I CAN TEAR DOWN STRONGHOLDS OF THE ENEMY IN MY LIFE!

We are in a war with a very real enemy. He hates God, and he hates us because we are loved by God. One of his favorite battlefields to attack is our minds. Through accusation, fear, worry and confusion, he tries to get us to align with plans that conflict with God’s desires for us. But the good news is that he was soundly defeated by the King of Kings, Jesus, through his death on the cross and his resurrection! We’ve been given authority and power to stand in victory over our enemy through breaking old agreements we’ve made with him and instead, coming into new agreements with Jesus. Sometimes, we need other believers who understand their authority so that they can help us discern how to appropriate it, but today, you can walk in complete freedom! Put on your armor for battle and be free!

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 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.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – Emphasis added.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” Ephesians 6:10-17 – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. **Be honest during the following process, asking for the Holy Spirit’s strength. Are there any agreements — whether spoken or subconscious thoughts — about yourself that conflict with what God says about you?**

   Check any that apply.
   - [ ] I am guilty/sinful.
   - [ ] God is not pleased with me.
   - [ ] I dislike/hate an aspect about me
   - [ ] I haven’t attained to the level of holiness that I see in others.
   - [ ] I am a disappointment.
   - [ ] Other ________________________________
2. Are there any agreements you are holding about God that conflict with what he says? Check any that apply.
   - God will not answer my prayers.
   - God will not really protect me.
   - God will not provide my needs — physical, emotional or spiritual.
   - God will not speak to me.
   - Other: __________________________

3. Ask God to reveal any decisions presently in your life that grieve the Holy Spirit. For any additional assistance, see Appendix 4 and 5 in “Life in the Overflow.” If you need further direction, consider meeting with a mature believer who understands their authority to help you with this process.

**WORSHIP RESOURCE:**

“Break these shackles off of me as I move fearlessly!”

Listen to “Speak Through Me” by Ruth Spiegel. Find more info about Ruth’s album at the back of the devotional.

**PRAYER:**

Father, in the authority of Jesus Christ, I tear down the stronghold of ________ in my life. I submit my entire self to you, and I resist the devil and refuse to listen to his voice any longer. I ask you to reveal any beliefs or mindsets that have kept me in bondage, and I renounce his lies. I thank you for your divine power to destroy his works in my life, according to the promise of 1 John 3:8. I choose your freedom and declare that today, I am free!

**LISTENING TIME:**

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don’t rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

**USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING**

(Additional note space in the back of the book).

**TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:**

Find a picture of an ancient fortress online. Discuss how satan wants to build fortresses/strongholds in our minds so that he can control our thoughts and our lives. Share how he can do this through generational sin patterns (schemes he’s carried through our family line for generations), wrong agreements/beliefs we hold, and our thoughts. Ask if there are any schemes they feel the enemy is trying to set up against them personally or against your family. Pray for one another!

**TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:**

Go before the Lord and ask for revelation regarding any generational assignments in your family. Pray for freedom and breakthrough in these areas.