

God does not intend for us to live under those circumstances. He knows how we are formed. He knows we will be tempted. He knows that we will sometimes fail. However, God does NOT intend for us to keep failing in the same area time and again. And God does NOT intend for us to feel guilt over a sin we committed years earlier! He wants us to feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit that brings about a Godly sorrow. Then God expects us to repent quickly, renew our spirits, and get on with our relationship with Him.

*“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2Corinthians 7:10.*

*“...I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!” Ezekiel 18 30-32*

We are to *“...come to (our) senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken (us) captive to do his will.” 2Timothy 2:26*

In order for God’s children to be set free from strongholds, we must first realize that it is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, who is behind the original temptation to sin. We must recognize the source of temptation, look for God’s way of escape, and flee!

## **Temptation does not come from God**

*“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone...” James1:13*

Because God gave us free will, He must allow us to be tempted, thus making a choice to either sin, as in the case of Eve and Judas, or not to sin, in the case of Jesus. However, God is merciful to His children. He knows how we are formed. He is true to His word. God will not allow the enemy to tempt us beyond our threshold to resist that temptation. God will always provide \_\_\_\_\_!

*“And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way of escape so that you can stand up under it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13.*

Jesus also helps us in our weakness, *“Because He himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” Hebrews 2:18*

Obviously, by these two scriptures, we do not have to give in to temptation! We *can* be victorious over every temptation of the enemy. It is imperative that the Bride of Christ understands that God has provided a way of escape through His Son.

## **We must recognize Jesus Christ's victory over sin on the cross!**

*"...He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Colossians 2:13-15*

*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." 1Peter 2:24*

## **We must recognize Jesus has the authority to set the captives free!**

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'." Matthew 28:18*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."  
Luke 4:18-19*

Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah and proclaimed that He was indeed the one who had the anointing to set prisoners free from the demonic bondage of sin. Hallelujah!...

## **We must recognize Jesus gave us that same authority over the enemy!**

*"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." Luke 10:19*

After Jesus resurrected, He met with the disciples and told them to wait until they were, "...clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49. The Holy Spirit would give them the authority to do the things He had been doing.

*"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.'" Mark 16:15-18*

## **We must use that authority to "\_\_\_\_\_ " from the snare of the devil. We not only have authority, but we also have divine weapons of warfare!**

*"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." 2Corinthians 10:4*

## **Four Steps to Demolish a Stronghold**

### **1) Consciously turn from sin**

*“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2Timothy 2:22*

*“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified...that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.” 1Thessalonians4:3,4,and 7*

God expects us to turn away from sin.

*“...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1*

When we are born again, we become a new creation.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

However, we still have those strongholds that have been established in our soul before we accepted Christ. Remember, when we accept Christ, God has \_\_\_\_\_ . But we do not receive a new soul. God’s desire is to \_\_\_\_\_ that area of our being. We must flee from the old habits and patterns in our past and pursue a new way of life in Christ.

Some of those old habits were established in our souls by the sins of our family to the \_\_\_\_\_ generation. If our forefathers have sinned and opened doors of bondage, those same doors will be open to our lives, even at conception.

*“...Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.” Exodus 34:7*

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In order to free ourselves from these generational curses, we must recognize that they are demonic strongholds that have been passed down, and that they are trespassing in your born again temple. They have no right to be there, but they **will remain** unless we exercise the authority given to us, and \_\_\_\_\_ !

### **2) Use the Sword of the Spirit**

When we identify a stronghold in our soul, we can go back to the Word and find scripture that opposes that lie. We must learn to use the \_\_\_\_\_ !

*“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:17*

*“For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 5:12*

*“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16*

### 3) Repent of that sin

When we recognize the Truth of God’s Word that opposes that stronghold in our soul, there must be a deep, heartfelt repentance and turning away from the sin that placed our souls in bondage. Without this crucial step, we can never break the power of sin and the stronghold that it creates. We must also determine to “\_\_\_\_\_.” We do not have the choice as to whether or not we will be tempted. We *do* have the choice to give in to that temptation...

*“It (the Word) teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:12-13*

### 4) Renounce the demonic spirit

After we repent, the relationship with God has been restored. We must then take care of the demonic spirit that has gained a foothold in our soul as a result of that sin. When we repent, we are \_\_\_\_\_ at our Father. When we renounce, we are \_\_\_\_\_ at the enemy as we speak directly to the kingdom of darkness.

***“But we have RENOUNCED the hidden things of shame...” 2 Corinthians 4:2***

This step is the most important step in gaining freedom from falling to the same sin again and again. Renouncing also gets rid of the condemnation that plagues our souls. The enemy doesn’t mind us \_\_\_\_\_, as long as we don’t follow through with this final step. If he can keep us from \_\_\_\_\_ the spirit that has a **legal right** to be there, then he can keep us locked into that vicious cycle of \_\_\_\_\_. If the stronghold has been there a long time, the enemy may resist leaving. There are times when we may need to seek the help of strong brothers and sisters in the Lord. There are times when the stronghold is so great that it requires prayer and fasting to break it away;

*“After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, ‘Why couldn’t we drive it (the demon) out?’ He replied, ‘This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.’” Mark 9:28&29*

But make no mistake, hell has to leave! Satan is a defeated foe, and we have authority over the works of darkness in our lives. Jesus came to set the captive free, and no spirit of darkness can resist the power of His name! Hallelujah!

Here is a sample prayer of repenting and renouncing the spirit of anger and unforgiveness in our lives. This prayer is taken directly from Cleansing Streams Ministries.

“Father, forgive me for the anger and unforgiveness I have harbored in my heart. I repent of giving place to the enemy with my anger and unforgiveness. Lord, I repent of this sin and turn from it now. I choose to become a forgiving person and to never again allow my heart to be filled with anger and unforgiveness.”  
In Jesus Name, Amen.

“And now, satan I renounce you, and I renounce every spirit of anger and unforgiveness in my life. I want nothing more to do with you or with your works of anger and unforgiveness. You spirit of darkness, I hate you. You are the enemy of God, and according to Psalm 139:21-22, I hate you with a perfect hatred. I count you my enemy. I also hate how you have manipulated my life with anger and unforgiveness. I renounce you, and I want you out of my life. In the name of Jesus, leave me now. I cancel every agreement I have made with you, and I reclaim every part of my life I have given you. I break every hold you have had over me-every vow and covenant, every hex and curse, and every unholy soul-tie. I will not be a person of anger and unforgiveness any longer. I command you to remove your hook from my life and to leave me now, in the name of Jesus and by the Blood of His Cross!”