unto God,
 - 1) So they may receive forgiveness of sins,
 - 2) So they may receive the inheritance that is for those sanctified by faith in Christ

D. Information alone does not give us an unveiling, but there has to be a “revelation.”

1. Difference between revelation and information

- a. Information is of the mind, and that is where many people even Christians function
 - i. We want to “understand”
 - ii. We try to reason it out
 - iii. We study Scriptures and draw our conclusion from an “intellectual” Point of view.
- b. Biblical Revelation involves and affects the mind, but it originates from the heart.
 - i. Spiritual Power is only released through Revelation Knowledge which is an unveiling or uncovering of a divine comprehension or understanding of God

- ii. What I do not understand, I believe.
- iii. I am not concerned with trying to reason things out to the point of a total clear human explanation beyond any shadow of doubt, but I am willing to allow the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work in me,
 - 1) For my Salvation
 - 2) For the evidence of the Holy Spirit which is to speak in tongues
 - 3) For God to shake me under the power of His Spirit
 - 4) For The Spirit to move me to weep as the Holy Spirit touches my life
 - 5) For the Spirit to use me to prophesy under the power of the Spirit
 - 6) To do things that I cannot explain, but yet I know that there has been a release of a Spiritual Awakening within me that has affected a change in my life.
- iv. I want to understand the Scriptures, but not from just an intellectual point of view, but from a Spiritual Revelation of What God is saying to us.

2. The Written Word must become the Living Word, so, we not only read the Word, but

- a. We Abide or Meditate in the Word with a prayer like the Psalmist in Psalm 119:18

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law

Note: The word “open” is from the Hebrew (galah) meaning “unveil, or uncover” (revelation).

- i. Unveil my eyes so I can get a revelation of the wonderful things in you law, O God.
 - ii. Uncover my eyes so I can understand the wonderful things of your word, O Lord.
- b. Information can come immediately, but Revelation is normally a process.
 - i. Like the parable of the sower, Biblical truth comes in seed form.
 - ii. When we hear a minister preach, or a teacher teach, or we read a great devotional book with fantastic truths that stir our hearts, we get excited, but then discouraged because it does not seem to work for us. BUT
 - 1) All truth comes in seed form.
 - 2) It may be fruit in the person sharing it, but it is seed to you and I.

- 3) Whether or not it bears fruit depends on what you and I do with it.
- iii. Spiritual Information seeds must grow into fruit-producing revelation.
- c. We seek after knowledge and information because it has been glorified in our minds ever since the fall, and is the reason for the fall, but that alone does not produce Salvation.
 - i. The Pharisees knew the Scripture, but they did not know God, and could not even discern the time in which they were living.
 - ii. Many theologians, Christians, and sinners know the Scriptures thoroughly, but do not know God very well, and some do not know Him at all.
 - 1) They have much information, but little or no revelation.
 - 2) Revelations makes the Scriptures “spirit and life.”
 - 3) Revelation makes the Scriptures lives as Jesus said in John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Note: The reason people reject the pure gospel of repentance and the laying down of a their lives to give Jesus Lordship is because they have not received a Biblical Revelation, thus the Christian life is ridiculous, moronic to them as Paul noted in 1 Corinthians 2:14:

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

III. Let us look at the solution

- A. We must allow the Holy Spirit time to birth true repentance in us through God-given revelation
 - 1. God-given Revelation produces God-centered Christians, not Self-centered ones.
 - 2. Example of Sarah who had prayed for her Sister and Brother-in-law for 20 years who were very anti-Christian.
 - i. Because of their attitude toward God, Sarah had became religiously proud against them and was praying from a wrong motive.
 - ii. Sarah repented of her attitude (took the log out of her eye so she could get the splinter out of their eyes), got her heart right, forgave them for their attitude, and begin to pray as instructed.

- 1) She prayed for the “veil to be lifted off their eyes so they could see and understand the truth of the gospel.”
- 2) She prayed that they would come to the Lord together, so they would not persecute each other.

iii. After a couple of months, this report was given

- 1) They woke up one Sunday and felt like they should go to church
- 2) They found a small church and gave their hearts to Christ.
- 3) They apologized to Sarah, and about 9 months later, Sarah’s father got saved.

B. We have to deal with Pride.

1. The word “blinded” in 2nd Corinthians 4:4 comes from a Greek word (tuphloo) meaning
 - a. Which means to “dull the intellect” or to “make blind.”
 - b. This come from a root word (tupho)
 - i. Which means “to make smoke” or to “set up a smoke screen”
 - ii. And from this same root word is another Greek word (tupho) which means
 - 1) High-minded
 - 2) Proud
 - 3) Or inflated with self-conceit

Note: Thus when we think of “Pride,” we get a picture of one who is “puffed up” much like smoke puffs up or billows.

2. Blindness and Pride go together.

- a. Lucifer passed the “sin of pride” to mankind in the Garden of Eden, and now Satan uses that “Pride” to “Blind” men so they cannot see clearly their need of a Saviour.
- b. Pride is why People do not give Jesus Lordship of their lives, so they reject Him
- c. Pride is the ultimate enemy of Christ and will be dealt with in finality when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Christ is Lord.

Note We see pride at work in the following conversation

- i. The captain of a ship sees a light and sends this message
Change your course 10 degrees south.
- ii. The response was returned: “Change your direction 10 degrees north.
- iii. The captain, becoming angry replies:
This is the captain speaking, change your course 10 degrees south.
- iv. The response was returned:
This is Seaman Third Class Jones, Change your direction 10 degrees north.
- v. The captain responds: “I am a battleship, change your direction 10 degrees south.”
- vi. The response: “Change your directions 10 degrees north, I am a lighthouse.”

Note: Pride was keeping the captain from changing, but the light house was not moving.

Guess what? Jesus is not moving, but we need to change our course.

C. Men especially are affected by Pride

1. Pride is stronger in men because that which was strongest in us in a pure form before the Fall became strongest in a perverted form after the Fall.
2. The motivation in men which found its greatest fulfillment in covering, nurturing, caring, and protecting others from a Servants motivation turned inward at the time of the Fall.
 - a. The desire to lead became the desire to dominate or lord over
 - b. A giving nature turned into a getting nature
 - c. A secure humility was transformed into an insecure pride.
3. Jesus is our example of how we are to cover and lead from a motivation to serve.
4. Note the following:
 - a. Counselors will counsel many more women than men, because it is difficult for a man to say, “I need help.”
 - b. Women are usually the first to say “I am sorry” or I was wrong.”
 - c. Men are usually more competitive.
 - d. Women are usually more giving.

e. Women are usually more selfless.

5. This is because of the Pride Factor in Men.

D. Understanding the Pride Factor helps us to understand how to pray for the lost.

1. Again let us refer to 2nd Corinthians 10:3-5, and this time using the Nlt

3) We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4) We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5) We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

a. The context of this scripture is "Spiritual Warfare," and "pride" is the enemy.

b. Pride says, I do not want anyone else controlling me or telling me what to do

Note: If we attack this pride from a human level, we will only strengthen it, so we need to attack it from a Spiritual level.

2. The above Scripture tell us that we have "powerful weapons"

a. Powerful from the Greek (dunatos) is a word that is used in places for miracle

b. These weapons empowered by God will work miracles.

c. This Greek word (dunatos) is also translated possible.

i. Is there someone that seems impossible?

ii. Do you know someone in which it will take a miracle for them to be saved?

iii. With these powerful weapons which we have in Christ, they become possible.

d. This Greek word (dunatos) is where we get our word dynamite.

i. With this power, we can destroy fortresses or pull down strongholds.

ii. "Pull down" comes from a word meaning

1) To bring down with violence or demolish something.

Note: With this powerful, miracle working dynamite behind our weapons, we can become demolition agents violently tearing down Satan's strongholds.

2) It also means "to remove from office."

Note: Our weapons charged with God's authority, can enforce the breaking of the headship of the serpent. Jesus legally broke it; we can see it become literal through our prayers. Glory!!!!

e. Examples:

- i. One method of destroying a building is with a crane and a huge ball, and with one swing at a time it is destroyed.

Note: We systematically, one divine blow at a time bring down some strongholds of darkness.

- ii. Another method is by planting charges and in one instance the building comes crashing down.

Note: We strategically place the dynamite of the Spirit for days, weeks, or months, maybe years, and every time we take up our spiritual weapons and use them against the strongholds of the enemy, we are placing explosive charges in strategic places.

Note: Glory! Sooner or later, the Holy Detonator of Heaven is going to say "Enough!" Then, there will be a mighty explosion in the spirit, a stronghold will crumble to the ground and a person will fall to their knees.

- i. Recognize that our enemy is the stronghold, not the individual.
- ii. Do not waste time looking to see if anything is crumbling, but keep laying the dynamite charges.
- iii. Let God detonate it, and rejoice as the stronghold crumbles.

3) There was a Mary

- a) Demon possessed in the nursing home, and everybody was afraid of her.
- b) She would not let the Christian visitors in her room, but cursed them.
- c) They prayed and fasted for her.
 - i) After a couple of months, she let them in her room.
 - ii) They prayed that God would remove the calluses and pain from her heart so the demons would no longer have anything to hang on to.
 - iii) It was revealed to them that she had been abused as a child.
 - iv) They bound Satan from exercising power over her, and declared that he could not speak to her.

- v) Next they asked for a hedge of protection around her and for God to give her dreams and visions as well as for angels to minister to her.
- v) They bound the evil forces already in her so they could no longer operate.
- d) For 8 months they prayed for her, and then they gave a testimony in the church for her, and asked the church to pray for her.
 - i) They prayed for God's perfect will to be done in her life.
 - ii) They continued to bind Satan and prayed for all of his doors to be closed in her life.
 - iii) They continued to minister to her hurts and she let her anger go by an act of faith.
 - iv) She willed her life to be changed, and in about 2 more weeks she gave her heart to Jesus.
 - v) The staff can now take care of her, and the nurses ask: "What did they do to Mary?"

Conclusion: (Let us look a little bit at strongholds as I conclude this message.)

1. The root word in the Greek for "stronghold" (echo) means
 - a. To have or to hold
 - b. Using it for a fortress, castle, or prison, it means
 - A place from which to hold something strongly
 - i. Foxholes and trenches are dug to hold or maintain a position.
 - ii. Castles were built to rule a territory.
- Note:** Satan digs foxholes and trenches to hold or maintain positions, and he has castles to rule territories.
2. Satan has a place of strength within unbelievers from which he can hold on to them strongly. They are prisoners, slaves, captives.
 - a. Jesus in Luke 4:18 said that He was sent "to proclaim release to the captive."
 - b. This proclamation goes forth through the mouth of the Church.
3. Now let us note v4 and v5 of 2 Corinthians 10

- a. “Pulling down” in v4 and “casting down” in v5 are from the same word, and it shows a continuation of thought from v4 into v5.
 - b. Then in v5, we see what comprises or makes up a stronghold or prison.
4. The three major components of a fortress or stronghold which we will begin to call out and demolish as we war over individuals with our divinely empowered weapons, are:
- a. 1st aspect of a stronghold is “Mind-sets” or “speculations” or in the KJV “every imagination.”
 - i. This refers to their wisdom or logic, or what they really believe.
 - ii. Men before the Fall, got their wisdom and logic, their beliefs, from God, but now according to James 3:15, they get the wisdom and logic from the earth, the soul or intellect, and demons
 - iii. These logics are: philosophies, religions, humanism, atheism, Hinduism, Islam, racism, intellectualism, Judaism, materialism, roots of rejection, perversion, etc. Anything that causes a person to think a certain way.
 - iv. Here is how spiritually blind men are kept from receiving Salvation.
 - 1) They hear the gospel, but it is filtered through their subconscious where all other information is stored.
 - 2) They then hear what we are saying plus what they already believe.
 - 3) Here are some things that happen.
 - a) God is love.....response.....If God is love, then why is there so much abuse? He doesn't sound like love to me. (a belief, a logic)
 - b) The Lord loves you and would like to save you.....response.....I am a pretty good guy, and I do not believe God will send me to hell. (a belief, a logic)
 - v. We break through these logics.
 - 1) By keeping on preaching the gospel for the Word will break through.
 - 2) By prepare the ground, breaking it up through prayer, and tearing down the strongholds.
 - b. 2nd aspect of strongholds that must be demolished is pride or “every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.” (KJV says “high thing”)
 - i. “Every Lofty thing” means “any elevated place.”

- ii. Remember that Adam and Eve wanted to “be as God.”
- iii. Lucifer was the first to want to be like God or “elevated to a high place” (Isaiah 14:13-14), and he used the phrase “I will” five times, but he was brought down.
- iv. Adam and Eve bought into the lie to “be as God” and men are still struggling with it today through a word called “pride.”
 - 1) Men try to exalt themselves to a place of equality with God, and to declare that they do not need God.
 - 2) Men are filled with pride and become not the Most High, but their own most high, and pride rises up in them.
- v. We through spiritual warfare can tear down this stronghold so they can humble themselves and bow their knees to Christ.

Note v5 from The Living Bible.

These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding him. With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God and change them into men whose hearts’ desire is obedience to Christ.

Note: We can do it.

- c. 3rd aspect of strongholds, is to “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”
 - i. The word “thought” from the Greek means “plans or schemes.”
 - 1) This refers to the spontaneous thoughts and temptations that Satan uses to assault unbelievers.
 - 2) This also refers to the plans and schemes that Satan uses to keep men in darkness.

Note: In intercession, we declare boldly that no weapon of Satan will prosper.

- ii. Example (A lady prayed for her brother for 12 years)
 - 1) Seemingly no results.
 - 2) Her prayers were:
 - a) Lord, come into his life.
 - b) Lord, reveal yourself to him.

- c) Then She Would Get Frustrated and take matters into her own hands which would cause him to rebel and seem to get worse.
- 3) She found more biblical ways to pray and she prayed the following seven things.
- a) That God would lift the veil over him giving him revelation and enlightenment.
 - b) That the Holy Spirit would hover over him and protect him.
 - c) That godly people would be in his pathway each day.
 - d) To cast down anything that would exalt itself against the knowledge of God, specifically pride and rebellion.
 - e) To take down all known strongholds....thought patterns, opinions on religion, materialism, fear.
 - f) To bind Satan from taking him captive; to bind all wicked thoughts and lies Satan would try to place in her brother's mind.
 - g) That the armor of God would be placed on him.
- 4) Here are the results
- a) After two weeks of praying, her brother overdosed on drugs, and in his need cried out to God for help.
 - i) The Lord met him in a powerful way.
 - ii) The veil was lifted and he had a revelation of God.
 - iii) He now has an understanding of the Word, and responds to it.
 - iv) The confusion is gone.
 - v) He has separated himself from the world and his former friends.
 - vi) He is now responding to the pursuit of God and is pursuing Christian relationships
 - vii) His focus is on pleasing God and knowing Him more and more
 - viii) And he is considering mission work.

5. 1st John 5:19 says that

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

- a. Yet we have been given authority.
- b. We can turn believers from darkness to light
- c. We can turn believers from the dominion of Satan to God.

Note Paul's words in Acts 26:18 apply to us, and In Christ, we are

To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me (Jesus)."

- d. We are called to enforce and make effective the freedom that Christ purchased.
6. The unbeliever cannot war for himself.
- a. He cannot and will not overcome the strongholds of darkness
 - b. He will not understand the gospel until the veil lifts
7. We must take our divinely dynamic weapons and fight.
- a. The powers of darkness will resist but follow the direction of Nehemiah 4:14 where he said:

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.

- b. Let me conclude with this

Do not be afraid, but look things over and remember that the Lord Who is great and awesome, and you fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.