

DEFINITIONS

GIVING A FOOHOLD TO THE DEVIL: EPHESIANS 4:27

TOPOS is the Greek word that the NIV translates as "footholds." It could also be translated "opportunity" (NASB, RSV) or "chance" (TEV:NEB translates it "loop-hole"). Thus this verse can be expressed, "Do not give the devil a chance to exert his influence." It is likely that any sinful activity that the believer does not deal with by the power of the Spirit can be exploited by the devil and turned into a means of control over a believer's life. Therefore, Christians need to resist. For Paul, there is no middle ground. There is no nominal Christianity. Believers either resist the influence of the evil one who works through the flesh and the world, or they relinquish control of their lives to the powers of darkness. Giving in to those temptations does not just confirm the weakness of the flesh, it opens up the lives of believers to the control of the devil and his powers. We need to recognize the supernatural nature of temptation and be prepared to face it.

....CLINTON E. ARNOLD, POWER OF DARKNESS, IVP. 1992

In discussing demonic spiritual warfare on the personal level, one general principle must be noted at the onset: demons can only influence believers to the extent that we allow them to do so. The act of giving or allowing Satan to take any amount of control in our life is referred to as "giving ground". There are three attitudes (or actions) by which demons seek to gain ground in a person's life: Sin, Passivity, and Fear.

....SCOTT MOREAU, THE WORLD OF SPIRITS, Evangel Pub.

If the believer cultivates in his life any known sin, he is giving Satan an opportunity to get a foothold, a beachhead in his life. Satan will then use this opportunity to invade and take over other areas. Paul warns in Ephesians 4:27, "And do not give the devil an opportunity." The word translated "opportunity" simply means a place, such as a city or a building. But it carries the idea of a foothold or opportunity, a chance to operate.

....WARREN WIERSBE

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS: 2 COR. 10:4

Strongholds are mental patterns of thought burned into our minds over a period of time or by traumatic experiences. Strongholds are revealed in un-Christlike temperaments and behavior patterns often unrecognized by self or, if recognized, seldom understood as choices. "So what if I'm an insensitive person, that's just the way I am."

....NEIL ANDERSON, class notes

A stronghold is a mindset impregnated with hopelessness that causes us to accept as unchangeable something that we know is contrary to the will of God.

....ED SILVOSO, BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR TAKING OUR CITIES FOR GOD

THE EVIL DAY: EPHESIANS 6:13

This passage has the definite article (the) so it refers to a particular day. It's the day of violent temptations and assault whenever they may come.

....KENNETH WUEST

Evil days are specific times of attack when the power of the attack comes with extraordinary power, and the temptation to yield is strong.

....CLINTON ARNOLD