

# Demolishing Strongholds-Briefing Document

Date: October 8, 2025

## Executive Summary

This session explored the biblical concept of strongholds, emphasizing that they are not physical fortresses but destructive attitudes, mindsets, and patterns of thinking that oppose God. These strongholds can manifest personally, corporately (within the church), or nationally. Satan is identified as their ultimate source.

The process of demolishing strongholds is often painful and difficult. It requires divine, not worldly, weapons—such as the Holy Spirit, love, and the armor of God—as outlined in 2 Corinthians 10. The teaching concludes that the ultimate stronghold—sin and death—was demolished by Jesus Christ through His sinless life, death, and resurrection. Believers share in this victory when they take every thought captive to Christ.

## I. Central Theme: Understanding and Demolishing Strongholds

### A. Definition of a Stronghold

- Literal Definition: A stronghold is a fortified place offering protection to its occupants.
- Biblical Definition (2 Corinthians 10:1–6): A stronghold is not physical but refers to destructive attitudes, mindsets, and thought patterns that oppose God.
- Duality of Purpose: A stronghold's nature depends on who occupies it. If God occupies it, it becomes a refuge; if the enemy occupies it, it becomes a danger.

### B. Manifestations of Strongholds

Three arenas were identified where strongholds may form:

- Personal Strongholds: Issues that oppose God's will in an individual's life, such as alcohol abuse, pride, pornography, self-centeredness, unforgiveness, or ingrained attitudes like "I want it my way because it's the right way."
- Corporate (Church) Strongholds: Traditions or beliefs that hinder growth—rigid traditions, fixed methods, unbiblical worldviews, or preconceptions restricting God's work.
- National and Societal Strongholds: Ideologies that oppose God—advancement of Islam, acceptance of immoral lifestyles, drug use, and teaching evolution as fact.

### C. The Spiritual Adversary

The root source of all negative strongholds is Satan, who works to establish them in individuals and nations to turn people away from God.

## II. The Process of Demolition

Demolishing strongholds is messy and painful. It requires breaking long-standing habits and demands extreme discipline and spiritual commitment.

### Divine Weapons vs. Worldly Weapons

Worldly Weapons (treat symptoms, not causes):

- New or stricter laws against terrorism
- Needle-exchange programs to reduce disease spread
- Contraception to reduce teen pregnancy

Divine Weapons (possess divine power to demolish strongholds):

- The Holy Spirit
- Genuine love
- Armor of God (Ephesians 6:13–17):
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)

### God's Methodology

God's approach combines patience and discipline—He gives opportunity for self-correction (as Paul did with the Corinthians) before direct chastisement. Paul's letters were stern to allow time for change so that his in-person visit would not have to be punitive.

## III. The Ultimate Stronghold: Sin and Death

Christ demolished sin and death by His sinless life, sacrificial death, and resurrection. Believers participate in this victory by taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

## IV. Personal Testimony and Application

Mike shared his testimony about overcoming pride. A difficult conversation with Steve led to repentance, apology, and reconciliation with his brother and brother-in-law, building bridges of forgiveness. Each believer is called to identify and surrender strongholds to Christ, trusting Him as their true fortress.

## V. Community Announcements and Prayer Concerns

### A. Upcoming Events and Initiatives

Event/Initiative	Date(s)	Details
Operation Christmas Child	October	Monthly mission project
New Life Kids Christmas Store	N/A	Collecting gift donations; teaches children generosity
Men's Breakfast	Saturday	Mike Crawford cooking
New Life Women's Fellowship	Oct 25	Hosted at Mike & Renee's home

Harvest Festival	Oct 29	Church event with New Life Kids
Team Trivia Night	Nov 8 – 5:30 PM	“We Care” event with dinner and prizes
Butterfield Rodeo	Oct 24–25	Rescheduled due to weather

## B. Prayer Requests and Praises

- Steve Adams – Praise: Hired by Pierce Sunsites Fire & Medical. Request: Wisdom and peace during medical tests.
- Chris Davis – Praise: Wife Jan recovering. Requests: Healing for Marita (surgery) and Manny (eye procedure).
- Kim – Request: Peace and trust during Marty’s health challenges.
- Valinda – Request: Successful surgical consultation.
- Unnamed Fiancée – Request: Van with wheelchair lift; sale of Jeep, RV, and camper.
- General Prayers – For those absent due to illness; for Steve and JP’s restful fishing trip.
- Global Affairs – Mention of reports that Hamas agreed to peace conditions, though skepticism remains.

Greek Words Used: None found in this document.

Scripture Verification: All references (2 Corinthians 10:1–6; Ephesians 6:13–17) match NKJV wording for the listed items.