

TODAY!

What Would Jesus Be Doing If He Were You?

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

Insight 6. The Precious and Powerful Name of Jesus First Frees You

[This Insight is just an introduction to an essential issue you must face IF you're to live free as a loving and fruitful follower of Jesus. We've recommended some helpful materials (free at our website) on page 5 of this Insight. Please go through these BEFORE our next Insight.]

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power”

(1Corinthians 2:4,5).

All throughout the Bible our God reveals Himself in the power of His majesty — the power He has given to His Son, Jesus.

For too many centuries the *power of the Name of Jesus* has been brushed aside throughout most of Christendom. Rather than unbelievers first encountering the power that's found in the precious Name of Jesus, they've been taught the Bible as an academic subject, like just a historical account. But people who become “believers” in this manner miss *the awe of His power* and their access to using the Name of Jesus as His Spirit-filled child. Blind to what our Lord Jesus can do both in them and for them, even their prayers are voiced as wishful hopes rather than with confidence in the Name that can raise the dead and calm the raging sea.

The gospel that's been spread around the world for centuries has been a “social gospel”— caring for the physical needs of people without revealing the spiritual power of the Person and Name of Jesus. As we see today throughout Europe, Africa, the Far East and the United States, Christianity is losing ground due to its lack of spiritual power. It's become just another religious system. As a result of Christendom's impotence,

Jesus's declaration that “*the gates of hell will not withstand His called-out-ones*” (Matthew 16:18) seems to the world to be a lie.

The Awesome Power of Jesus's Name

Permeating the Gospels is **divine power** that was encountered by people. And when Jesus delegated authority of His power to His disciples, the first thing He sent them to do was to evict the demons that were holding people captive. Our Lord wanted His disciples, both then and for all time, to experience first-hand the *power and authority* of the Name of Jesus.

“He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons” (Mark 3:14,15).

*“They went out and preached that people should repent. They **drove out many demons** and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them” (Mark 6:12,13).*

*“And these signs will accompany those who trust Me: **In My name they will drive out demons**” (Mark 16:17).*

*“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.’...’I have given you **authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you**” (Luke 10:17,19).*

Our Lord was alert to the demonic forces which serve Satan's goal to enslave mankind both on earth and for eternity.

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*Sharing the Hebraic Foundations of the Earliest Followers of Jesus
Preparing Today's Followers of Jesus to Do Their Part in His Kingdom*

Yet for centuries Christianity has overlooked our Lord's particular purpose for why He has given His followers authority to confront and cast down demons: *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the devil's work**"* (1John 3:8). As Scripture relates, His initial step to reach lost humanity was to free people from demonic influences. That's why He first sent out the twelve, then the seventy-two. *Then* He shared the Good News—because people could now hear.

You may have been involved in Christendom for a long time. But, are you *totally free* from demonic influences, oppression and control?

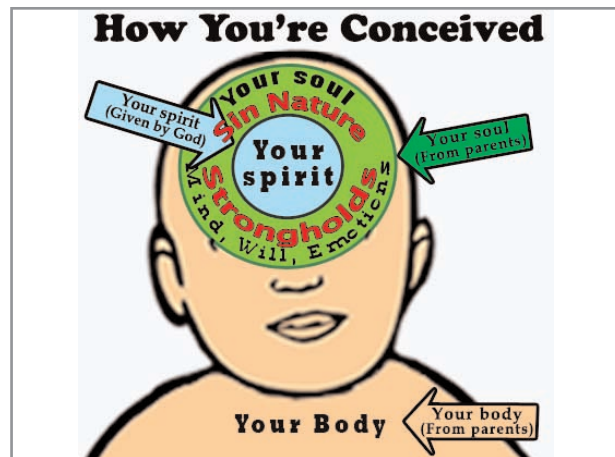
"So if the Son SETS YOU FREE, you will be FREE INDEED" (John 8:36);

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM" (2Corinthians 3:17).

The **freedom** our Lord Jesus offers you liberates you from slavery to sin and the influence and control of Satan. This **freedom** is something Jesus wants His followers to experience FIRST, so that when they're born again and belong to Him, they are free of demonic influence and oppression. In order to be set free, you need to experience the power of the Name of Jesus. When you do, you'll be a different person, free to experience His *love and truth*, and free to live as His Father's child as you hear *only* the Spirit.

When Jesus says you'll be FREE INDEED through Him, what is He freeing you FROM? Let's review your conception so you can see how, even from your beginning, you were a prisoner needing to be freed (see diagram upper right).

1. When you were born, you received a *spirit* from God that longs to return to Him.
2. From your parents you received your *body*,



your physical features and DNA makeup.

3. You also received from your parents your *soul*, which is your mind, will and emotions. And also through your parents you inherited a SIN NATURE that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. But that's not all. From your parents you also received a predisposition for any DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS they didn't demolish by faith in the Name of Jesus.

Think of a stronghold as a demonic fortress of THOUGHTS in your soul — your mind, will and emotions. This fortress houses what the Bible calls unclean or evil spirits. These spirits work in three different ways.



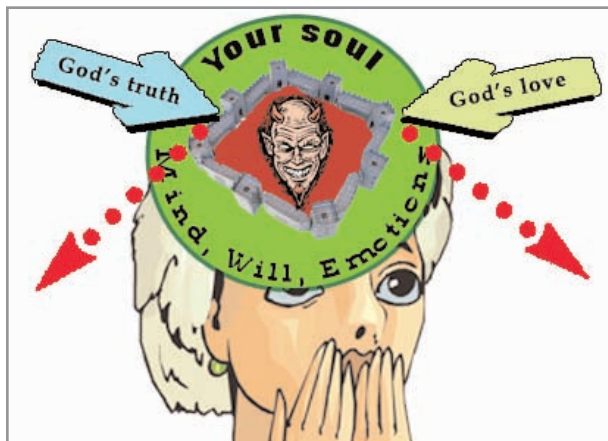
- **They control and influence your attitudes and behavior.**
- **They oppress and discourage you.**
- **They color how you react to situations, circumstances, or people.**

(To clarify: In many translations of the Newer Testament, people who are afflicted by evil spirits are often said to be "demon-possessed." But "possession" is too encompassing. The Greek word *daimonizomenoi* which is translated in these instances is more literally rendered "demonized," that is, afflicted or influenced in

some degree or another by demons. The emphasis is more on *degrees* of influence or control than on total possession.)

These unclean spirits operate through various strongholds they've established in your soul. They incline your mind, will and emotions toward attitudes and actions that are *contrary to God's will*. They cooperate with your SIN NATURE and together fight against you.

Your sin nature and any demons at work in you through strongholds work to keep you out of heaven. They cooperate to destroy any meaningful relationships in your life and to prevent you from experiencing the love and truth of God.



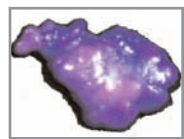
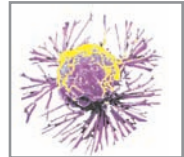
Please take this to heart. You need to perceive the unseen reality of your innate propensities and inclinations the way our LORD sees you. You're shackled by both your sin nature and by any demonic strongholds within you. But keep in mind this amazing and wonderful truth as well: Lord Jesus LOVES you, and by your trust in His Name, you can be SET FREE from demonic influences.

Again, your PARENTS are one potential source of strongholds in you through a generational predisposition. The second source of strongholds are those which YOU allow to form during your

life. Let's see how this process takes place:

- 1) Satanic-inspired **THOUGHTS** are introduced into your mind. And yes, the demons do speak. They sound just like the voice you hear in your head! These demonic voices oppress and discourage you. Their goal is to get you to react to situations, circumstances or people in a way that's **CONTRARY** to the character of Jesus and the commands of God in the Bible.
- 2) If you keep entertaining these negative thoughts, you'll develop tempting **EMOTIONS** about them.
- 3) If you don't resist these emotions, they eventually lead to **SINFUL ACTION**.
- 4) Continuing that sinful action causes you to develop a **HABIT**.
- 5) Once a habit is developed, a **DEMONIC STRONGHOLD** is built in your soul. It becomes the lens through which you filter all your thoughts, choices and feelings.

The TEAMWORK among the strongholds and your sin nature is similar to how CANCER cells operate in your body—and BOTH situations are unhealthy and destructive. Your body is made up of billions of cells. You have HEALTHY cells and cancer cells. The cancer cells remain dormant until conditions CHANGE within your body that allow them to grow into tumors. Once a cancerous tumor begins to grow, it convinces your body to nourish it by extending capillaries to it. The tumor then develops rapidly.



Let's compare cancerous growth in cells to the battle taking place in your SOUL. Inside the cortex of your brain are NEURONS where your memories are stored. This is a HEALTHY memory (see at right).



But when a STRONGHOLD is formed, this is what a memory structure looks

like (see at right). The neuron becomes dark and thorny, with TOXIC chemicals attached to it. Studies have shown that BITTER MEMORIES can trigger several types of cancer in the body.



Attaching themselves to the toxic memory are a demon or demons that create a spiritual stronghold around that memory.

- The demons within the stronghold make that particular memory ANTI-Christ and ANTI-God's Word, in other words, *against* God.
- Just as a tumor needs capillaries to sustain it, a demonic stronghold relies on your SIN NATURE to support it.

Keep in mind that similar to cancer, demonic strongholds grow and multiply whenever your thoughts lead to tempting emotions, then to sinful actions, then to habits, and then to more strongholds. If you're not spiritually alert, the demons within strongholds try to attach to THEMSELVES any incoming negative thoughts. Like a cancerous tumor their goal is to grow larger and more powerful in their influence. These ANTI-Christ strongholds and toxic memories will entice you to give way to sin whenever the opportunity presents itself.

The Power of our Lord Jesus Must Be Experienced If You Are To Be Free.

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons" (1Corinthians 10:21).

A related truth: "You cannot entertain the voice of demons in your mind and hear the Spirit's voice or experience His power."

The apostle Paul clearly understood demonic opposition (see 2Corinthians 2:10,11; 11:14; 1Thessalonians 2:18). In his

desire for the Corinthians to live free and experience the power of Jesus's Name, he reminded them of an important truth:

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 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 10:3-5).

The questions for you to answer are these:

- **Are you free from demonic strongholds by the powerful Name of Jesus?**
- **Have your toxic memories been healed by the power of Jesus's Name?**

Jesus realized that if people were to understand the authentic gospel — have ears to hear — they needed their mind, will and emotions freed. The demonic spirits in someone who ISN'T free distort the gospel, along with the biblical nature of God's love and truth. That person will most likely embrace a false gospel and remain influenced or controlled by demonic strongholds.

After you've demolished your strongholds and experienced the authority of Jesus's Name, there's another aspect to His power: the power to HEAL and to CHANGE you. When the Bible affirms that Jesus *"took up our infirmities and carried away our diseases"* (Matthew 8:17), consider that it applies as much to sickness in the soul as to diseases of the body. John corroborates this: *"I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well"* (3 John 1:2). He's describing an important connection:

When your soul is healthy, it affects your whole body.

Lord Jesus intends to *replace* the toxic thought patterns of your strongholds and sin nature-controlled soul so you'll think and respond as HE would. This happens through the lifelong process of sanctification through His indwelling Spirit AFTER you're born again. Jesus promises to *transform you* through His Spirit as He is at work within you:

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into His likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit”* (2Corinthians 3:17,18).

Do Any Demonic Strongholds And/Or Toxic Memories Influence You?

On page 6 is a survey sheet of various strongholds we've encountered in our years of ministry. Use the questionnaire to determine which, if any, of these influence you. If they do, use the materials we recommend for further study. (All are a free download.) It's important that you *personally experience the freedom* that's found in the powerful Name of Jesus.

For Further Study

• **Demolishing Strongholds Workbook**

[A complete study of strongholds and deliverance]
<Restorationministries.org/pdf/books/dms/DemolishingStrongholds.pdf>

• **Demolish Your Strongholds** (a shortened version)

<Restorationministries.org/pdf/hebraicArticles/DemolishingYourStrongholds.pdf>

• **Demolishing Strongholds Video**

[Reviews what would be presented at a strongholds conference]
<Restorationministries.org/html/DemStrVid.html>

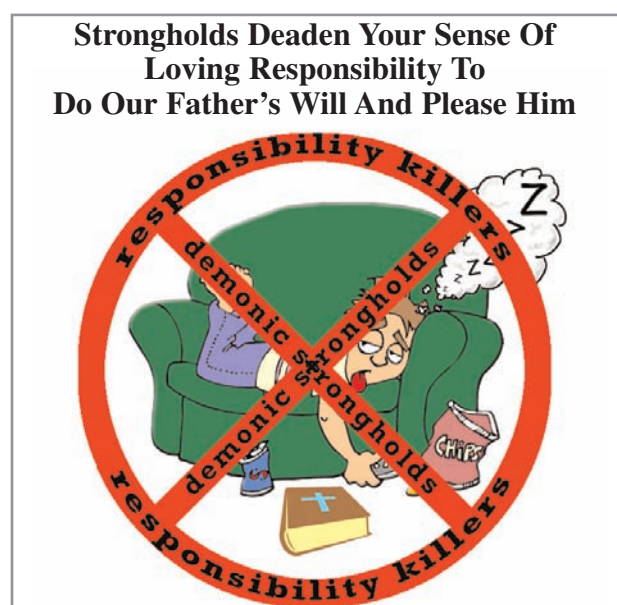
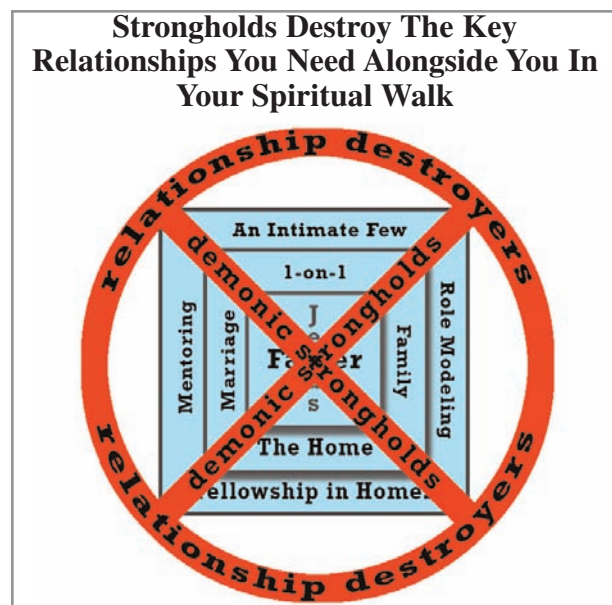
• **Lifebyte 73: Stop Toxic Thoughts — Replace Toxic Memories**

[More extensive insight into toxic thoughts and memories]
<Restorationministries.org/pdf/LifeBytes/73.ReplacingToxicity.pdf>

As we'll explore in later Insights:

• **Our Lord Does Not Entrust His Power To A Soul In Bondage To Demons**

• **Spiritual Freedom Precedes Spiritual Power**



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Sharing the Hebraic Foundations of the Earliest Followers of Jesus
Preparing Today's Followers of Jesus to Do Their Part in His Kingdom

Do Demonic Strongholds and/or Toxic Thoughts and Memories Influence You?

Do You Know Whether It's the Spirit of Jesus or Satan Who Is In Control of Your Soul?

Use the questionnaire below to see if there are demonic strongholds in your soul. (Remember, Satan is the father of lies and deceit (John 8:44), so make sure you deal with deceit first!) The **bold** words represent different strongholds. Below each are the symptoms produced when a demonic stronghold is in you. These are the *toxic thoughts and memories* that need to be healed by our Lord after the strongholds are gone.

Put a number from 0-10 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. It seems like a part of who you are.

After you've recorded your numbers, have someone who knows you well go over your answers and put *their* evaluation number of you in the second space. Don't be alarmed by your results. Jesus can FREE you!

DECEIT	BITTERNESS	HEAVINESS	JEALOUSY
___ Lying	___ Resentment	___ Depression	___ Spiteful
___ Fantasies	___ Racism	___ Despair	___ Gossip/slander
___ Delusions	___ Unforgiveness	___ Self-pity	___ Betrayal
___ Rationalizations	___ Anger/Hatred	___ Loneliness	___ Critical nature
___ Wrong doctrine/ misuse of Scripture	___ Violence	___ Unconfessed sin	___ Judgmental
	___ Revenge	___ Suicidal thoughts	___ Suspicious
CONFUSION (DOUBT & UNBELIEF)	REJECTION	PRIDE	RELIGIOSITY
___ Suspicious	___ Addictive behavior	___ Vain	___ Seeks activities
___ Apprehensive	___ Compulsions	___ Self-righteous	___ No spiritual power
___ Indecisive	___ Seeks acceptance	___ Self-centered	___ Spiritual blindness
___ Skeptical	___ Unworthiness	___ Insensitive	___ Hypocritical
___ Unsettled	___ Withdrawal	___ Materialistic	
		___ Seeks positions	FEAR & INSECURITY
INDEPENDENCE & DIVORCE	STUPOR & PRAYERLESSNESS	REBELLION	___ Inferiority
___ Insensitive	___ Distanced from God	___ Self-willed	___ Inadequacy
___ Lonely/Aloof	___ "Cold" love	___ Stubborn	___ Timidity
___ Self-determined	___ Distracted	___ Pouting	___ Pleasing people, not God
___ Devil's advocate	___ Spiritual blindness	___ Strife	___ Lack of trust/worry
___ Withdrawn	___ Laziness	___ Factious	___ Phobias
___ Excuse making	___ Deceived self-appraisal	___ Divisive	___ Perfectionism
___ Lack of trust		___ Anger leads to argument	___ Dread of failure
___ "Martyr" complex	SEXUAL IMPURITY	___ Independent	___ Inability to set goals
	___ Lust	___ Unteachable	___ "Motor-mouth"
CONTROL	___ Seductiveness		FALSE PROPHECY/ANTI-CHRIST
___ Manipulative	___ Masturbation	IDOLATRY	___ Denies Jesus as God and Man
___ Striving	___ Fornication	___ Frustrated	___ Bondage to Man-made Teaching
___ Lacking trust	___ Adultery	___ Hopeless	___ Manipulation
___ Devil's advocate	___ Frigidity	___ Greedy/selfish	___ Prophecy for Pay
___ Insensitive	___ Homosexuality	___ Financial problems	___ Prey to Cults, Heresies
___ Desiring recognition	___ Pornography	___ Wrong goals/decisions	___ Encourages Lawlessness
___ Violent	INFIRMITY/DESTROYING	___ Living a lie	___ Counterfeit Miracles
WITCHCRAFT/FAMILIAR SPIRIT	___ Physical Manifestations	___ Apathetic	___ Contrives Dreams/Visions
___ Blasphemy	___ Unconfessed Sin		
___ Preoccupied with Evil	___ Abuses Body		
___ Psychic Experiences	___ Devalues Life		
___ Rebellious	___ Chronic Grumbling		
___ Devalues Life	___ Thoughts of Suicide		
___ Identifies with Sinful Nature	___ Drawn to Danger		
___ Fixated on Future			

If you find that any of these symptoms of strongholds are habitually present in your life, please use the materials "For Further Study" we recommended on page 5.