

# MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

## 1. REVIEW

A. "YOU CAN DO MORE THAN PRAY AFTER YOU HAVE PRAYED, BUT YOU CANNOT DO MORE THAN PRAY UNTIL YOU HAVE PRAYED." – JOHN BUNYAN

B. **SPEAKING GOD'S WORD:**

1. **OUT LOUD TO SATAN**
2. **BACK TO GOD IN PRAYER**

C. **PRAYING GOD'S WORDS BACK TO HIM...**

1. **WHEN we TRULY UNDERSTAND PRAYER, AND WHO WE ARE PRAYING TO** that **UNDERSTANDING CHANGES...**

- a. **how** we pray
- b. **what** we pray,
- c. **when** we pray,
- d. **whether or not** we pray,
- e. as well as the **EXPECTATIONS** we have **ABOUT PRAYER.**

2. The **FOUNDATION OF PRAYER** is **KNOWING WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID.**

## 2. **PRAYING SCRIPTURE TO OVERCOME STRONGHOLDS**

A. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)** The **weapons** we fight with are not the **weapons** of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **strongholds**. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

B. **WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?**

1. A **STRONGHOLD** is anything that **EXALTS ITSELF** in our **MINDS**, **"PRETENDING"** TO BE BIGGER OR MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR GOD.

a. **EXAMPLES of STRONGHOLDS IN A CHRISTIAN:**

- 1) **IDOLATRY**
- 2) **UNBELIEF**
- 3) **PRIDE**
- 4) **DECEPTION**
- 5) **THE INSESECURITY OF FEELING UNLOVED**
- 6) **FEELINGS of REJECTION**

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- 7) ADDICTIONS
- 8) FOOD RELATED STRONGHOLDS
- 9) GUILT
- 10) DESPAIR RESULTING FROM LOSS
- 11) UNFORGIVENESS
- 12) DEPRESSION
- 13) SEXUAL STRONGHOLDS

### C. WHERE IS THE BATTLEFIELD?

#### 1. IN OUR MINDS

- 2. The ENEMY'S CHIEF TARGET is the MIND.
  - a. BECAUSE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO INFLUENCE OUR BEHAVIOR IS TO INFLUENCE THINKING.

### D. WHAT ARE OUR WEAPONS?

- 1. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, there are 4 VITAL PIECES OF INFORMATION IDENTIFYING the WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE:
  - a. They are NOT the WEAPONS of the WORLD.
  - b. They have DIVINE POWER.
  - c. They are associated with the "KNOWLEDGE OF GOD."
  - d. Their PURPOSE in warfare is to TAKE OUR THOUGHTS CAPTIVE.
- 2. I am convinced that the 2 MAJOR WEAPONS with DIVINE POWER in our SPIRITUAL WARFARE... ESPECIALLY TO DESTROY STRONGHOLDS are:
  - a. the WORD OF GOD.
  - b. and SPIRIT-EMPOWERED PRAYER.
- 3. These 2 WEAPONS HAVE "DIVINE POWER".
  - a. The original Greek word for "POWER" is the adjective form of the term "dunamai".
    - 1) The English word "DYNAMITE" is derived from the SAME ROOT WORD.
  - b. Virtually NOTHING we come up against in our individual Christian lives IS MORE FORMIDABLE than a "STRONGHOLD".
    - 1) The very nature of the term tells us that whatever it is, it has a "STRONG HOLD" on us.
    - 2) "STRONGHOLDS" CAN NOT be swept away with a spiritual broom.
      - i. "STRONGHOLDS" are BROKEN ONE WAY ONLY... they have to be "DEMOLISHED".

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- ii. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)** The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds**. We **demolish** arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- c. **God HAS HANDED US TWO STICKS of DYNAMITE with which to “DEMOLISH” OUR STRONGHOLDS:**
  - 1) **HIS WORD**
  - 2) and **PRAYER.**
- d. **Ephesians 6:17b-18 (NASB)** And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**. With all **prayer** and **petition pray** at all times **in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- 4. **PRAYING GOD’S WORD** takes **BELIEF, DILIGENCE, AND TIME... BUT THE EFFECTS ARE DRAMATICALLY LIBERATING** and **ETERNAL.**
- 5. **QUESTION???** SHOULD I USE SCRIPTURE **EVERY TIME I PRAY?**
  - a. **NO!**
  - b. **BUT... THERE IS NOT A MORE POWERFUL WAY TO DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS IN OUR LIVES THAN BY PRAYING SCRIPTURE!**
- 3. **NOTE:** The **LAST THING** I want to do is **SET MYSELF UP AS SOME SORT OF PROPER EXAMPLE.**
  - A. If I am an **example of anything at all**, I am an **EXAMPLE OF LIFE AFTER FAILURE.**
- 4. **PLEASE BE OPEN MINDED ABOUT PRAYING GOD’S WORD... IT COMES WITH A GUARANTEE...**
  - A. **Isaiah 55:11 (NASB)** So will **My word be** which goes forth from My mouth; **It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.**
- 5. **PRAYING GOD’S WORD TO “DEMOLISH” THE STRONGHOLDS OF:**
  - A. **DECEPTION**
  - B. **UNFORGIVENESS**
  - C. **PRIDE**