

You Must Rid Yourselves of the *Iniquity* of Past Generations

For the love of Jesus help your family and fellowship experience the freedom He promises.

Two evil forces at work go mostly unchallenged in Christian families and fellowships today: **iniquity** and **sin**. Many think these two biblical terms are synonymous, but they aren't! Three times in Psalm 51 these words are addressed separately:

"Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (v.2). "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (v.5). "Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities" (v.9).

Iniquity is a weakness, a predisposition toward something contrary to God that is passed along from generation-to-generation in a family. **Sin** is a personal attitude or action in direct rebellion against God's Word.

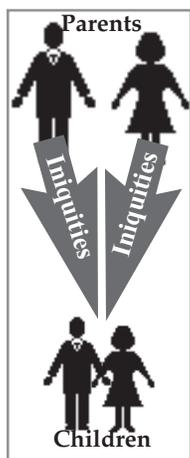
One of several examples in the Bible of the weakness of iniquity being *passed along for generations* begins with Abraham:

- Fearing King Abimelech, Abraham **lied** that Sarah was his sister (Genesis 20:2).
- Their son Isaac, fearing King Abimelech, **lied** that Rebekah was his sister (Genesis 26:7).
- Wanting his father's blessing, Jacob **lied** telling Isaac that he was Esau (Genesis 27:32).

Only the *iniquities* of our forefathers, that is, their *predisposition* to a particular weakness, are passed along to us — **not** their sins. The Lord assures us:

"I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me" (Exodus 20:5).

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation" (Exodus 34:6,7; also Numbers 14:18, KJV; Deuteronomy 5:9, KJV).



The iniquity of our forefathers is often passed down via **generational strongholds** that are neither confronted nor renounced and cast down. As you were growing up, how you viewed and interacted with the world around you was continually influenced or controlled by the strongholds in your soul — the weaknesses within your family.

In one family these weaknesses might be overwhelming feelings of

fear and insecurity; in another, **rejection**; in still another, **bitterness**, and so forth. Through those strongholds, the devil had a place to operate from within the souls of your family for generations (see Ephesians 4:27) — ever more entrenching these weaknesses with each generation.

But there's great news! You and your entire family and relatives have divine power in Jesus to *take back* the ground you and your forefathers have given over to Satan (see 2 Corinthians 10:3,4). Once the strongholds have been demolished, you and your family are able to *"take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* And thoughts which you submit to Jesus make you *available* to do the will of our Father, thereby enabling you to escape a life of iniquity.

You Must Acknowledge *and* Rid Yourselves of the Iniquities of Your Forefathers

And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers (Nehemiah 9:2; see also Daniel 9:16, Jeremiah 14:20 KJV).

You confess *your* sins first, assuming personal responsibility for them. Nobody "made you do it." Confessing your own sins also acknowledges that you *did not appropriate* the grace of God (see Romans 5:20) which is sufficient for you to overcome the weaknesses passed on by your forefathers. By confessing the iniquities of your parents, you're telling God you're aware of the weakness that has come down to you.

On the next page we've listed strongholds in which iniquities have been passed along from generation-to-generation. Also, as we've done *Demolishing Strongholds* workshops in fellowships throughout the country, we've found the majority of those in each faith community are influenced by the same demonic spirits, that is, the same iniquities. Also, when we've given out the list to Christian businesses, many of the key employees have identified the same predominant strongholds.

The overwhelming evidence has shown that it's as though spirits in the strongholds ATTRACT individuals to each other. Rejection attracts rejection, rebellion attracts rebellion, and so forth. The people involved feel COMFORTABLE with each other. They think, **"They're just like ME!"**

You'll never experience the freedom Jesus promises as long as there is iniquity or unconfessed sin in your family or fellowship!

(For more on iniquity and sin, please go to <<http://restorationministries.org/html/LifeBytes.html>>
Download: Lifebyte 40. Do You Confront For Jesus? Or, Placate For Satan?)

Are There Demonic Strongholds In Your Family Or Faith Community?

Is Jesus or Satan at the center of your relationships and fellowship?

Use the questionnaire below with your family and/or faith community to see if there are demonic strongholds (iniquities) in your lives. The **bold words** represent different demonic strongholds. Below each are the symptoms produced when a stronghold is present in you. Place a number from 0-10 in the *first space* next to each symptom that is **habitually present** in your life. The number indicates the *intensity of influence or control* the symptom has on you. We stress that the symptom must be **habitually present**, not just a fleeting feeling or occasional situation. After you've put your numbers down, have someone who knows you well review your answers. When you're finished, compare your results with others in your family or faith community, as appropriate. You'll be able to see how demonically connected you are.

DECEIT

- Lying
- Fantasies
- Delusions
- Rationalizations
- Wrong doctrine/ misuse of Scripture
- Flattery
- Syncretism (beliefs added to Bible)

CONFUSION (DOUBT & UNBELIEF)

- Suspicious
- Apprehensive
- Indecisive/Double-minded
- Skeptical
- Unsettled
- Easily distracted
- Lack of commitment
- No Love of Truth
- Distorted Judgment

INDEPENDENCE & DIVORCE

- Insensitive
- Lonely/Aloof
- Self-determined
- Devil's advocate
- Withdrawn
- Excuse making
- Lack of trust
- Willful
- "Martyr" complex

CONTROL

- Manipulative
- Striving
- Lacking trust
- Devil's advocate
- Insensitive
- Desiring recognition
- Violent
- Seductive empowerment
- Cursing
- Emotional outbursts
- Schemes, Intrigues

WITCHCRAFT/FAMILIAR SPIRIT

- Blasphemy
- Preoccupied with evil
- Psychic experiences
- Rebellious
- Devalues life
- Identifies with sinful nature
- Fixated on future

BITTERNESS

- Resentment
- Racism
- Unforgiveness
- Anger/Hatred
- Begrudging
- Violence
- Revenge
- Chronic Grumbling
- Presumption

REJECTION

- Addictive behavior
- Compulsions
- Seeks acceptance
- Unworthiness
- Withdrawal
- Shallow Relationships
- Loneliness

STUPOR & PRAYERLESSNESS

- Distanced From God
- "Cold" Love
- Hardened heart
- Distracted
- Spiritual Blindness
- Laziness
- Deceived Self-appraisal
- Unresponsive

SEXUAL IMPURITY

- Lust
- Sensual enticement
- Denial/Rationalization
- Masturbation
- Fornication
- Adultery
- Frigidity
- Homosexuality
- Pornography
- Fantasy

INFIRMITY/DESTROYING

- Physical Manifestations
- Unconfessed Sin
- Abuses Body
- Devalues Life
- Chronic Grumbling
- Thoughts of Suicide
- Drawn to Danger
- Abortion

HEAVINESS

- Depression
- Despair
- Self-pity
- Loneliness
- Unconfessed sin
- Suicidal thoughts

PRIDE

- Ungrateful
- Self-righteous
- Self-centered
- Insensitive
- Materialistic
- Seeks Positions
- Stubborn
- Mocking
- Vain
- Spiritual Adultery
- Impatient

REBELLION

- Self-willed
- Stubborn/Insolent
- Pouting
- Strife
- Factious
- Divisive
- Anger Leads to Argument
- Independent
- Unteachable
- Ungodly Influence
- Lawless

IDOLATRY/WORLDDLINESS

- Worldly values
- Frustrated
- Hopeless
- Greedy/Selfish
- Financial problems
- Wrong Goals/Decisions
- Living a lie
- Apathetic
- Pleasure in wickedness
- Syncretistic

JEALOUSY

- Spiteful
- Gossip/Slander
- Betrayal
- Critical nature
- Judgmental
- Suspicious
- UnChristlike competition
- Cruelty

RELIGIOSITY

- Religious busyness
- Knowledge without love
- No spiritual power
- Spiritual blindness
- Hypocritical
- Legalistic perversion
- Presumes on Grace

FEAR & INSECURITY

- Inferiority
- Inadequacy
- Timidity
- Pleasing people, not God
- Lack of trust;Worry
- Phobias
- Anxiety over injury, Death
- Perfectionism
- Dread of failure
- Inability to set goals
- "Motor-mouth"

FALSE PROPHECY/ANTI-CHRIST

- Denies Jesus as God and Man
- Bondage to man-made teaching
- Manipulation
- Prophecy for pay
- Prey to Cults, Heresies
- Encourages lawlessness
- Counterfeit miracles
- Contrives dreams/Visions

Now, look inside yourself and ask the Holy Spirit:

• Is there any unconfessed sin in your life right now?

Yes ___ **No** ___

• Are you in full fellowship with our Father and His Son, Jesus? Yes ___ **No** ___

If you find any of the symptoms are *habitually present*, download our free workbook, ***Demolishing Strongholds***. Go to <<http://restorationministries.org>>, and click on "Books/Videos/Audios". Or, use this link in your browser: <<http://restorationministries.org/pdf/books/dms/DemolishingStrongholds.pdf>>.

In the workbook you'll find how to free yourself from the strongholds. And, how critical it is that you have your God-given seven needs met as He prescribes so the strongholds won't return.