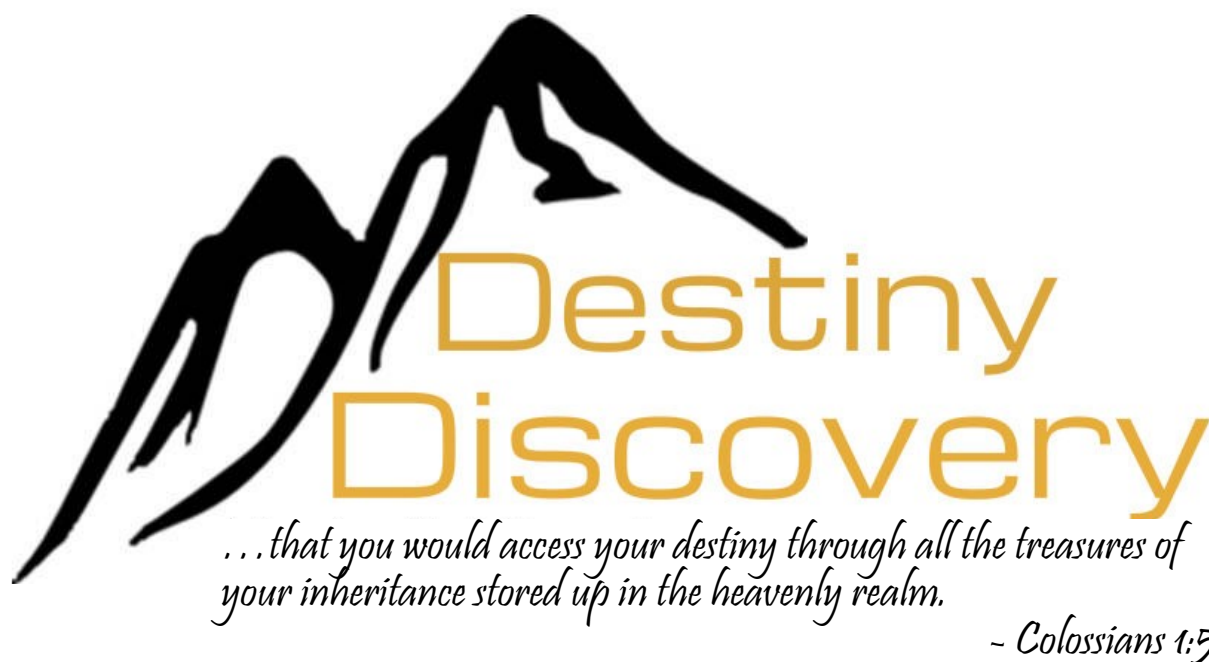


Spiritual Warfare

201



A ministry of:

The Point Fellowship
514 North 3rd Street, Temple, TX 76501
www.thepoint.tv

DESTINY DISCOVERY



Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. Eph 6:11

(32.b part 1)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE 201

Part 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Session: 1	Why Warfare Exists
Session: 2	Revealing His Will and Glory
Session: 3	Authority and Character
Session: 4	Authority and Character
Session: 5	Schemes for Individuals
Session: 6	He Tempts Us to Sin
Session: 7	What Satan Really Wants
Session: 8	Truth Breaks Strongholds

A bible study from the book "Spiritual Warfare"
by John Franklin and Chuck Lawless

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare Handout-1

WHY WARFARE EXISTS

The questions we will look at today:

1. What do we mean by spiritual warfare?
2. Is God in control?

Spiritual warfare is the _____ of two _____

Two factors that caused Satan to turn from God:

1. His _____ was _____ because of his _____;
2. He said, " _____ "

*Satan had position, beauty, wisdom, and perfection.
He never focused on who GAVE the gifts to him. He focused on himself.*

SATAN IS ALREADY DEFEATED!

Christians do not fight with _____. We cannot follow God & ultimately lose.

*God, in His sovereignty, does not exempt His children from the war. The question then is not whether you want to
Be involved—but rather, when I become involved, will I be ready?*

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY VS. SATAN'S FREEDOM

Sovereignty: supreme excellence or an example of it; a supreme power (especially of a body); freedom from external control.

Belief #1: You believe Satan is completely free to attack at will, then you will expect constant attacks with no greater purpose than Satan's attempts to hinder the will of God and personally destroy you.

Belief #2: You believe God is sovereign, then you will assume that Satan had to first obtain permission, and God has a greater purpose in mind for the warfare.

Satan's freedom does not mean he is free to do anything he wants. He must obtain _____ before he can act in the life of a _____

Implications of a Sovereign God

1. God has a greater purpose in spiritual warfare.
2. The focus would be on God, not Satan, in the midst of the attack.
3. The confidence for victory depends on God, not me and my performance.
4. The standard of evaluating success depends on whether or not God accomplished His purposes through my life.

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Implications of an Unsovereign God

1. There would be no purpose in spiritual warfare, only random attacks.
2. The focus would have to be on Satan and his plots and schemes instead of God's purposes.
3. The confidence for victory would depend on me and my performance.
4. The standard of evaluating success would depend on whether we were able to remove Satan.

God's sovereignty does not mean that we have no _____ in warfare!!!!

Scripture References: Eph. 2:2-3; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:7-12; Eph. 6:12; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 12:13,17; Job 1:6-12; Job 2:1-6; Luke 8:32; 1 Cor. 5:5; Luke 22:31-32

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare

Handout – 2

The question we will look at today: **What are God's intentions in allowing warfare in a believer's life?**

Reason #1 God uses warfare to _____ His _____ and _____.

REASONS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD:

1. Whenever Satan commits or perpetuates evil against the children of God,
God _____ that _____ to _____ His _____.
2. God turns into _____ what Satan means for _____.
3. Satan's _____ cannot _____ the _____ of God.

GOD USES WARFARE TO REVEAL HIS GLORY

God's _____ cannot be _____ from His _____.

No one, nothing, can subtract from God's glory. If God were dependent on another to reveal His glory, then He would be less than God because He would not be self-sufficient.

The glory of His _____ was _____ by the _____
_____ in which it occurred.

*His will does include what He wants to accomplish, but we often forget that the **heart of His will** focuses on developing a relationship with His children.*

Reason #2 _____

The kingdom is the _____ and _____ over all that is under His
_____.

HOW IS GOD'S KINGDOM ADVANCED?

1. _____
2. _____
3. The _____ of _____ and _____ among Christians.

DESTINY DISCOVERY

*Full confidence comes with obedience.
Victory doesn't come from intelligence, power, or plans of man.
Victory only comes by God and working it God's way.*

The only _____ a Christian has against Satan is _____ to God.

Reason #3 _____ to Christ's _____

Scripture References: Luke 22:2-4; John 13:27; John 14:30; Hebrews 12:2; Acts 16; James 4:6-7; 2 Corinthians 10:6; Romans 8:18-37; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 4:13

HOMEWORK:

Read Ephesians chapters 1 – 3.

Every time you see the phrase “in Christ” write the scripture down.

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare

Handout: 3

AUTHORITY AND CHARACTER

We have been given authority to _____ with God.

Sitting together with Him implies reigning on the throne with Him. God has given us His authority.

BIBLE PARADOX SNAPSHOTS

- Snapshot 1—** Matthew 4:10 Jesus said, "Away from me, Satan!"
Matthew 4:5 Jesus allowed the devil to hang around and tempt Him for 40 days and set Jesus on the pinnacle of the temple.
- Snapshot 2—** Matthew 15:28 Jesus healed the girl from severe demon possession.
Luke 22:31 Jesus granted Satan permission to sift the disciples.
- Snapshot 3—** Job 1:10 God had built a hedge of protection around Job
Job 1:12 God granted permission for it to be removed.
- Snapshot 4—** Mark 5:8 Jesus cast out a legion of demons out of a man
Mark 5:13 Jesus allowed the demons to kill 2,000 pigs
- Snapshot 5—** Acts 16:18 Paul cast out a spirit
2 Corinthians 12:7 Paul was given a messenger of Satan to torment him the rest of his life.
- Snapshot 6—** Sometimes deliverance was immediate; other times saints were required to endure (Romans 16:20; 1 Peter 5:8-10; Revelation 13:10)

The purpose of authority is to _____ God's _____.

THREE TRUTHS JESUS UNDERSTOOD:

1. Authority is _____, not _____.

Implication: We do not have the _____ to _____ we will exercise authority.

2. Authority is _____, not _____.

Implication: The use of authority must always be in keeping with _____

3. Authority is _____, not _____.

Implication: Authority is _____ only as we are _____ with the _____ of God.

DESTINY DISCOVERY

The _____ of Christian's authority is not _____ but _____ and _____.

VICTORY IS THE RESULT OF OBEYING GOD!!!

*We must understand the purpose for authority; it is not for our own desires
but rather for doing His will.*

TWO APPLICATIONS OF OUR AUTHORITY:

#1 - _____

Jesus _____ to the _____ of His _____, not the -
_____ of _____.

Our Christian life is NOT about doing _____ with Satan but about _____ and doing
His _____.

#2 - _____

Scripture References: Colossians 1:28-29; Romans 8:32; Ephesians 2:6; Luke 10:17,19; Matthew 4:10; Matthew 4:5; Matthew 15:28; Job 1:10; Job 1:12; Mark 5:8; Mark 5:13; Acts 16:18; 2 Corinthians 12:7; John 10:18; John 5:27,30; John 12:49; John 14:10; 2 Corinthians 13:10; Mark 9:17-20; Mark 9:21-25; Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 10:1; Luke 10:17; Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 19

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare_
Handout 4

AUTHORITY AND CHARACTER

Warfare and Character

_____ occur for our _____.

If Jesus could win the private victory in the desert, then when the same type of temptation happened later in His public ministry, His initial response would already be settled.

God was _____ the righteous _____ of Jesus by giving Him a great resolve to _____.

Jesus did not _____, but His character was fully _____ through the trials He endured.

Character development is a _____

In warfare the battle is won or lost at the _____, _____.

BENEFITS PRODUCED BY CHARACTER:

1. Character produces _____
2. The degree of character determines the degree in _____
3. Character will impact our future life in _____

CHARACTER THROUGH ENDURANCE

Character development follows a _____.

THE PROCESS OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

1. God does not _____ us _____ trials but _____ them.
2. God provides a way for a believer to _____
3. _____ is for a _____
4. After a trial, _____ and _____

DESTINY DISCOVERY

GOD USES SATAN TO DISCIPLINE WAYWARD BELIEVERS

If more believers realized it is not a question of if there will be accountability but when there will be accountability, then fewer Christians would tempt God.

Discipline Is Designed to Lead to _____

God uses Satan to break a believer of _____ so that the _____ - _____ with God may be _____. This discipline usually follows _____

The degree of discipline depends on the _____ to _____.

_____ Is the Only Thing That Will _____ Satan

_____ in spiritual warfare never comes from _____ but from

_____ with God.

Scripture References: Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:2; Heb. 5:8-9; James 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8-10; 1 Tim. 4:8; Gen. 37-50; Job 40:3-5; Job 42:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:13; Luke 23:40-43; John 6:44; James 1:12; James 5:11; 1 Cor. 5; 1 Tim. 1:18-20;

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare

Handout: 5

SCHEMES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Satan uses our _____

The greatest _____ to your walk with God is to _____ your sin nature's ability to _____ you

Without Jesus we could never have victory over our flesh

1. The sinful nature _____
 - All sin springs from a desire to seek self's interests first, regardless of God's will.

4 Reasons Why God Allows the Devil to Tempt Us in Areas of Our Weakness:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The key to victory is to be aware and armed with the Word of God so that when Satan tempts you, you will be able to stand.

2. Satan _____ the _____ of God
 - Why? Because the Word is life-changing
3. Satan _____ Scriptures
 - He will use scripture to try to mislead and deceive us.
 - We must know God's Word sufficiently to respond to the devil's attacks.

Scripture References: James 1:14-15; Rom. 7:15-23; Luke 22:33; Gen. 3:1-7; Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:1-7; Psalm 91; Deut. 6:16

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare:

Session: 6

HE TEMPTS US TO LOSE FOCUS

We want to prepare ourselves to fight against temptations! The _____ is critical.

The devil works through three steps in the process of temptation:

Step 1: The Enemy _____ us in _____

The longer we _____ the _____, the more likely it is that we will _____ and sin.

Step 2: Then Enemy _____ on what we are _____

The less we focus on what we are missing the _____ we will be too many temptations.

Step 3: The Enemy makes sin _____

We tend to focus on the _____ while _____ the _____ of sin.

How Do I Respond to Temptation?

1. Run to God. When the devil wants you to enter into conversation with him, choose instead to talk to God.
2. Focus on God's goodness and blessings. When the devil entices you to see what you're missing, remember the blessings of God. Take time to think about all that God has done for you.
3. Remember the consequences of sin. The enemy makes sin look inviting, but the consequences are devastating. Think past the temporary pleasure to recognize the long-term pain of disobedience.
4. Be sure to thank God for protecting you when He has given you strength to defeat the enemy.

THE ENEMY PROMOTES BITTERNESS AND ANGER

A Difficult Word: We must _____ others.

Why is unforgiveness a matter of spiritual warfare?

1. Satan wants us to live disobediently, and unforgiveness is disobedience
2. Forgiving others is a mark of persons who have themselves been forgiven much.
3. Our witness through relationships is weakened when we choose not to forgive.

DESTINY DISCOVERY

How Do I Know if I Need to Forgive?

- Do I think often about the pain?
- Do I experience physical symptoms (stomach problems, lack of appetite, overeating, insomnia, and so forth) when I think of the pain?
- Do I want the person to hurt as I did before I offer forgiveness?
- Can I pray for the person?
- Will I rejoice if God blesses the person?

How Do I Begin the Process of Forgiving?

- Ask two or three prayer partners to pray with you about the matter.
- Dwell on God's forgiveness of you.
- Remember that forgiving does not justify the wrong, nor does it give permission for the offender to hurt you again.
- Determine either to forgive or to be disobedient to God.
- Make the decision to forgive, regardless of any feelings. Pray for the other person
- Be accountable to your prayer partners.

HE TEMPTS US TO LOSE FOCUS

Satan will try to _____ your _____ from the Lord.

The devil knows whatever we focus on will _____ whether we _____ or _____

All of Satan's tactics are _____ to get us to take our focus off of God.

Ways to Focus on God:

1. _____
 - Scriptures are the pure and undefiled thoughts of God.
2. _____
 - Prayer helps us focus on who He is and His purposes.
3. _____
 - Make sure that your major influences are from God.
4. _____
 - Will it bring glory to God?

Scripture References: Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:11; 1 Cor. 6:18; James 4; Matt. 26:41; Gen. 3:4-5; Gen. 2:16-17; Matt. 4:1-11; 1 John 2:16; Matt. 6:14-15; John 13:35; Matt. 6:22-23; Luke 22:54-62; Mark 14:69; Matt. 26:71; John 18:25; John 18:26

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare

Session: 7

WHAT SATAN REALLY WANTS

Satan wants your _____

Satan knows the value of capturing the mind. Our mind has the single greatest impact on how we respond to God.

6 FUNCTIONS OF THE MIND:

1. The _____ is _____ by the mind. *The mind is the gateway to the transforming of the heart.*

2. The mind _____ and the will of God.

Satan's tactics on biblical characters was to subvert their minds. He tried to:

- *Deceive*
- *Cause people to misunderstand*
- *Cause people to come to the wrong conclusion about truth*
- *To forget*
- *To misfocus*

Satan knows that if he can _____ your mind, you will be _____ to perceive the will of God.

3. Your _____ system determines _____, _____, & _____

4. _____ with God/Others requires the mind.

5. A _____ mind will _____ your _____ to God in the Kingdom

6. The mind is the _____ for _____ or _____.

Bondage and freedom originate from our belief systems – our minds.

Your mind determines _____ with God, your _____ as a Christian, and your _____ with other believers.

STRONGHOLDS OF FALSE THINKING

The Nature of Strongholds - _____

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Two definitions for a Stronghold-Underline the words in both definitions that seem most significant to you:

“An entrenched pattern of thought, an ideology, value, or behavior that is contrary to the word and will of God.”

“A mind-set impregnated with hopelessness that causes us to accept as unchangeable, situations that we know are contrary to the will of God.”

Combining these definitions:

“A stronghold is an _____ of thinking and acting that we believe _____, even though we know that such thoughts and actions are _____ to God’s will.”

TWO STRONGHOLDS OF WRONG THINKING MOST OFTEN HOLDING US CAPTIVE:

1. Stronghold of _____

When we reach the point that it seems we'll never overcome the negative messages, strongholds develop. We give up the spiritual battle.

False/wrong thinking leads to _____

2. Strongholds of _____

A stronghold of pride develops when we know pride is _____ but either

(1) We are _____ to _____ that pride is the problem, or

(2) we _____ against God’s _____ our pride, believing instead that our ‘goodness’ deserves better treatment from Him.

Wrong thinking convinces us that God owes us something.

Pride also manifests when we see the issue but are not willing to _____ and turn from the sin.

Statements that might reflect a pride issue in your life:

- ☐ I try not to be prideful, but sometimes I do wonder how my church would get along with me.
- ☐ I do at times compare myself to others, then determine that I am better than most people.
- ☐ I am tempted sometimes in my praying to remind God of how faithful I have been.
- ☐ I think I am more spiritual than most people; in fact, that’s one of the reasons I am taking this course.
- ☐ I think God wants to break the pride in me, but I’m not ready for that painful process.

_____ gratitude will _____ the enemy’s influence in your life

DESTINY DISCOVERY

STRONGHOLDS OF SIN

1. The Start of the Pattern: _____

See if any of the following might be leaving space for foothold in your life:

- ☐ I watch media that lead me in the wrong direction.
- ☐ The music I listen to sometimes leads me more toward the devil than to God.
- ☐ The places where I go are not always God-honoring places.
- ☐ I read literature that doesn't always direct me toward God.
- ☐ Maybe because I don't always faithfully attend church, I often focus in the enemy's direction.
- ☐ I am easily swayed by friends and seldom take a stand for my Christian beliefs.
- ☐ I probably don't study God's Word enough to be prepared for spiritual battles.
- ☐ I spend too little time praying, giving too little attention to God.
- ☐ Other: _____

2. The Process Continues: _____

Satan does not only attack in the temptation but also in the _____ after the sin

Here are some you may have heard:

- ☐ I told you that you would fall again
- ☐ God probably won't forgive you this time
- ☐ There's no way that God will ever use you again now
- ☐ You're so easy to deceive and mislead. You're not even a challenge anymore.
- ☐ You'll never overcome this sin. Why do you even try?

When we believe we cannot change, we stop trying to change—and the stronghold becomes apparent.

The Development of a Stronghold:

1. We place ourselves in the way of temptation.
2. Satan entices us to give in to temptation.
3. We fail, and Satan strikes with accusations.
4. We listen to the accusations, assuming we cannot change.
5. We lose our hope.
6. Having lost our hope, we again place ourselves in the way of temptation—and lose the battles.

"We need to recognize how thinking processes influence this pattern. Temptations most often begin in the mind. Particularly if we have heard the past negative messages of poor self-worth, we might seek to hide those messages through the pleasure of sin. On the other hand, sometimes our ego sets us up for failure. In either case, we convince ourselves through our thought processes to succumb to the temptation. Satan accuses us again, and we hear his words of accusation in our minds. With no hope, we continually open our minds to further temptation—and, ultimately, to defeat."

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Is a Stronghold Developing?

- ❖ Has the sin become habitual? That is, do I continually commit the sin, even though I know that God is displeased?
- ❖ Have I given up fighting the sin? Am I close to saying, “What’s the point of trying? I just can’t overcome this sin”?
- ❖ Do I continue placing myself in the way of temptation? Though I know that temptation—and probably failure—await, do I still move in the devil’s direction?
- ❖ With regard to my sin, is it hard for me to believe bible promises such as “When you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Cor. 10:13)?
- ❖ Have I stopped spending time with God, reading His Word and praying, because I am so overwhelmed by the guilt of my sin?

1 John 1:9 Amplified

If we freely admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action.].

Scripture References: Acts 14:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Cor. 11:3; Matt. 15:16-17; Matt. 16:9, 11; Mark 4:13; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Matt. 13:19; Luke 24:44-45; Matt. 16:22; Mark 10:13; Luke 9:49; John 15:15; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 11:3; Gal. 1:7; Gal. 3:1; Gal. 4:17; Gal. 5:8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Luke 18:9-14; Prov. 16:18; Prov. 11:2; Eph. 4:23-27

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Spiritual Warfare

Sessions: 8

TRUTH BREAKS STRONGHOLDS

Mark each statement true (T), false (F), or uncertain (U).
The answers are at the end of the worksheet

- _____ 1. Satan is more interested in what we do than what we think.
- _____ 2. Strongholds are usually related to our thinking.
- _____ 3. Strongholds are not related to our actions.
- _____ 4. After we become Christians, Satan can no longer affect our minds.
- _____ 5. Our new birth in Christ guarantees that we will never again wrestle w/negative messages from the past
- _____ 6. Satan wants us to give up when we are tempted, to assume that we can never overcome temptations.

TRUTH ENCOUNTERS vs. POWER ENCOUNTERS

_____ Encounters: A visible display of God's power, such as physical healings, deliverances, etc.

_____ Encounters: The intentional application of biblical truth to life so that we might overcome the lies and power of the enemy. Truth encounters brings freedom from strongholds of the mind.

JESUS: OUR MODEL FOR LIVING THE TRUTH

- 1. Satan blatantly _____ Jesus.
- 2. Jesus responded to each temptation with the _____

Why Memorizing the Word Is Important:

- * Hiding His Word in our hearts helps us to guard against sin (Ps.119:11)
- * Knowing His Word helps us to think about things that are honoring to God (Phil.4:8)
- * The Word, quoted out of a life of holiness, causes the devil to flee (Luke 4:13)
- * The truth sets us free (John 8:32)
- * What we put into our minds affects how we live
- * We don't always have access to a Bible when we face spiritual attacks
- * Even when we have access to a Bible, we can't always immediately locate the texts

- 3. Jesus not only _____ the Word, but He also _____ it out.

"When Jesus Christ was assailed by Satan in the wilderness, He had a great choice of weapons with which to fight Satan, but he took none but this sword of the Spirit: "It is written." This is our battle-ax and weapon of war. A spiritual kingdom must be set up and supported by spiritual means only." - Charles Spurgeon: "Spiritual Warfare In A Believers Life"

DESTINY DISCOVERY

Suggestions for Bible Study

- Read a passage of Scripture
- Thank God for any promises apparent in the text
- Think about the teachings in the passage, focusing on their application to your life
- If you recognize wrong in your life, confess it and turn from it. As God challenges you to live a godlier life, commit yourself to it.
- Write down any commitments that you make
- Consider memorizing any passage that God brings to your attention
- Look up significant words in a concordance and find scriptures relating to it.

APPLYING TRUTH

Taking Thoughts Captive: _____ of the mind/thoughts

The Apostle Paul gives us the image of a military invasion when capturing our minds. This shows us two things:

1. Conforming the mind to _____ to God is not always _____; in fact, it is a _____.

DAILY PROCESS OF BREAKING AND AVOIDING STRONGHOLDS DAILY:

- a) Study God's Word each day - _____
- b) _____ and accept the truths of God's Word
- c) Daily _____ the _____—claim the truths against the lies.
- d) _____ the truth—live in _____
- e) Daily ask for God's _____ and protection

2. Our battles are fought on behalf of _____ so that their minds are _____ from lies

Taking Thoughts Captive: _____

We can take thoughts captive by:

- Thinking upon things that are _____
- _____ those _____ out loud
- Then _____ a life _____ to build on that thinking.

We are more likely to break spiritual strongholds when we think and act on the truths of God's Word.

(Answers to activity: 1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F; 5. F; 6. F; 7. T)

Scripture References: John 8:32; John 14:6; John 16:13; John 17:17; Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 9:23; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; 2 Cor. 2:11; 2 Cor. 3:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Phil. 4:7-9;