

STRONGHOLDS AREN'T DEMONS

Defining Spiritual Warfare and the 8 (Underrated) Weapons Available to All

A brief overview from WandaAlger.Me

Some scriptures on WARFARE:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 ESV).

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8 ESV).

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 ESV).

- We are warring against demonic forces seeking to devour us.
- But “they” are not the focus. Rather, what “draws” them to us.

What are these strongholds?

ARGUMENTS, LOFTY OPINIONS, and THOUGHTS raised against God’s TRUTH.

- “Stronghold” = *any argument or reasoning used by a disputant to fortify his own opinion and defend it against his opponent.*
- Thought structures.

A GOOD stronghold:

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. (Psalms 9:9)

A BAD stronghold is a lie, ungodly belief, even unhealed wound causing offense or bitterness.

WHAT WEAPONS DO WE USE?

1. THE WORD OF GOD

- a. Hebrews 4:12 – Divides soul and spirit – discerns the thoughts and intents of hearts
- b. Ephesians 6:17 – the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

2. RENEWED THINKING

- a. Romans 12:2 – Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

3. OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST

- a. John 14:15 – If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 - b. Obedience is a weapon of spiritual alignment.
4. PRAYER
- a. Ephesians 6:18 – praying always in the Holy Spirit.
 - b. James 5:16 – the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective.
 - c. Prayer ACTIVATES the weapons (listed after the armor in Eph 6).
5. FAITH
- a. Ephesians 6:16 – Use the shield of faith to distinguish the devil’s darts.
 - b. 1 John 5:4 – Our faith is the victory that overcomes the world.
 - c. Faith is both defensive and offensive – it resists and advances.
6. THE NAME AND AUTHORITY OF JESUS
- a. Mark 16:17 – In My name they will cast out demons.
 - b. Philippians 2:9 – His name is above every other name.
 - c. Authority flows from relationship, not volume.
7. RIGHTEOUSNESS AND INTEGRITY
- a. Eph 6:14 – Breastplate of righteousness
 - b. 2 Cor 6:7 – Righteousness is a weapon (with truthful speech and God’s power)
8. TESTIMONY & PERSEVERING FAITHFULNESS
- a. Rev 12:11 – Overcoming through His blood and the word of our testimony.

The HOLY SPIRIT is the SOURCE of power for these weapons. Not our fleshly efforts.

- **Truth** without the Spirit becomes information.
- **Faith** without the Spirit becomes effort.
- **Authority** without the Spirit becomes presumption.

The GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT are powerful TOOLS in NULLIFYING LIES:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| • Word of Knowledge | Exposes hidden strongholds or hidden lies |
| • Discerning of spirits | Identifies spiritual influences |
| • Faith | Breaks resistance beyond our own abilities. |
| • Healings | Destroys lies rooted in pain, trauma, or infirmity. |
| • Miracles | Demonstrates God’s supremacy over false power. |
| • Prophecy | Calls us out of deception and into Truth. |

How do these definitions of WARFARE compare with the focus in the New Testament (especially the apostle Paul)?

PAUL’S FOCUS was on defeating lies and ungodly mindsets and renewing the mind.

- He does not stress deliverance techniques as the primary source of freedom.
- Our greatest battle is in WHAT WE BELIEVE – not against demons.

A COMPARISON OF PAUL'S MODEL AND THE MODERN CHARISMATIC WARFARE MODEL

Category	Paul's apostolic model	Charismatic Warfare model
Primary Battlefield	Mind, conscience, belief system	Spiritual atmosphere, regions, Territorial spirits
Definition of stronghold	False ideas, reasoning, lies	Demons, spiritual hierarchies
Primary weapons	Truth revealed by Holy Spirit	Power encounters (casting out, Breaking, rebuking, etc.)
Authority emphasis	Comes through submission and obedience	Positional authority (identity in Christ)
Use of Jesus' name	Used relationally, humbly	Sometimes formulaic or Declarative
Prayer focus	Persevering intercession, clarity endurance, maturity	Command-oriented decrees warfare prayers
Deliverance method	Repentance, truth, renewed thinking, obedience	Casting out, renouncing, breaking assignment, etc.
View of power	Power authenticates truth, never replaces it.	Sometimes viewed as evidence of spiritual maturity.
End Goal	Christ formed in believers, transformed minds	Immediate freedom, relief, or breakthrough.

- Strongholds are INTERNAL more than GEOGRAPHIC
 - Territorial principalities and powers are the *result* of collective lies. The only way to overcome them is to *displace them with collective agreement with the truth*.
- Power is subordinate to Truth.
- Obedience and Submission to Christ are primary – not defeating demons.

Challenges we must overcome with the modern Charismatic Warfare model:

- We can't blame demons for something WE need to repent of.
 - We aren't coming against a spirit of Jezebel, but the lies that empowered "her."
- The goal isn't deliverance, but long-term transformation.
- Experiences don't validate truth – long-term fruit does.
- Spiritual authority is relational before its ever confrontational.
- Our proof of calling is not power, but our character, integrity, and enduring faith.

Paul speaks of waging war against these strongholds by dismantling lies through Spirit-empowered truth that produces obedience, maturity, and Christlikeness – not by obsessing over demonic structures or power techniques.