

## TARGETING AND TEARING DOWN STRONGHOLDS OF EVIL

*Some suggested approaches to engaging in power encounter*

### PURPOSE

In obedience to Christ, as representatives of His kingdom and endowed with His delegated authority, we are called to take a visible and verbal stand to actively expose schemes of evil operative in our respective spheres of ministry, confrontively engage demonic powers with bold faith and anointed authority, and expel forces of darkness from individuals, churches, institutions, towns, regions, etc., claiming people and places for the glory of God.

### BIBLICAL PRECEDENT

1. First and foremost, the sovereignty of God as Creator and Ruler of the world.

"...dominion belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations." Psa. 22:28

2. Secondly, the responsibility of the redeemed to represent the authority of the Most High on earth.

"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore. The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous..." Psa. 125:2,3

Examples:

- a. Abraham: Having promised the land to His chosen, the Lord instructs Abraham to "walk about the land", claiming it for possession.  
(Gen. 13:14-17)
- b. Israel: Instructed to purge the land of the idolatrous influences left by the dispossessing pagan nations.  
(Deut. 12:2,3)
- c. Elisha: Long after the confrontation with prophets of Baal, King Aram pursues Elisha with horses and chariots. Elisha's servant's eyes are opened to see "horses and chariots of fire" surrounding them, and God strikes the enemy with blindness.  
(II Kings 6:8-18)
- d. Josiah: A man of righteousness, Josiah purposed to remove discretion from Israel, and purge wickedness. He acted in a representative position of righteousness.  
(II Kings 23)

- e. David: Speaks of putting to silence and cutting off from the city of God every evildoer.  
(Psa. 101:8; Psa. 108)
- f. Paul: The apostle discerns and directly deals with the demonic force operative through Elymas, the sorcerer, bringing divine judgment upon him immediately, and subduing his influence.  
(Acts 13:4-12)

Passages:

Meditation

Deuteronomy 11:22-25  
Joshua 1:3  
Psalm 91  
Isaiah 51:1-3

Authority

Psalm 107:13-16  
Psalm 108  
Luke 10:17-20  
Ephesians 6:10-18  
II Corinthians 10:3-5

PRINCIPLES:

1. Maintain a strong view of God's sovereignty over evil:  
"...no plan of yours can be thwarted." Job 42:2
2. Where servants of Christ on the cutting edge threaten the power structure of darkness, confrontation is inevitable. It is imperative we allow the Spirit to orchestrate encounters, guarding against provoking confrontation by fleshly zeal.
3. This turf is not for the untested. The soldier called to this should be sealed from Satan's accusatory attacks on besetting sins, healed of emotional weaknesses, and filled with the Spirit.
4. There are two dimensions to power encounter, God-ward prayer, praise and petition, and Satanward-active authoritative resistance.
5. At this level, power in prayer is released through:
  - a. unity of heart. Acts 1:14;4:32
  - b. agreement in Jesus' name. Matt. 18:18; Acts 4:30
  - c. unwavering faith. Mark 11:22-25
  - d. perseverance. Luke 18:1-8
  - e. praise. II Chron. 20; Acts 16:25
  - f. boldness, courageous and confrontive. Acts 4:29-31