

Embers to Flames

Breakthrough Warfare Prayer

I. Introduction

A. Warfare is an unavoidable part of the Christian life

B. “Spiritual warfare is a multilevel conflict between good and evil initiated on the supernatural plane with the prehistoric rebellion of Lucifer, and transferred on to the natural plane with the fall of man.” Thomas White

B. Christians must be equipped

- “To keep Satan from getting the advantage over us: for we are not ignorant of his wiles and intentions.” II Cor. 2:11
- “But (now) I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted....” II Cor. 11:3

C. We always approach warfare from a place of victory

II. Three realms

A. Highest heaven – God Almighty, Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Angels

Holy angels who appear most often in [Scripture](#) carry out a variety of tasks—all designed to serve God...

- **Worship and praise**—This is the main activity portrayed in [heaven](#) ([Isaiah 6:1-3](#); [Revelation 4-5](#)).
- **Messengers**—They serve as messengers to communicate God’s will to men. They helped reveal the [law to Moses](#) ([Acts 7:52-53](#)), and served as the carriers of much of the material in [Daniel](#), and [Revelation](#).
- **Guiding**—Angels gave instructions to [Joseph](#) about the [birth of Jesus](#) ([Matthew 1-2](#)), to the women at the [tomb](#), to [Philip](#) ([Acts 8:26](#)), and to [Cornelius](#) ([Acts 10:1-8](#)).
- **Providing**—God has used angels to provide physical needs such as [food](#) for [Hagar](#) ([Genesis 21:17-20](#)), [Elijah](#) ([1 Kings 19:6](#)), and Christ after His [temptation](#) ([Matthew 4:11](#)).
- **Protecting**—Keeping God’s people out of physical danger, as in the cases of [Daniel](#) and the [lions](#), and his three friends in the [fiery furnace](#) ([Daniel 3](#) and [6](#)).
- **Delivering**—Getting God’s people out of danger once they’re in it. Angels released the [apostles](#) from [prison](#) in [Acts 5](#), and repeated the process for [Peter](#) in [Acts 12](#).
- **Strengthening and encouraging**—Angels strengthened [Jesus](#) after His [temptation](#) ([Matt 4:11](#)), encouraged the [apostles](#) to keep preaching after releasing them from prison ([Acts 5:19-20](#)), and told [Paul](#) that everyone on his [ship](#) would survive the impending shipwreck ([Acts 27:23-25](#)).
- **Answering prayer**—God often uses angels as His means of answering the [prayers](#) of His

people ([Daniel 9:20-24](#); [10:10-12](#); [Acts 12:1-17](#)).

- **Caring for believers at the moment of death**—In the story of [Lazarus](#) and the rich man, we read that angels carried the [spirit](#) of Lazarus to “[Abraham’s bosom](#)” when he died ([Luke 16:22](#)).
- **Executioners**—[Angels](#) are sometimes used by God to [punish sin](#). An [angel](#) of the [Lord](#) went forth and smote an [Assyrian camp](#) ([2 Kings 19:20-34](#))—“behold, they were all dead corpses.” The [Assyrian army](#) was annihilated. A destroying [angel](#) was sent, but later withheld, to punish [David](#) for his [vanity](#) in taking a [census](#) of the great number of his people. At the time of [Moses](#) and the [Exodus](#), the [Egyptian firstborn](#) were killed by an angel of death.* Dr. John Bechtle

B. Mid-heaven – headquarters of Satan and wicked spirits but accessed also by Holy Angels

- Satan also called Lucifer, (shining one, morning star) was “full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold.... You were the anointed cherub that covers...you were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you... and you have sinned: therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God...and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I will cast you to the ground...” Ez. 12b-17
- “How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you have been cut down to the ground, you who did weaken the nations! And you said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15
- Wicked spirits or demons “For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph. 6:12

C. Earthly realm

- Unsaved Eph. 2:1-3, II Cor. 4:4
- Saved

III. Christians are attacked

A. Why we are attacked

- We live between D-day and V-day See Rev. 12:17

- Hurt the child hurt the parent “in all their affliction he was afflicted...” Is. 63:9
 - Diminish our effectiveness
“Satan is not threatened by religious activity, but he is threatened and angered by the demonstration of the power of God to live victorious, godly lives.” T. Warners
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- Satan can be God's convenient “messenger boy” to bring us to Himself

B. Avenues of attack

- Sin
- Sin done against us
- Occult involvement
- Curses
- Trauma, rape, accidents etc.
- Generational

C. Methods of attack

Incapacitates Lk. 13:16	Speaks through Matt. 16:22-23	Footholds Eph. 4:27	Strongholds II Cor. 3:5
Lies Acts 5:3, Jn. 8:44	Hinders I Thess. 2:18	Ensnares/Traps II Tim. 2:25-26	Devours I Pet. 5:8
Deceives II Cor. 11:3	Pride I Tim. 3:6	Outwits II Cor. 2:11	Flaming arrows Eph. 6:16
Wears out Dan. 7:25	Accuses Rev. 12:10	Steal, kill, destroy Jn. 10:10	Tempts Matt. 4:1

D. Earmarks of the Enemy

- Confusion I Cor. 14:33
- Fear II Tim. 1:7
- Suggestions are selfish
- Doubts of God love
- Extremes Prov. 11:1
- Discouragement
- Hurry Is. 64:4
- Flattery Prov. 29:5
- Makes one feverish

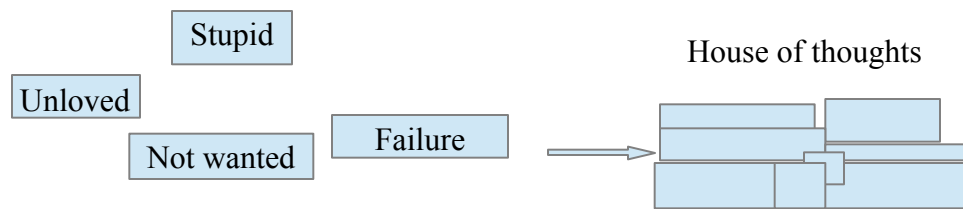
E. Strongholds and how to destroy them

“For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought

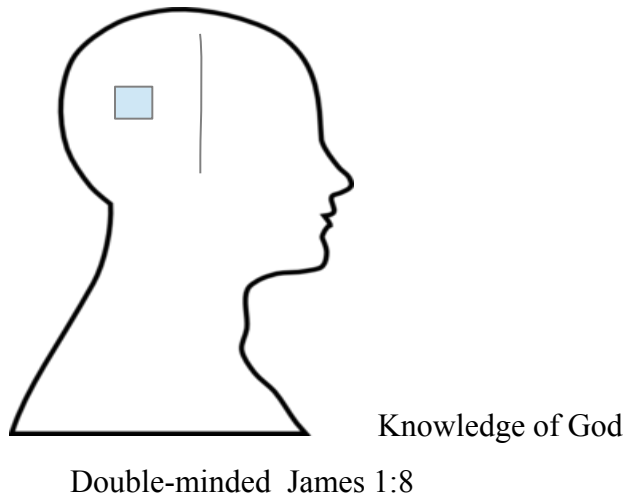
captive to obey Christ.” II Cor. 10:3-5

- Definition of 'stronghold'
- The development of strongholds
 - Wrong thinking
 - Wrong yielding
 - Wrong circumstances

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- Picture and effects of stronghold



Powerless to change a situation that you know clearly goes against the will of God.

- Types of Strongholds
 - Territorial
 - Ideological
 - Personal (See Stronghold handout)

Thoughts lead to emotion, which lead to actions, which lead to a habit, which leads to a

stronghold (way of life)

Steps to break down stronghold

- Recognize
- Confess, repent and renounce the error and sin associated with it
- Pray, binding Satan, pull down the stronghold and cast down false reasoning and loose the truth

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Rebuild the stronghold area

- Word – Study the Word of God regularly Rom. 12:1-2
- Will – By personal decision and guidance by God, the Holy Spirit
- Walk – Be a doer of the Word

F. Temptation

- Defined – Gr. *Peirasmos* = any outside source that appeals to a weakness in your flesh
- Purpose – shows us what we are, where we stand and plays a role in what we will be in the future
- Function – to trigger a choice and provoke a definite stand or action. It is our proving ground to step into God's provision.

Law of the 4 P's

	Promise	Principle	Problem	Provision
Adam and Eve	Fellowship with God, Garden of Eden	Obey, Don't eat of the tree	Satanic temptation	Failed
David	To be King	Trust God and obey	Persecuted by Saul	Anointed King
Mary	Mother of our Lord	Faith and obedience	Humiliation and Misunderstanding	Honor and Recognition
Jesus	Savior	Obedience to God	Tempted in Wilderness	Messianic fullness

Believers	Reign in life (Rom. 5)	Die to Self Raised with Christ	Conflict Old and New Nature	Victory in Jesus Abundant Life
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(B. Mumford)

- Results of Giving In to Temptation

“Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death.” James 1:15

- God's Promise

“For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin, no matter how it comes or where it leads) has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man (that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear). But God is faithful (to His Word and to His compassionate nature), and He (can be trusted) not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation, he will (always) provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently. Therefore, my dearly beloved, shun (keep clear way from, avoid by flight if need be) any sort of idolatry (of loving or venerating anything more than God). I Cor. 10:13 Amplified Bible

IV. The weapon of prayer makes mighty power available (James 5:16)

- “Prayer is striking the winning blow at the concealed enemy. Service is gathering up the results of the blow among the (people) we see and touch.” S.D.Gordon
- “The reason so many churches are seeing so few prisoners liberated is that they are fighting the wrong enemy, or they are fighting with the wrong weapons.” Timothy Warners
- Prayer is where the action is. Any church without a well-organized and systematic prayer program is simply operating a religious treadmill.” Paul Billheimer
- “Prayer is not rear-echelon activity; pray is front-line spiritual warfare, It is the ultimate weapon in our struggle.” Timothy Warners

Helpful Quotes

“All that Scripture teaches concerning devils aims at arousing us to take precaution against their stratagems and contrivances, and also to make us equip ourselves with those weapons which are strong and powerful enough to vanquish these most powerful foes.” Calvin Institutes, 1.14.13

“Q. What does the sixth request mean?

A. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil means, By ourselves we are too weak to

hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies- the devil, the world, and our own flesh- never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.” Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer 127