

First Baptist Church Poinciana
Spiritual Warfare Series
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“SLAM THE DOOR IN THE ENEMY’S FACE”

Jesus Christ is called the “Captain of our salvation” - Hebrews 2:10
“...who (Jesus) went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...Acts 10:38

This is also the purpose of His CHURCH.

- 🌐 The first time spiritual warfare is mentioned in scripture is at the very beginning of the Church. (Matthew 16:18). *On this rock (Jesus) I will build my church, and the gates of hell [hades] will not prevail {gain victory over} against it.*
- 🌐 Here is spiritual warfare at the first mention of the church.
- 🌐 This passage is often misunderstood - as if the church is on the defense from an enemy; some see the church/individuals as the ones locked behind some gates. Let’s look at the passage again:

The Greek text speaks in such a way as to say: **WE** are attacking the gates of hell.

- 🌐 The church is on the OFFENSE tearing down the gates of the kingdom of darkness and setting captives free.
- 🌐 We see a militant Christ and a militant Church.

We are fighting an invisible war against a very sinister foe.

We have weapons of the Spirit that can win.

Many believers live with defeat of oppression, fear, family curses, personality changes, habits, addictions, and unexplained illness.

Where is the victory promised to us? What is going on?

2 Corinthians 10:3-4: Speaks on attacks on Believers.

- 🌐 Paul uses the word(s) stronghold; meaning fortress to describe these problems. These (strongholds) are the way the enemy gains control of the Christian’s life.

What is a Stronghold? - Listen very carefully!

- A stronghold is a fortress of wrong thinking that can harbor a demonic entity
- The demonic entity can launch attacks from the house our wrong thinking has constructed for demonic entity.
- We have actually put a gun in the hand of the enemy for the enemy to shoot us. - By our own thinking, we built the stronghold, nurtured it, and allowed it to gain access (stronghold) in our life - and then use us to create destruction. - **The Battle of the Mind**- is where satan, and demonic entities love to attack.
- Habits and addictions many times are simply demonically infested strongholds. This is NOT demon possession but *demonic infestation*.
- Christians can be oppressed, depressed, tempted, harassed, and battered - but they cannot be possessed.

Learning Terms in Spiritual Warfare Theology/Doctrine

- Believers can never be completely overtaken by satan and his demons, the fact is - many are *constantly harassed* by wicked forces.
- When a Christian's life is lived in the flesh - demons are given place in the believer's mind. (Eph. 4:30-32)
- **This is typically caused by**
 - Unconfessed Sin | 1 John 1:9
 - Unbroken habit/obsession | Romans 6:6
 - A Wrong Attitude | Eph. 4:31
- Simply Put - You: as a believer have embraced a lie. (2 Corinthians 10:5) Just because it's your opinion does not mean it's the truth.
- The battle rages in the thinking process of believers; these...
 - Wrong Ideas, bad attitudes, false assumptions, wrong traditions, and lies (gossip/slander) can become a doorway for demons into our lives, and serve as a hiding place to harbor demons as well. (A demonic hiding place) - Some demons have found a perfect home in the pews of many churches - breaking unity, stirring up strife, and spiritually crippling entire congregations. **TIME TO SLAM THE DOOR!**

ROOT CAUSES FOR STRONGHOLDS

Strongholds are like weeds - you've gotta get the root. If not, they just grow deeper, stronger, and hit when least expected. Let's look at several common areas

1. **Spirit of infirmity** affected a believing woman. (Luke 13:11)

- 🌀 Was a faithful attender of the synagogue
- 🌀 Daughter of Abraham - identified as a believer.
- 🌀 Still attacked by demonic forces on her health

2. **Spirit of Fear** (2 Timothy 1:7)

- 🌀 Includes - fright, torment, inferiority, inadequacy, worry, critical spirit, tensions, performance comparison, anxiety, and all types of phobias (irrational fears of anything)

3. **Spirit of Python - also called Divination.** (Witch-craft) (Acts 16:16-18)

Witchcraft is not a person dressed in black stirring a pot.

- 🌀 Rebellion - witchcraft (by name) occult practices, and all evil arts flow from this spirit. Curses follow involvement with these practices.

4. **Enslaving Spirits** - these usually accompany fear. (Romans 8:15)

- 🌀 Addictions, bulimia, anorexia, wrong relationships, codependency, other obsessive disorders are worsened by this demon.

5. **Spirit of Pride** - typically goes with rebellion. (Proverbs 16:18-19)

- 🌀 Pride - scorn - mockery - lewdness - egotism - prejudice - arrogance - gossip - and criticism: manifest from the wickedness of this spirit.

6. **Spirit of Antichrist** (anyone that is not with Christ is an antichrist)

- 🌀 1 John 4:3
- 🌀 This demon takes great pride in using people (often believers) to take glory away from Christ; denies supernatural gifts, attributes them as "outdated, no longer needed nor relevant, or of satan.
- 🌀 The demon through "believers" opposes; harasses; persecutes; and attempts to divide churches, "take down" pastors/church leaders and hinder true ministry. Satan/Demon knows exactly who to choose for this task as well; they are typically in some post of leadership, or looked up to within the church - yet under the influence of this demonic entity.

7. **Spirit of Depression / Heaviness** (Isa. 61:3)

- 🌀 Unresolved depression - Abnormal Grief - Despair - Hopelessness - Suicidal Thoughts all flow from this evil twisting demon. (See note)

8. **Lying Spirit** (one of satan's favorite tools) (1 John 4:6)

- 🌀 Unbelief - Deception - Compromise - Intellectualism - Cults - Flattery - Legalism - all of these flow from this divisive spirit.

9. **Spirit of Jealousy** - The relationship destroying spirit. (Numbers 5:14)

- 🌐 Jealousy - Anger - Rage - Cruelty - Unnatural Competition - Insecurity - and Division are the result of allowing this spirit to operate.

Take Down The Enemy's Strongholds

Become an ARMED BELIEVER! (Revelation 12:11) gives us our threefold weapon to OVERCOME the enemy!

1. The Blood cancels satan's right to oppress you - Slam the Door.
2. The word of your testimony. Release God's word out of your mouth against the enemy. The truth will set you free. - Slam the Door.
3. A Surrendered Life to Jesus. (Not my life, but His)

We see the atoning blood of Jesus, the witness of the armed believer, and the life abandoned to the will of Jesus | When lived out = SATAN TREMBLES

REMOVE THE STRONGHOLDS - TODAY! SLAM THE DOOR!

1. Be sure you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior
2. Realize only God can remove a stronghold.
3. Identify the stronghold. Call it what it is!
4. Confess all sins, especially those related to the stronghold.
5. Thank God for forgiveness.
6. Visualize the destruction.
7. Ask God to free you from the negative demonic force associated with strongholds
8. Make restitution - apologize, restore relationships, allow the spirit to lead and guide you at all times.

After these are completed you **MUST** reclaim territory! Confess that you are no longer affected by that area of stronghold and claim God's faithfulness.

- 🌐 Be finished with the sin that enslaved you.
- 🌐 Fill your mind with scripture to reinforce the victory.
- 🌐 Share your testimony.

When we are full of obedience, and have cast aside every stronghold - the demons lurking behind the lies, habits, sickness, and wrong choices are exposed and God will punish their disobedience. (Ekdikeo) = Revenge. God will take revenge on every demon that has dared threaten you. **God will restore you.**

Is there a demonic infestation that you need to slam the door on today?

What is stopping you from claiming the victory God is ready to give you?

Please use the connect card portion of the bulletin to share prayer requests, and decisions you have made today.

Together today - let's join as an entire church in slamming the door on our enemy.

Psychological/ Mental Health issues are real. They are NOT caused by a lack of faith, praying , etc. They are at times caused by demonic influences, but still require professional counseling and often times medication. Participating in counseling, taking mental health medications is not a spiritual weakness. These situations are no different than seeking medical help for High Blood Pressure. We have resources and referrals to professionals when you are ready to take that step. We can connect you to a network of Christian & Bible Based (fully licensed) counselors to help you and get you on the road to recovery. If you need help please contact us at 863.427.0075 for the information to our counseling network. Numbers below are for immediate helps.

If you have suicidal thoughts please contact someone immediately. Help is possible.

Suicide Counseling Lifeline: 800.273.8255 (speak to trained counselor)

Suicide Prevention: 888.333.2377

Anxiety, Depression Association: 240.485.1001

Child & Adult ADD/ADHD: 800.233.4040

Depression & Bipolar Support: 800.826.3632

Eating Issues: 800.931.2237

Financial Helps:

needehelpayingbills.com

Needy Meds - Medications Assistance : 800.503.6897