

OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

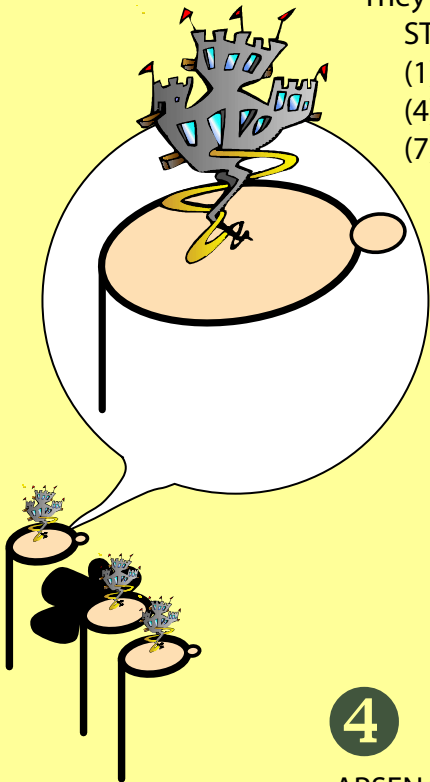


- 1** Satan encourages the building and defending of strongholds.
"And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will" (2 Tim 2:26).

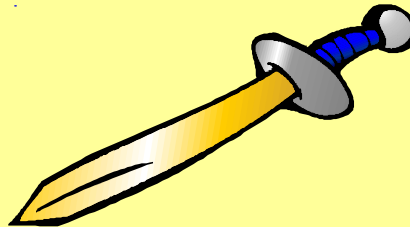
- 2** We build these strongholds in our minds and defend them to the death.
They may be strongholds of false doctrine or strongholds of carnality.

STRONGHOLDS OF CARNALITY are
(1) pride, (2) selfishness, (3) personal interest,
(4) stubbornness, (5) resentment, (6) insubordination
(7) rebellion, (8) unforgiveness, and deeds of the flesh
such as (9) enmities, (10) strife, (11) envy,
(12) jealousy, (13) disputes, and (14) dissension
(Gal 5:19–21).

- 3** One powerful enemy in spiritual warfare is the flesh—the enemy within. So we often fight against ourselves (Rom 7:14–25, especially “waging war against the law of my mind” in verse 23). The enemy without is Satan (Matt 13:39; Eph 6:13; 1 Peter 5:8).

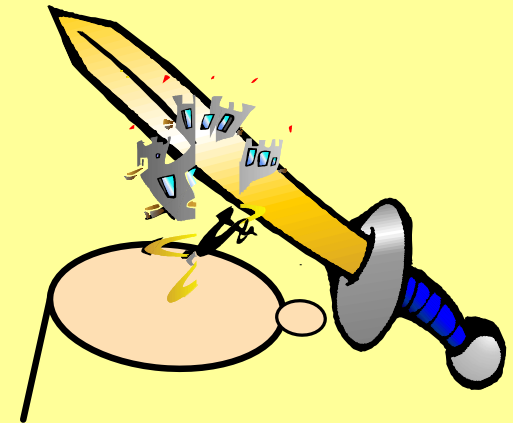


- 4** **ARSENAL OF OFFENSIVE SPIRITUAL WEAPONS IN THE WORD OF GOD**
(1) compassion, (2) kindness, (3) humility, (4) gentleness, (5) patience,
(6) bearing with one another or forbearing, (7) forgiving each other,
and (8) love (Col 3:12–14), (9) overlooking sins committed against you
(Prov 19:11), (10) giving up your rights or being wronged and
defrauded (1 Cor 6:7), (11) regarding one another as more important
than yourself (Phil 2:3), (12) not just looking out for your own
personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Phil 2:4).



- 5** Use these powerful spiritual weapons to overcome the flesh by demolishing the strongholds of carnality and false doctrine in the minds of men.

"And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17).



"Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses" (2 Cor 10:3–4).

- 6** Overcoming strongholds results in peace, harmony, unity, and joy.