

Turning The Hearts Of The Fathers To The Children

Becoming a player/coach in the Kingdom of God, one practice at a time



practice 4

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse”

(Malachi 4:5,6).

Do You Suspect that Demonic Powers of Deceit, Jezebel, Hellenism and/or Humanism Have Infiltrated Your Family and/or Faith Family?

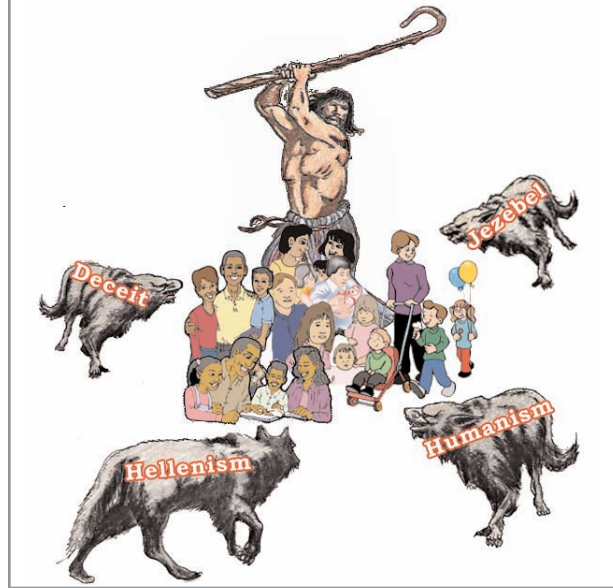
“If you even slightly suspect that any or all of these demonic powers have a foothold in anyone in your family or faith family, then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if you find it true that these repugnant beings hold any of these people captive to do their work, you must certainly make sure that everyone is freed from the rulers and powers who hold them captive. You must completely demolish all the strongholds, and make sure all toxic memories are healed by our Lord Jesus. Then, and only then, can they be free as our Lord promises!”
(my adaptation of Deuteronomy 13:12-15).

In Christ you aren't a helpless victim! Demonic rulers and principalities can't hold members of your family or faith family captive to do their will unless they're given a foothold to operate from. These footholds are **strongholds** and influence various parts of a person's soul—their *mind, will and emotions*. The simplest way to describe a stronghold is this:

A stronghold is a demonic fortress housing evil spirits in your soul. They influence *your thoughts, your decisions, and your feelings*.

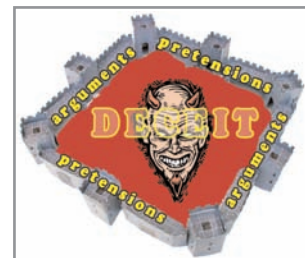
- (1) These spirits control, agitate, and *negatively influence* your attitudes and behavior.
- (2) They *oppress and discourage* you by sounding like the “voice” in your own mind.
- (3) They *cause you to misperceive* situations, circumstances, or even the people around you.
- (4) Their primary goal is to *destroy your relationships*, both with God and with other people.

The Grandfather's God-given Role as a Shepherd in Spiritual Warfare



“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”
(2Corinthians 10:4,5).

• “Arguments” consist of any reasoning, rationalizations, and intentions that are hostile to God's truth. This part of a stronghold refers to the thought processes and patterns you use to *deny* you even have a problem.



• “Pretensions” include pride, self-absorption, and a me-first mindset. This part of a stronghold reveals the *pride and rebellion* you erect like a relational wall to ward off obedience to Christ.

Through the inner voice of arguments or pretensions, you're unable to fully *receive God's love* or *extend that love* to others. Given the powerful demonic forces overseeing the destruction of this nation, it may seem like an impossible battle for you older men to free your families from their ungodly influence. But don't you believe it! The demon of DECEIT would like nothing more than to mislead you into falling down on your watch and giving up. This is *your responsibility* before our Lord as the elder of your clan, so don't let yourself be deceived:

“Once a person is deceived, he does not recognize that he is deceived because he has been deceived!”

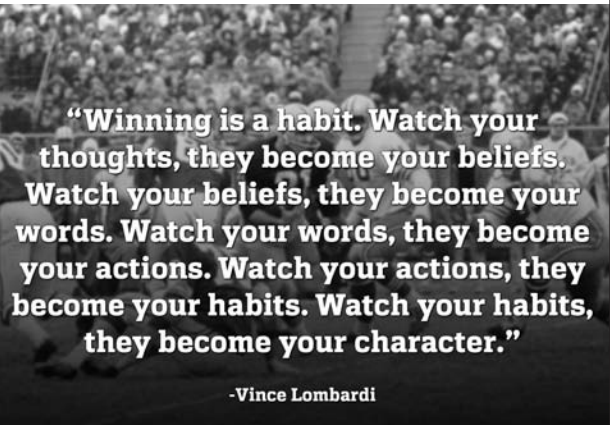
You must not only be convinced yourself by the Spirit and through Scripture that demons exist and can hold people captive, but also your entire household and faith family must be equally convinced. The predisposition for your soul to respond to various demonic deceptions, whether bitterness or rejection or jealousy or whatever, has been passed along to you just as readily as your DNA. In fact your susceptibility to one or more of these strongholds may have been passed along for *several* generations in your family. That's why it can be so hard for you all to rid yourselves of their outworking as a family: you're all so accustomed to thinking, “That's just the way we are!”

Inquire, Probe and Investigate So You Can Identify the Symptoms the Demons Produce in the Strongholds

If you're an older man who earnestly wants to be able to shepherd your family to heaven, then start with your own life, your marriage, and your home. Pray-erfully determine if anyone you love is held captive by demonic influence. On

The Process of Stronghold Development:

- 1) Satanic-inspired **THOUGHTS** are introduced into your mind.
- 2) Entertaining these thoughts brings on **EMOTIONS**.
- 3) Giving in to emotions eventually leads to taking some sort of **ACTION**.
- 4) Continual participation in this behavior causes you to develop a **HABIT**.
- 5) Once a habit is developed, a **STRONGHOLD** is built by that spirit.



the next page you'll find a list of the demonic strongholds we've spotted in the Bible and during our years of ministry. We also cite common symptoms these spirits incite in the mind, will and emotions of the person they're influencing. Go through the list yourself and with your spouse and anyone else in your family who is determined to be free to fully love and serve our Lord Jesus.

When you examine the list of strongholds, be very sensitive to the reality that the *stronghold of deceit* can delude you, keeping you from believing you even have any strongholds. You may want to renounce that one first in the name of our Lord Jesus!

When I counseled religious leaders, there was one particular congregation in which the leadership was having repeated problems with one man, "Bob". They'd often call me for advice in



Demonic Strongholds & Their Symptoms

A stronghold is a demonic fortress housing evil spirits in your soul—your mind, will and emotions.

(1) These spirits control, agitate, and negatively influence your attitudes and behavior.

(2) They oppress and discourage you by sounding like the “voice” in your own mind.

(3) They cause you to misperceive situations, circumstances, or people.

(4) Their primary goal is to destroy your relationships, both with God and with other people.

The **bold words**, below, represent different demonic strongholds. Below each are the *symptoms* produced when a stronghold is present in you. Place a check mark next to each symptom that is *habitually present* in your life. We stress that the symptom is *habitually present*, not just a fleeting feeling or occasional situation.

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

For a complete understanding of strongholds, their purpose, and how to live free so you can fully experience God’s love and share it, download a free copy of our *Demolishing Strongholds Workbook*

<<http://www.restorationministries.org/pdf/DemolishingRevision.pdf>>.

how to deal with him.

One weekend Bob came on a retreat in which I held a strongholds seminar. After giving the men instruction, I sent them out individually on the farm to renounce the strongholds in the name and authority of Jesus. Bob came back within 2 minutes and told me he didn't have any. I suggested he go back and renounce the *stronghold of deceit*. We didn't see him for two hours—and by then he was finally free of demonic influence!

“Once a person is deceived, he does not recognize that he is deceived because he has been deceived!”

(Excerpt from the Preface of our workbook, *Demolishing Strongholds*)

I first became acquainted with strongholds and their influence in people's lives while we were administrating a church retreat center in Connecticut from 1983 to 1993. During a conference held on Long Island in the summer of 1989, a prophecy was given to the denominationally diverse participants concerning southern New England. The prophecy stated, “God is looking for a faceless people who are humble, with only the face of Jesus shining through. On *November 30, 1989*, the Lord is going to use these people in something special He is about to do.” Throughout the fall of 1989 I was haunted by the question, “Was *I* humble and faceless? Would *I* be one of those the Lord was going to use?”

As I read my Bible on the morning of November 29, 1989, one day before the prophesied date, I pondered Paul's prayer for the Ephesians (3:16-19): “*I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to*

grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (emphasis added).

As I sat there quietly in my recliner I was convicted that the amount of the love of Jesus that I'd ever felt, even after many years in ministry, was about the size of a decimal point. The love I'd perceived had no depth, breadth, or width to it, and it certainly didn't surpass my knowledge. Later that day I was playing golf with my close friend, Casey. As we walked along the course I shared with him my deep conviction from my reading in Ephesians that morning. With dogged determination I told him, “I'm not going on in ministry until I grasp this height, depth, and breadth of the love of Jesus.” He joined me in prayer right where we stood.

The next morning at 8:00 on November 30, 1989, I received a phone call from a pastor who lived about an hour away from us. Sounding irritated he asked, “Mike, what's your problem? God woke me up at 4:00 this morning and told me to call you at 8:00 to tell you that He heard your prayer.” When I explained to him my prayer on the golf course the day before, we both sensed that this was the reason the Lord had awakened him earlier. I continued in my ministry, waiting for God to show me the next step.

I expected Him to act quickly. However, a few months went by and in February, 1990, I received a letter from my friend Karl in Washington State. He wrote that God had shown him in prayer that our ministry was being hindered by a *spirit of deceit*. Sue and I prayed but had no discernment that he was right. Several more months went by. Another friend, Mark, recommended a book entitled *The Three Battlegrounds* by Francis Frangipane. I bought the book, and as I reclined with it in the solitude of my study, my eyes fell upon these words: **“Once a person is**

deceived, he does not recognize that he is deceived, because he has been deceived!”

As I pondered those words I could hear the Holy Spirit say, “*Mike, you do have a spirit of deceit. Now renounce it in the name of Jesus.*” As I began to pray, a vision appeared right in front of me. And, visions aren’t an everyday occurrence with me.

The vision looked like a big black rock about five feet high and five feet wide. On it



was written the word **DECEIT**. As I prayed, renouncing the spirit of deceit, a veneer like an onion skin fell off the object. Underneath this veneer was the word

REJECTION. As I stared at it, God began to show me painful memories of my childhood—many of which I had forgotten. As I watched the scenes unfold, a growing sense of humiliation welled up inside me. Then the Holy Spirit revealed, “*Those feelings of humiliation laid the foundation for the stronghold of rejection to be built in you. Now renounce that spirit’s influence in your life.*” As I renounced the spirit of rejection in the name of Jesus, the black object disappeared. I was changed, but I was uncertain in what way.



The day after my vision and subsequent deliverance from the spirits of deceit and rejection, I participated in a difficult meeting with a group of church leaders. Their denomination was in the process of introducing some very unbiblical teachings, and the men were yielding to the pressure. I encouraged them to not give in but to uphold God’s Word at all cost. They became extremely antagonistic toward me. At that moment **I realized that I loved them despite their reaction to me. I realized that without the spirit of rejection influencing me, I was able to love**

them rather than react negatively to them.

As time went on, I was able to see how the **spirit of deceit** had kept me from **perceiving people and situations clearly**. Karl’s words about deceit now made sense. Months later I showed my mom the list of spiritual strongholds. She immediately pointed to the stronghold of rejection and said, “This is the one I have. As a matter of fact our whole family has it.”

When we’d conduct multi-generational Demolishing Strongholds retreats with members of the same family, we found that the same two or three strongholds had been holding the family captive for several generations. Over the years we’ve realized that people tend to marry others with the same predominant demonic stronghold(s). The familiarity that’s bred by the common spirits brings about a *deceptive* sense of acceptance and compatibility.

We’ve conducted Demolishing Strongholds workshops in congregations throughout the country. The majority of people in each congregation are influenced by the same demonic spirits. In one congregation it may be bitterness, in another, pride, and still another, fear and insecurity. It appears that the demonic spirits bring folks together because the **people feel accepted and comfortable in their shared bondage!**

In relationships in which strongholds remain, people who *should* be experiencing the loving and caring relationships our Lord Jesus empowers us to have with each other find themselves instead in relational strangleholds. Because of the presence of strongholds, past hurts and wounds remain as *toxic memories* that fester and lash out at people. Because they haven’t been delivered from these spirits by our Lord Jesus and/or healed of the



“The grandfather who refuses to demolish in the name of Jesus the strongholds that have held his family captive condemns them to demonic slavery until they’re freed. In most cases the same misery *you* endured needlessly before being freed by our Lord is the prison you’ve left as an inheritance for them!

Jesus confronted with love His disciple Thomas, who was ashamed when he *doubted* Jesus. Grandpa, demons are real and strongholds equally so. Strongholds are relationship destroyers, especially in marriage. And the painful by-product of divorce are the children who grow up having a hard time trusting God or anyone else. Please, *don’t doubt* in the face of what Jesus can do for you and your family.”



past pain of their toxic memories, they strangle family members and others through withholding affection, through slander, and through outright animosity. Letting strongholds remain in people who are close to you is like chaining them every time you see them! Is that really the kind of grandfather you want to be?

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer” (1Peter 3:12).

A righteous person in Jesus has repented of any and all sins of which the Holy Spirit has convicted him. When you repent, your sins are not only *forgiven* by your Father but *forgotten* by Him. By His loving grace, in your Father’s eyes you are as white as snow because of the shed blood of Jesus. What does this have to do with demons and strongholds? Much!

You’ll most likely find that some of your family members and others close to

you *refuse to be free*. They deny that they are influenced by any unclean spirits, or they proudly cling to their own self-righteousness before God. The demons have so much of a deceiving hold on them! Yet as James assures us, the prayers of a righteous person avail a lot—and this includes prayerfully pounding the demons into submission to our Lord Jesus. If you remain repentant you’ll find that your prayers act like *artillery rounds*, loosening the grip of the demons on the people you love.



Persistence is the byword in spiritual warfare. Satan’s minions recognize that Christians have short attention spans. That’s why you must be purposeful in keeping an *eternal* view. Ask yourself this. Do you eagerly look forward to meeting your progeny in heaven because of what you do NOW to begin the process of freeing them by God’s grace and power?

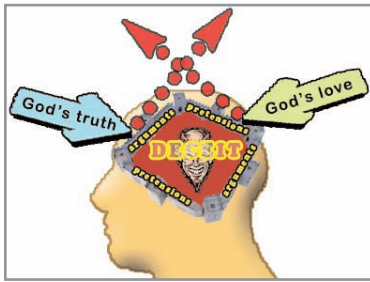
How comforting and encouraging is our Father’s promise to His Son’s own,

“showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Exodus 20:6).

The most important part of this practice session is the materials we recommend for you on the next page. It’s going to take you some time to get through them. But, if you’re going to be victorious in freeing your family to fully love and serve Jesus as their Lord, you’re going to have to become expert in your obedient trust in Jesus as you battle against the demons which plague your family. Make sure your spiritual armor is securely in place as Paul urges in Ephesians 6:10-18. Keep in mind that our Lord trained His disciples to experience the power of His Name and then sent them

out to engage the demons which were hindering others from trusting and walking fully in Jesus (Luke 9:1; 10:17). You're called to do likewise.

Don't go thinking that the people the disciples delivered from demonic agitation were all raving maniacs. Even Jesus was accused by a group of Jews of having a demon, and He wasn't acting out of the ordinary! (See John 7:20, 8:48,52.) Many of the people who were delivered were just like you and your family. So consider this. The two most common identifiers of the presence of strongholds is that *God's truth* and *God's love* are blocked out from their thoughts and choices and feelings. People may know the Bible forward and backward, but the *personal experience* of His love and truth eludes them.

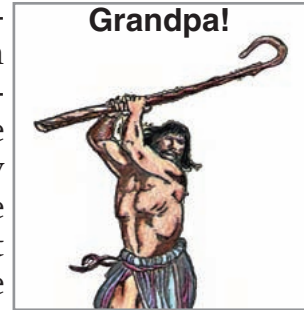


The very promise of knowing *“how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge”* (Ephesians 3:18,19) seems false from their vantage point.

Both *experiencing* the love of Jesus and *demonstrating* it in your actions toward others have absolutely NOTHING in common with mere human love. Our Lord's love is an *empowered love* that isn't dependent on whether you're loved in return. It's a sacrificial love in which you don't even care about your own life even unto death. That's because you're filled with the unstoppable desire to be Jesus-in-the-flesh to others!

If this doesn't describe you or your family or faith family members, then strongholds and toxic memories still exist. Please be diligent to go through the

materials recommended below with your family. Set other activities aside until you *all* clearly understand the demonic forces that hold you captive and keep you from walking in Christ's love and power—and then *free yourselves* from them in His Name.



When you're free, use your freedom to love and serve our Lord Jesus.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love”

(Galatians 5:1,13).

To be fully trained as Jesus' warrior in spiritual warfare, we encourage you to use these materials:

- **Certain of What We Do Not See Video Series**
<<http://www.restorationministries.org/html/CertainOfVideo.html>>.
- **Demolishing Strongholds Workbook**
<<http://www.restorationministries.org/pdf/DemolishingRevision.pdf>>.
- **Demolishing Strongholds Video Series**
<<http://www.restorationministries.org/html/DemStrVid.html>>.
- **Lifebyte 73: Stop Toxic Thoughts—Replace Toxic Memories**
<<http://www.restorationministries.org/pdf/LifeBytes/73.ReplacingToxicity.pdf>>

No one is truly free unless everyone they care for is free!

No family is truly free as long as one stronghold or toxic memory remains.

