



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | www.clcriverside.org | 951-689-6785

PART 1 | TRUE SPIRITUAL POWER

The key to true spiritual power and authority that breaks strongholds and brings freedom in our lives lies in first winning the battle that rages within our own hearts and minds. Internal victory creates outward victory.

1. Spiritual victory is *not* primarily about battling the devil or demonic forces (Ephesians 6:10–17); rather, it begins with overcoming our “old nature” and learning to bring our desires under the rule of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 7–8)
 - Psalm 19:12-13 *...Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous (deliberate, willful) sins; let them not have dominion (rule) over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.*
 - Proverbs 16:32 *Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.* (Proverbs 25:28)
2. The enemy’s power gains access through the uncrucified areas of our flesh nature. Jesus declared, “The prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me...” (John 14:30) In the same way, when we surrender our sin “handles” to God (Galatians 5:19-21)—those areas where the flesh still rules—we close the entrance to the enemy’s influence and control. Where there is no agreement with sin, there is no foothold for Satan. True spiritual authority begins with a control of our mind, our emotions, and our will through the power of the Spirit. (1 John 5:4-5)
3. Patterns of behavior that we continually permit in our lives can eventually become strongholds, or habits that begin to control us rather than us controlling them.
 - **Definition: A stronghold** is an entrenched pattern of thought, an ideology, value or behavior that is contrary to revealed, Biblical truth, coming from the human, carnal nature, and exploited by satanic forces. Although there is not “a magic formula,” an aggressive, Biblical approach can demolish every stronghold we may have.

FOUNDATION STONES OF VICTORY

Three foundational stones of victory: 1) Hearing and obeying to Christ’s words; 2) Being continually filled with His Spirit; 3) Walking in the fear of the Lord.

1. **Obedience to Christ’s teaching**, rooted in the Sermon on the Mount and seen throughout Scripture, is the strength of a life built on the rock (hearing and obeying).
 - Matthew 7:24-28 *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams*

rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

2. **Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event but an everyday practice.**

- Ephesians 5:18 (AMP) *Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the Holy Spirit and constantly guided by Him.*
- The words, “be filled” in the original Greek language, is in the “present passive imperative,” which means:

Present tense: It’s a continuous action, we are to keep on being filled. (Salvation is a one-time event, being filled with the Spirit is an ongoing, continuous action/process)

Passive voice: You allow it to happen.

Imperative mood: It’s a command: not optional for believers.

- Galatians 5:16-18 *So I say, walk by (or in and with) the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...*

3. **The fear of God** is a deep respect for who God is, His holiness, power, His justice and love. It is not a fear that drives us away, but a holy reverence that draws us closer in transparent fellowship with Him.

- Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS...

In this sermon series, we’ll be diving deep into four key areas that often become strongholds in the lives of God’s people. The areas include:

- *Anger*, often accompanied by depression and related struggles.
- *Unforgiveness*, which manifests through offenses, slander, and bitterness.
- *Fear*, expressed through anxiety and intimidation.
- *Pride*, the root of rebellion and the original sin that separates us from God.

These messages will be honest and, at times, unsettling as we confront real spiritual battles... **but our ultimate goal is freedom.** As we expose and confront these strongholds, our prayer is that many will experience the power of God in areas where they have long been held captive.

We see a powerful example of deliverance from a supernatural stronghold in Mark 5:1–20, where Jesus sets free a man possessed by a legion of demons, nearly 6,000! **In an instant**, this tormented man is transformed from a wild and utterly broken individual into a bold evangelist who proclaims the power of God throughout the Decapolis, the ten Gentile cities surrounding the Sea of Galilee. **What once held him captive became the very testimony God used to impact others. In the same way, God desires to turn our places of bondage into platforms for ministry, healing, and freedom.**

Invite a friend to join you. – Pastor Jack

Next week: Freedom from anger that rules the heart.