

# 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 7. The Powerful Name of Jesus Delivers You From Demons So Then He Can Heal Your Mind

#### Introduction

We’ve presented you with abundant information in Insight 6 along with materials recommended for further study because of this reality: Many people have a hard time facing the truth that demonic forces are at work *within their mind* influencing and controlling their memories and motivations. So in this Insight we’ll illustrate why it’s imperative that you be both *delivered from* demonic influence and be *healed of* the toxic memories and motivations these unclean spirits leave behind in your brain.

In Insight 8 we’ll discuss the foundational issues of being **born again**. That’s why we want to reiterate now that demonic strongholds and/or toxic thoughts keep you from the loving freedom of being born into new life in Christ! Remember, Jesus sent out the twelve and the seventy-two *ahead of Him* to deliver people from demonic influence before He entered their villages to teach.

When you’re free of demonic strongholds *before* you’re **born again**, you experience a *love-based motivation* in your relationship with our Lord—you’re *intensely grateful* for His sacrifice on your behalf.

In Insight 6 we wrote that demonic strongholds *block God’s love and truth*. If you choose to become born again while strong-



holds remain in your mind, you’ll have what we call a **“Bible-verse conversion.”** Your stronghold-influenced mind will agree that the verses are accurate.

But you’ll lack any *love-based gratefulness* for Jesus’ sacrifice and offer of new life. Men will say you’re “born again”, but our Lord won’t intimately *know* you because you *won’t have received the Spirit*. Deceitful demonic strongholds hidden within so many self-identified Christians leave them satisfied with only a **Bible-verse conversion**. They pursue religious form and ritual but neither know nor abide with Jesus as LORD of their lives!

#### Why Is It So Hard To Recognize Your Own Strongholds?

The reason for the difficulty is three-fold:

- (1). The demons sound *just like the voice in your mind*. You’ve been listening to that voice and believing these are your own thoughts for a very long time.



- (2). You inherited the demonic strongholds your parents didn’t demolish. Until deliverance takes place, the strongholds are passed along to the next generations. And because they’ve been part of your family’s *demon-influenced thinking patterns* for several generations, demonic activity is hard to recognize and be delivered from. Realize this biblical truth: God allows demons to oppress people for several generations until one or more individuals *turns to our Lord Jesus* for deliverance and healing:



“I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the **third and fourth generation** of those who hate [refuse to love] Me” (Exodus 20:5). Just because your parents or grandparents “went to church” doesn’t mean they loved our Lord the way He calls for (Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 10:27).

(3). You give way to demonic strongholds when you continue to meet any of your *seven God-given needs* in ways outside His will and His Word. The longer you’ve been trying to meet your needs *apart from His way* is the length of time you’ve been listening to deceiving demonic voices that are influencing you.

**God created you with seven needs**

- Dignity
- Authority
- Blessing & Provision
- Security
- Purpose & Meaning
- Freedom & Boundary
- Intimate Love & Companionship

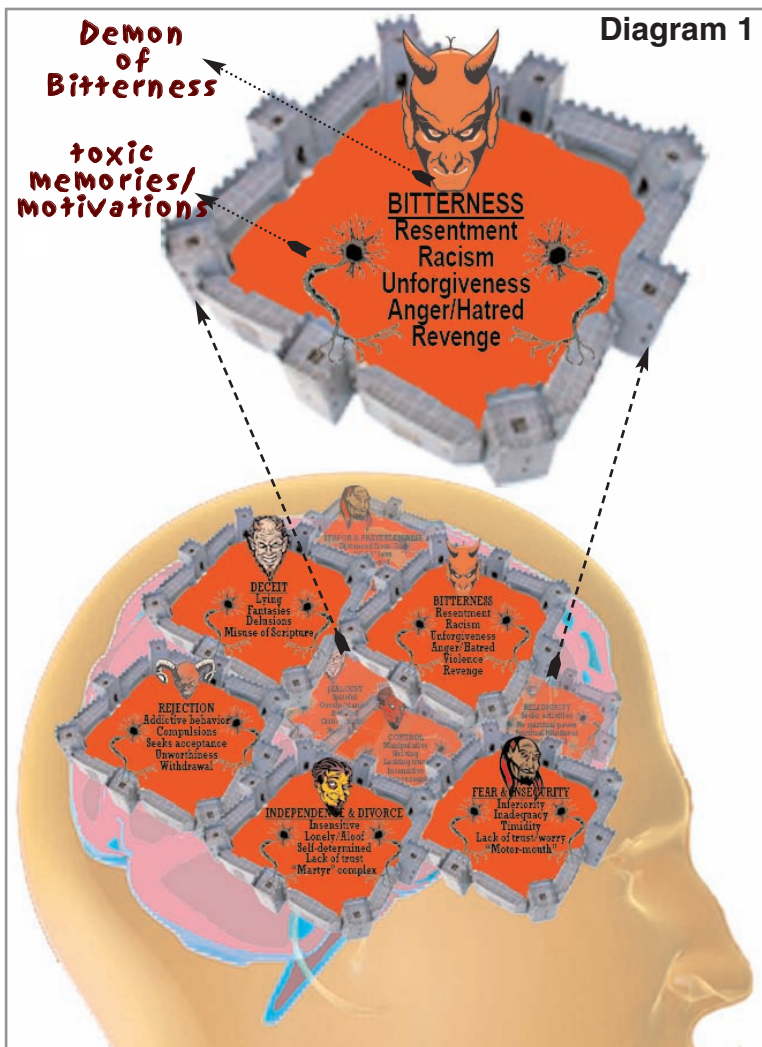
**Steps Taking You From Deliverance To Healing**

**Diagram 1**

The first time most people go through our list of strongholds included in Insight 6, they find they have more than one — often *many*. Their presence in your mind creates toxic memories and motivations which filter your thoughts and feelings. For example, a demon of Bitterness has established a stronghold in your mind (see at right). Over time the demon induces certain toxic memories and motives which you think are just part of the way you are: resentful, racist, unforgiving, angry, vengeful. It’s through recognizing these toxic indicators that you discover that a

stronghold exists. The toxic memories and motives cause you to think and do things that are contrary to the will of God, like resenting, despising, and hating particular people.

**As long as the demons in their strongholds remain in your mind, they will agitate your painful toxic memories and motivations. They’ll continue to prompt you to misperceive situations and draw wrong, unChrist-like conclusions about other people’s actions toward you. Have no doubt about this. Demonic spirits are always ready to disrupt your close relationships, and even keep you from having *love-based motivation* when you seek to be born again as a new creation in Christ.**



## Diagram 2

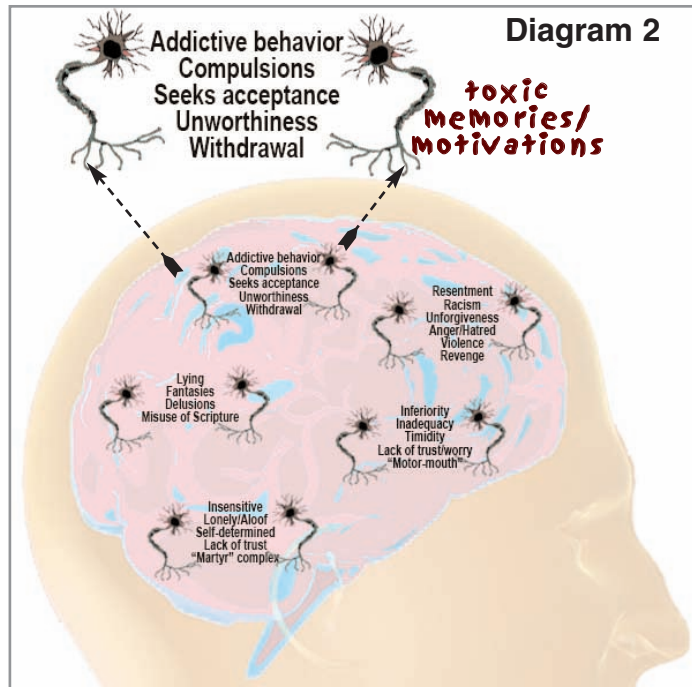
Here's some great news! Our Lord Jesus entrusts His own with the *power and authority of His Name* to drive out the demons:

*“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).*

It's essential that you realize this. Even though the Name of Jesus delivers you from a demonic stronghold, the *old toxic memories and motivations* which were part of you *still remain*. For example, in Diagram 2 the demon of Rejection is gone, but the toxic memories and motives are still present: *addictive behavior, compulsions, seeking acceptance, unworthiness, withdrawal*.

After the demons and strongholds are gone, then through the indwelling Spirit you must persist to ***“take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*** Consistently evaluating your thoughts usually requires the help of others to confront you in love by pointing out whenever a toxic, unChrist-like, memory or motivation is revealed by your words or your attitude or actions. Cry out to Jesus in prayer to heal your mind of that toxic memory or motivating idea. This process of taking your thoughts captive is ongoing until *every* toxic memory or motivation has been healed by our Lord Jesus.

**You'll find that a particular memory won't disappear—but the *emotional sting* of that memory is healed by Lord Jesus. What was once painful to think about has become a *healthy memory* you can use as a testimony of His loving power to heal and transform**



**you. As the sting of your memories is healed by our Lord, the toxic motives and responses they developed are gone too. Through His Spirit, new Christlike ones replace the old.**

### What If You *Don't* Rid Yourself Of Toxic Memories and Motivations?

*“When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house **swept clean** [no Holy Spirit cleansing] and put in order [*self is in control, not the Spirit*]. Then it goes and **takes seven other spirits** more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first” (Luke 11:24-26).*

We've seen over the years that when individuals *don't* take their toxic memories and motives captive and make them obedient to Jesus, the demons use these agitations as inroads back into people's minds to rebuild the strongholds. The difference is that the situation is far worse because they're then filled with *doubt and unbelief* that Jesus can deliver them!



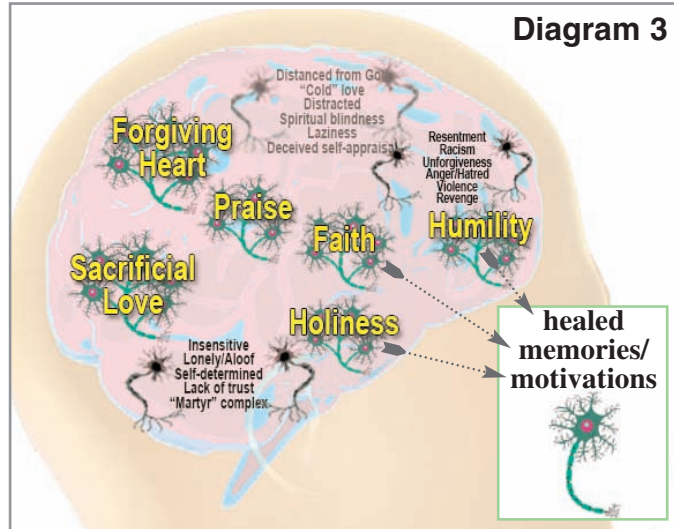
### Diagram 3

Take heart! As you trustingly *turn to Jesus to heal* your painful memories and as you persist in *taking your thoughts captive* and *making them align to His way of thinking*, His Spirit will change them to healed (stingless), healthy memories which reflect our Lord's love and character. This is the *mental renewal* Paul is referring to:

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will”* (Romans 12:2).

As you experience the process of *deliverance from demons > healing of toxic memories and motivations > and persistently bringing your thoughts into obedience to Jesus*, you will be transformed. The testimony of your transformation from the toxic prison in which you once lived to how you're becoming more like your Lord encourages others of both His reality and His power to help them.

As you'll see in our Insight 8 discussion of being born again, you'll be able to fully experience a **love-based motivation** for what our Lord Jesus did for you on the cross. BEFORE you can be born again and hear only from the Holy Spirit, you need to be free of demonic strongholds. BUT the transformation of your mind from old toxic memories and motivations into new Christ-like ones will take time. Again, you'll find it helpful to be willing to be confronted by others who care about you whenever these unChrist-like memories or motives pop up in your words, attitudes or actions. That's when you need to pray for the Spirit of our Lord Jesus to heal you. He will!



This transformation process is also called “sanctification” in the Bible. It is the gracious work of the Spirit of Christ in you that changes you as you refuse to remain dominated by mental toxicity.

*“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 3:18).

#### From Demonic Stronghold to Christ-likeness

Notice the nature of the transformation that takes place: from demonic oppression to the character qualities befitting a person who belongs to Jesus.

##### **Stronghold**

Deceit  
Bitterness  
Heaviness  
Jealousy  
Confusion  
Rejection  
Pride  
Religiosity  
Independence/Divorce  
Stupor/Prayerlessness  
Rebellion  
Fear and Insecurity  
Control  
Sexual impurity  
Idolatry  
False Prophecy/Antichrist  
Witchcraft/Familiar Spirit  
Infirmary/Destroying

##### **Sanctification**

Spirit of Truth  
Forgiving Heart  
Praise  
Sacrificial Love  
Faith  
Acceptance  
Humility  
Love and Peace  
Unity and Commitment  
Perseverance and Hope  
Fear of the Lord  
Courage, Faith, and Trust  
Submission and Yieldedness  
Holiness  
Lordship of Christ  
Discernment  
Purity  
Well-being

**[From the too often-neglected Chapter 5. After You've Demolished The Strongholds, in Demolishing Strongholds]**