

The Voice In Your Head May Not Be Yours

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In our previous email we wrote about the unChrist-like competition taking place among the various congregations, denominations and sects which are fabricated by scribal theology. We noted that it's *very rare* to find anyone in a clergy system who is hearing the voice of our Lord. Nor are those sitting in pews each week hearing either. Far too many only know about Jesus through the pages of the Bible. But confining our Lord to the written text and having no intimate experience with Him through His indwelling Spirit is horse pucky at its worst. It's disregarding the living operation of the Holy Spirit and the *rhema* that's needed to carry out our heavenly Father's specific will.

Within so many Christians is another force that's at work to keep them from hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit: It's the demonic spirits operating from strongholds in your mind, will and emotions. These demons can sound just like the "voice" in your own head—even when the Holy Spirit is within you through being born again. That's because any area of your mind, will and emotions which you haven't fully yielded to the Spirit's rule becomes an area of vulnerability for an unclean spirit to establish itself. There's a process how demonic strongholds become established in your mind, will and emotions **if** you don't resist and take captive unChristlike thoughts and ideas from the get-go:

- 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 a spirit.

The apostle Paul provides keen insight into the reality of the spiritual warfare that's going on in and around you. He also succinctly describes how to rid yourself of the strongholds and how to keep your freedom afterwards:

"For although we do live in the world, we do not wage war in a worldly way; because the weapons we use to wage war are not worldly. On the contrary, they have God's power for demolishing strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that raises itself up against the knowledge of God; bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2Corinthians 10:3-5; see also James 1:13-15 for how temptation can lead to bondage).

Once a stronghold is established in your soul, that is, your mind, will and emotions, it will defend itself through arguments and pretensions. **ARGUMENTS:** This part of a stronghold involves the thought processes and patterns you use to deny there's a problem. When you raise these arguments like walls, as in the diagram right, God's Love and His Truths are prevented from entering your thoughts. You don't hear the Holy



Spirit, nor can you experience God's love and truth. Instead, you rationalize and justify your unChristlike attitudes or behaviors, thereby keeping the humility that precedes repentance from seizing your heart and convicting you of sin.

PRETENSIONS: This part of the stronghold reveals the pride and rebellion you erect like another wall. These inner voices deceive you into straying from dependence on the Holy Spirit, and keep you from seeking Him. So you falter in the will or desire to break free from the demonic influence which has become so familiar to you.

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

If you're not hearing the inner voice of the Holy Spirit, consider the strong possibility that you're not hearing Him because of a demonic presence in your soul (your mind, will and emotions). These demonic spirits are relationship destroyers both with the Spirit of our Lord and with other people! Demonic forces are intent on hindering you from hearing and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25). Paul confirms, *"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). And we add, ***"You cannot entertain the voice of demons in your mind and hear the Spirit's voice or experience His power."***

FYI: In spiritual matters you become like whomever you decide to listen to. The indwelling Holy Spirit produces a way of life that becomes increasingly Christlike on your pilgrimage to your salvation. But listening to demonic spirits and believing their lies silences the Holy Spirit's voice. And by believing the spirits' lies you also become more and more like the demons in your attitudes, actions and values. Remember, they were thrown out of heaven to earth because of rebellion, ***defying the rule of God*** (Revelation 12:9).

In areas of your mind which you haven't fully yielded to the Holy Spirit, these spirits can and will entice you to defy the rule of Jesus by becoming friends with this world's values—and that's spiritual adultery in our Father's sight (James 4:4). You find yourself compromising with the world's ways without the Lordship of Jesus ruling you (Romans 10:9,10). You clutch Christianity with one hand while clinging with your other hand to your own desires which are apart from Father's will for you (1John 2:15-17).

If Christian pollster George Barna were to survey Christianity as to the most prevalent "soil" upon which the truths of God's Word fall, we're convinced he would discover, ***"Among the thorns!"***

"These are the ones who are sown among the thorns. They hear the word, but the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" (Mark 4:18,19; see also 2Peter 2:20).

Demonic spirits don't have to do much to entice people who are content to be "spiritual" only when it suits them. They've already deemed the Lordship of Jesus and His rule of their lives to be meaningless to their own pursuits. Attending pleasant services and sitting among others with similar worldly values and the same prevailing strongholds makes their demonic captivity easy to overlook.

👤 Over the years we've found that people tend to marry others who are beset by the same demonic influences. They feel compatible and in tune with each other—for awhile.

👤 We've done Demolishing Strongholds workshops in congregations throughout the country and found that the majority of people within 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 congregants together because the people feel accepted and comfortable in their shared bondage!

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

As long as demonic spirits control or influence areas of your soul, you won't experience truth and love as the Holy Spirit reveals them. (We illustrated this reality on page 1.) Below is an excerpt from Mike's testimony of transformation work in his own life. We encourage you to read the entire testimony on pages 7-9 of [*Preface of Demolishing Strongholds*](#). You'll find that the path he was on mirrors the path we all have to take in order to walk in spiritual freedom.

"I first became acquainted with strongholds and their influence in people's lives while we were running 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 in 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."

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. In turning to our Lord I expected Him to act quickly. However, a few months went by and, in February, 1990, we received a letter

from a friend who wrote that God had shown him in prayer that our ministry was being hindered by a spirit of deceit. We 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. We 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. The vision appeared as an object that 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 renounced the spirit of rejection in the name of Jesus, the black object disappeared. I was changed, but I was uncertain in what way.”



As time went on, I was able to see how the spirit of deceit had kept me from perceiving people and situations clearly and from our Lord’s perspective. It’s been over 30 years since we ordered the demons to leave us in the Name of Jesus. And since then we’ve helped each other recognize any unChrist-like motives or attitudes or wrong emotions the demons left behind, and change them into Christ-like ones through the Holy Spirit. It’s by staying free of demonic voices that we’ve been able to clearly hear only the voice of the Holy Spirit and walk in that freedom.

Mike & Sue

P.S. For a quick peek at the demonic strongholds we’ve encountered in our years of ministry, download this [online fillable pdf form](#) and share it with people you truly long to see reach heaven’s gate: ***Do You Have Any Demonic Strongholds In Your Soul?***

All demonic strongholds are disguised by the stronghold of deceit, which is no surprise since the master deceiver rules the demons (Matthew 12:24-26; Ephesians 6:11,12). We encourage you to evict the spirit of deceit first, no matter what the "voice" in your head may be telling you. The more you listen to deceit, the more you'll be deceived. Once deceit is out of the way, you can identify any other voices of demonic spirits and cast them out by the authority of the Name of Jesus.