

Teaching E-mail 73 Do You Need A Booster?

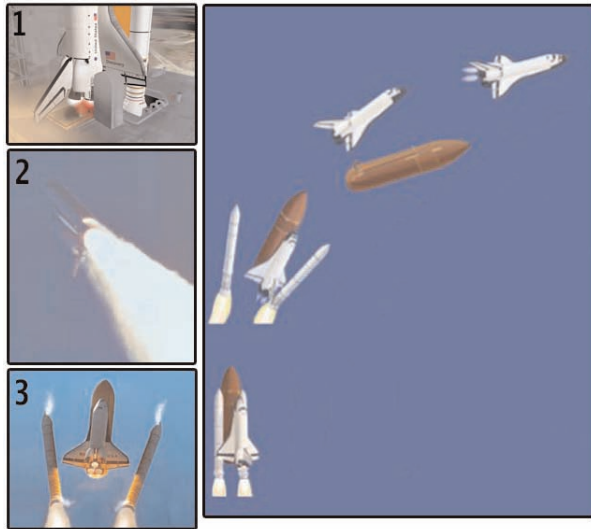
(August 14, 2013)

In a recent e-mail we asked for prayer concerning our family and relatives who are confronting the darkness they discovered as a result of going through our one-page handout, *Do You Suffer The Effects Of Demonic Strongholds In Your Soul?*

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A number of them are at the initial stage of becoming totally free, much like a space shuttle just as it leaves the launch pad. First, we want to thank those of you who are praying. We'll keep you updated. Also, in this e-mail we want to help those of you who may be struggling yourself with identifying strongholds and symptoms and becoming free in Jesus through renouncing them in His Name. Or perhaps you're reluctant to share the one-page handout with your family or friends out of fear of their response. Please read on!

Space Flight



Picture being delivered from demonic strongholds *and* being freed from

toxic motivations like launching a shuttle into space.

1. Demolishing your strongholds by trusting in the authority of Jesus' Name is like the moment the shuttle just lifts off the launch pad. The shuttle is no longer earthbound, *but* it still needs to reach outer space. In the powerful Name of Jesus you're freed from the strongholds. *But*, you still need to get to your "outer space"—becoming more like our Lord Jesus and serving His Kingdom purposes as you serve other people and make Him known.

2. From the moment the space shuttle is free of the launch pad it requires booster rockets to help it reach outer space. The toxic motivations which the strongholds formed throughout your brain cortex are like the resistance which gravity exerts in trying to pull the shuttle back to earth. The booster rocket is to the space shuttle what **confrontation by others who care for you** is, that is, the people from whom you willingly accept help in exposing your toxic motivations. Welcoming the help of others who love you enough to confront you whenever they see unChristlike toxicity is as critical as the booster rockets are to freeing the shuttle from gravity. That's part of biblical one-anothering!

To accept the input of someone who confronts you requires humility. Remaining humble can be compared to the rocket fuel that the shuttle needs for its engines. If they flame out early, or if you lack humility, the consequences are dire. Without the humility to accept confrontation, you have no hope of being free of the toxicity the strongholds

and their symptoms left behind in your mind, will and emotions.

With each toxic motivation that's confronted by someone who cares for you and then being healed by our Lord Jesus, the greater freedom you experience—the pull of "toxic gravity" in your brain decreases. As toxic motivations are healed in your brain and the work of the Holy Spirit replaces the old responses with His righteous ways, confrontation by others becomes less necessary. When your motivations are healed, your increasing love for our Lord, your desire to be increasingly transformed by His Spirit into His character and nature, and your willingness to pour yourself out in service to Him motivates you. The process is similar to the shuttle as it gets further and further away from earth's gravity: the effort needed by the booster rockets is reduced.

3. When you become sufficiently free of toxicity (the negative thoughts, attitudes and responses), you no longer need the booster rocket, that is, the confrontation you needed to help you be free from the "gravity of your own toxicity." When the people who are helping you realize that nothing can hold you back from everything our Lord desires of you, encouragement becomes more the hallmark of their assistance as you press on. Call it "spiritual weightlessness."

A word of warning if you are attempting to be the booster in someone's life:

None of your boosting will help *if* they don't want ALL their strongholds demolished, *or if* they lack the humility to receive your input with a willing heart. Both of these are needed in order for their toxic motivations to be fully healed by our Lord. The payload is too

heavy for you if they don't want the blessing which ONLY Jesus can provide them. If they are unwilling, you need to let go and let them fall back to "earth." Don't worry, just keep interceding on their behalf! Our Lord has His ways to see that they're oppressed enough until they truly want to be free of bondage and receive your input. He loves them too much to not bring about the circumstances and encounters that humble them enough to cry out to Him!

Our Family Left The "Launch Pad"

In our years of teaching about strongholds, beyond the almost universal presence of deceit, the next most common stronghold is bitterness. Far more than pure devotion to our Lord Jesus throughout Christendom is the influence of the stronghold of bitterness. Because bitterness is so widespread and contains the element of unforgiveness, you could say that much of Christendom is populated by the unforgiven. Our Lord Himself warns about holding on to unforgiveness:

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14,15).

Jesus made clear how our Father deals with those who cling to the unforgiveness of bitterness: He turns them over to torturers until they do forgive (Matthew 18:23-35). Why would God allow the person who refuses to forgive to be tormented? Because that person has failed to appreciate what Jesus accomplished for them in His sacrifice on the cross. They're feeling they have a right to their bitterness, and that's self-righteous arro-

gance at its worst! They believe they've been forgiven of their own many sins but they refuse to forgive another individual who has offended them.

Our own family isn't insulated from the effects of generational bitterness. Bitterness often is expressed through two primary forms:

Anger or Hatred — Feelings of wrath or rage; open and intense animosity.

Begrudging — Seething hatred toward someone who is unaware of your bitterness; speaking badly about someone behind their back; withholding the affection and warmth that's due someone.

Although both forms of bitterness are destructive and sinful, by far the most common is begrudging. It's also one of the most difficult to help free someone from. The wrath or rage of the angry person is unmistakable. They leave a trail of wounded emotions when their anger subsides, and need to humbly ask forgiveness for the pain they've caused. The begrudging person, though, has built himself a "prison of emotional protection" brick-by-brick. As he constructs a wall around himself as protection from further emotional pain, he fails to realize that he's controlled by an unspoken resentment which the offending party knows nothing about. Often a begrudging bitter person became that way because they were deeply hurt by an angry bitter person in their past.

Another point to keep in mind: those beset by begrudging bitterness frequently slander the person against whom they're bitter by telling others how they were hurt and who hurt them. BUT they find it almost impossible to go to the original source of their bitterness and admit what they're feeling and ask forgiveness themselves for clinging to

that bitterness. Over time, the wall of emotional protection they've built prevents them from offering the affectionate support and compassion others need from them. Emotionally they're like cardboard. It's also hard to confront someone who is beset by begrudging bitterness because the pain they're causing others comes from what they fail to do. A sin of omission is less obvious than a sin of commission.

It does takes tremendous courage and love to confront the angry bitter person we noted earlier. Certainly there's no doubt about the painful actions and attitudes and words they used since they were demonstrated for all to see and hear. And the majority of angry bitter people do put up a stink when you point it out to them. However, in the Hebraic understanding, bitterness and pride are synonymous! Neither finds it easy to accept correction. But both forms of bitterness are destructive since they defile other relationships (Hebrews 12:15).

If begrudging bitterness plagues you or someone you care about, we encourage you to prayerfully go through The Way of the Lord, Lessons 24 thru 28 on **passive aggression**.

. Passive aggression is a term used in psychiatry for begrudging bitterness. In these lessons we offer guidance for overcoming begrudging bitterness.

Two further symptoms of this type of bitterness:

- **Blame Others.** Begrudgers deny responsibility for their actions and are quick to make excuses. Because they are blind to their own shortcomings, everyone else is at fault.
- **Keep Anger Inside.** Begrudgers rarely display any negative emotions. They seem to accept whatever you say but hold ill feelings

within that keep honesty at bay. From childhood they perceive that displaying anger is wrong, so they bury their emotions and go through life trapped in a prison of seething resentment.

When we discuss the two types of bitterness with people, we often use the anecdote below because begrudgingly bitter people view the angry bitter person as far worse than they are themselves.

“Two businessmen, one begrudging and the other angry, were to meet at the airport to fly home after a business trip. The begrudger arrives 5 minutes late and misses the flight. The angry one arrives 20 minutes late and also misses the flight. The begrudger begins to berate the angry person for being so late, but the reality is they both missed the flight.”

It's far easier for the begrudger to see what's wrong with the angry bitter person. But in either form of bitterness both have missed the character qualities of Jesus Himself. They are bitter because they have no appreciation for what He accomplished for them on the cross. Their bitterness keeps them target-fixated on unforgiveness, whether against a single person or against many. And because they're holding on to that unforgiveness, their Father in heaven refuses to forgive them. Now which one wants to point the finger at the other?

Who's Your 'Booster Rocket?'

If bitterness isn't a prevalent stronghold among your family and relatives, it's still likely that other strongholds are. Only our Lord Jesus can demolish the strongholds *and* heal the toxic motivations. But in-between, confrontation is needed—a "booster rocket" who cares!

There are a few other dynamics we'd like to highlight for you.

First, if you're not growing in the love and character of Jesus but don't think you need a "booster," you're deceived. And if you think that without the help of others you can recognize the toxic motivations the strongholds have produced in your cortex, that's NOT GOING TO HAPPEN! For over 20 years people who are beset by negative memories and responses have blithely told us, "I'll just turn to the Lord." But these same individuals ignore the spiritual reality that our Father often uses human instruments to help free them from the toxic motives the strongholds have produced. In fact, many who repeat that statement never follow through because they didn't really want to be free and be responsible to live for His goals and purposes for their life.

Second, if you've been free of strongholds for some time and have received the help you needed to spot your toxicity and help you fill in the "old ruts" of past symptoms, then you need some guidance in how to help others. If the strongholds are gone in you and an adequate amount of toxic memories have been confronted and healed, **you'll find yourself filled with our Lord's compassion for people who are still imprisoned in spiritual darkness.**

To effectively be used by the Spirit to help others, you're going to have to be vulnerable about your own past darkness. That way others can be encouraged by the deliverance our Lord gave you and can learn how essential was the help you received from the ones who confronted you.

A warning:

If you find yourself being annoyed or having an aversion to the darkness in the people you want to help, then you haven't been delivered and healed sufficiently to serve them. You still need a booster! Paul has a reminder for anyone who wants to help others out of spiritual darkness:

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3).

Bring to mind the darkness that once plagued you and how you were delivered and changed. If you don't, you'll project a superior attitude toward people who need your help, and they won't have ears to hear you.

Humility, not judgment, is a loving response of great power as you help others.

Mike & Sue

P.S. Ask yourself this. Is there a particular person who comes to mind who inspires bitterness or resentment in you? If so, what do you need to do about it?