

Pulling  
Down  
Strongholds

Part 3 & 4

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

## THE STRONGHOLD OF ABUSE

(sexual, physical, spiritual, emotional)

A legal right is how a demon gets in

A stronghold is how a demon stays in

“IN” can mean anything

- any torment
- any attack
- any oppression

In some way the enemy has gained access to your life

A legal right is the means in which the devil attacks

A stronghold is what the devil does once he is in

Strongholds are usually easy to define because there is an accompanying behavior

Sometimes the enemy weaves himself into our lives so much that we do not even realize it is him and we think it is us

It is often difficult for someone that has **not** been abused to understand the power of the emotions of the person that **has** been abused

## THE PATHOLOGY OF EMOTIONS

The victim becomes re-victimized by blaming themselves for what's happened

The wounded injured inner child

That inner child was formed out of the feelings that could not accept the fact that the abuser could do something as unspeakable as they did

Children by nature are very trusting

We need to actually teach them boundaries for safely touching people

When a person they trust does them wrong it is hard for them to accept it

They see the person as good so they ask themselves the question  
“What’s wrong with me?”

This inner child is a dissociative state

The beauty of deliverance and being set free is that you can reach that inner child and you can minister to that inner child and let them know that Jesus is with them and will protect them and save the situation

Secular Psychology has studied this pathology and learned that the abused often becomes the abuser.

Why does the mind know and the heart doesn’t?

Abuse often opens up a door to demonic influence.

Often an abused person is so angry that they are out to get even and the only person they can get even with is someone that is as vulnerable as they were when they were abused.

The only way for this cycle to be broken is for the person to let Jesus in to break it.

How can someone begin the process to break the cycle.

First they must realize that they probably cannot do it themselves.

They must get back to the wounded part; the broken heart must be mended and bound up.

The person must get to the place where these emotions have been layered over, protected, hidden, pushed into the background.

Most people generally are not willing to go there on their own. They must be taken there.

Secondly the person must blame the abuser. Often the person is unwilling to do this. They make excuses for the abuser.

There is a difference between true forgiveness and passive forgiveness.

Passive forgiveness is spiritual scar tissue. It is like a band aid. There was a wound and scar tissue was formed. The wound has been replaced with something protective but it has not been restored to the point prior to the wounding. The healing power of God is a power of restoration back to the point prior to the abuse.

This place is attainable. You can get there.

To get there the person must get through the scar tissue that has been keeping them from “knowing” that wound.

To get out of the shame you must blame.  
To heal you must reveal.

Thirdly

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. The truth sets us free.

Only when the person faces the truth that the wound is there can they be set free.

It is good to feel strong emotions. It is not bad when Christ is in it.

Just because you have been abused does not necessarily mean you have a stronghold.

The worst thing to do is for the emotions and feelings to be stuffed inside or to be set aside. If they are, that is where the construction of the stronghold begins.

### PULLING DOWN THE STRONGHOLD OF DEPRESSION

Depression is an epidemic. Increasingly more and more people are taking mind and mood altering drugs for depression.

Depression is a hidden stronghold. The drugs give the person a false sense of being whole.

- Not all depression is demonic (of the devil).
- Depression is the opposite of faith
- You cannot walk in faith and be depressed.

Most depression is behaviorally rooted in some traumatic experience that has happened in the person's life that has caused them to bury the problem.

It takes a process to get a person where they are in their hurt and pain and it will take a process to get them out.

That which is not dealt with will return.

Sometimes there is amnesic denial – a person literally does not remember what happened.

Sometimes there is dissociative denial – a person sometimes forms multiple personalities or other people inside themselves to hide it.

A stronghold is a citadel – a walled city that Satan has built around. That area of your life and he will not allow anything to penetrate it.

(stronghold exercise)







