

# Tearing Down Strongholds

## (Lesson 1)

A Stronghold is a place secure against attack

1. These strongholds are bondages in our lives that hinder us from doing the things God created us to do.
2. It is difficult for us to break these strongholds off our lives.
3. There are fleshly strongholds & there are spiritual strongholds
  - We are able to break free from fleshly strongholds without spiritual warfare
  - Spiritual strongholds require spiritual warfare to get free

In order to tear down the strongholds in our lives and keep them torn down

1. We must have a strong foundation, based on the Word of God, in this area
2. We must realize we have a real enemy who wants to destroy us and the plan God has for our lives

Satan is your enemy – I Peter 5:8

1. Currently there are two extremes, in the world today, concerning Satan
  - To ignore his existence.
  - To be so preoccupied with him and his kingdom that we are more aware of him than we are of God the Father & His kingdom
2. The correct balance is to recognize Satan's power and plan, but to realize, according to God's Word, he is a defeated enemy

Satan's beginning – Ezekiel 28:12-15

1. His name was Lucifer
  - He was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty

- He was one of the 3 arch-angels
  - He led the heavenly choir
2. Isaiah 14:13&14
    - Satan sinned because he got into pride
  3. He did not lose any of his attributes when he was cast out of heaven

Satan has a plan and a purpose

1. John 10:10
  - His plan is to kill, steal and destroy
  - You, the call of God on your life, and your ministry
2. I Peter 5:8
  - He is seeking who he may devour
3. Satan does not work alone
  - Just like there is a chain of command in the military there is also one in the spiritual realm – Ephesians 6:12
  - He also uses people to do his work
    - Some willingly
    - Some unwillingly

There are many ways in which Satan get advantages in our lives

1. By acquiring ground (control) in our lives
  - Sometimes we willfully give him control by:
    - a. our involvement in things of the occult
    - b. allowing addictions to control us
    - c. being rebellious or walking in unforgiveness
    - d. indulging in fleshly sins - Gal. 5:19-21
  - Sometimes that control is acquired unwillingly through such things as:
    - a. tragedies
    - b. abuse
    - c. generational curses