**Women of Warfare “WOW” Class 5**

**“Strongholds” by Connie Stoffel**

**Friday, September 21, 2018**

***WEEK 4 Overview:*** [***1 Corinthians 12:12-30***](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=1co+12:28-30)***; 13:1-13;***

**“Don’t seek out specific gifts to impress others with your spirituality!”**

 **“Seek first the Gift Giver, then desire the greatest gifts**

**He has to offer which are: faith, hope and love. Then your Kingdom assignment will be in alignment with His heart**

**and your ministry will be powerful and affective.”**

We should earnestly strive to:

* love the people who are unworthy of our love, as Jesus did;
* we should love the people who hate us;
* we should love without hesitation;
* We should love a self-sacrificing, burden-sharing love that lifts sinners into sainthood and that lifts saints into glory.

***If we seek this perfect love,***

***any gift the Spirit gives us becomes a ‘greater gift.’***

NOTE: Notice Same Spirit, Same Lord and Same God!

**1Co 12:4** Now G1161  there are G1526  diversities G1243  of gifts, G5486  but G1161  the G3588  same G846  ***SPIRIT.*** G4151

**1Co 12:5** And G2532  there are G1526  differences G1243  of administrations, G1248  but G2532  the G3588  same G846  ***LORD.*** G2962

**1Co 12:6** And G2532  there are G1526  diversities G1243  of operations, G1755  but G1161  it is G2076  the G3588  same G846  ***GOD***G2316  which worketh G1754  all G3956  in G1722  all. G3956

***Whose in charge:***

Verse 4: Diversities of Gifts – **SPIRIT**

Verse 5: Differences of Administrations – **LORD**

Verse 6: Diversities of Operations – **GOD**

**Now lets jump over to 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 verse 13**

**1Co 13:13** And G1161  now G3570  abideth G3306  ***FAITH,***G4102  ***HOPE,***G1680  ***CHARITY***, G26  these G5023  three; G5140  but G1161  the greatest G3187  of these G5130  *is* ***CHARITY.*** G26

***FAITH*** = The SPIRIT encourages our FAITH – **2 Corinthians 4:13**

***HOPE*** = JESUS is our HOPE - **1 Peter 1:3-6**

***CHARITY*** = GOD is LOVE; **1 John 4:7-8**

**WHO IS THE GREATEST? WHO DID JESUS SAY WAS THE GREATEST?**

Let’s replace the word ***CHARITY*** with ***GOD***.

***1 Corinthians 13:4-13:***

**4GOD** is patient,**GOD** is kind. **GOD** does not envy, **GOD** does not boast, **GOD** is not proud. **5GOD** does not dishonor others, **GOD** is not self-seeking, **GOD** is not easily angered, **GOD** keeps no record of wrongs.**6GOD** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7GOD** always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **8GOD** never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9**For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10**but when completeness: KJV: “that which is perfect G5046  (**GOD**) comes, what is in part disappears. **11**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12**For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.**13**And now these three remain: **SPIRIT**, **JESUS** and **GOD**. But the greatest of these is **GOD**.

**Mat 5:48** Be G2071  ye G5210  therefore G3767  perfect, G5046  even as G5618  your G5216  Father G3962  which G3588  is in G1722  heaven G3772  is G2076  perfect. G5046

**Psalm 18:30** *As for* God, H410  his way H1870  *is* perfect: H8549  the word H565  of the LORD H3068  is tried: H6884  he H1931  *is* a buckler H4043  to all H3605  those that trust H2620  in him.

**1Jn 4:18** There is G2076  no G3756  fear G5401  in G1722  love; G26  but G235  perfect G5046  love G26  casteth G906  out G1854  fear: G5401  because G3754  fear G5401  hath G2192  torment. G2851  ( G1161 ) He that feareth G5399  is not G3756  made perfect G5048  in G1722  love. G26

WOW Class 5

**STRONGHOLDS**

**WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?**

A stronghold is an area of darkness within our mind or personality that causes ongoing spiritual, emotional and\or behavioral problems.

A Stronghold is a “problem” is resistant to real change;

A Stronghold is the ***Fruit of an Inward Lie*** believe;

A stronghold is a ***lie*** which we have allowed to distort or confuse our thinking; a lie can gain a foothold within our mind, will and emotions and then our behavior. If we allow a ***lie*** to reside within, then that ***lie***, like a seed, will produce its fruit which will distort the way we see and think.

* The fruit of an inward ***lie*** will ultimately affect our faith and interfere with our ability to possess the truths of the Gospel.
* The Scriptures tell us the devil is the ***Father of Lies***, so we know that every ***lie*** is in some way rooted in spiritual Darkness.
* Because every ***lie*** is rooted in Darkness the fruit of every ***lie*** will eventually reflect the nature of Darkness.

**THE TRUTH ABOUT STRONGHOLDS:**

* Satan will try to erect every stronghold he can in our minds to keep us from the true knowledge of God.
* To whatever degree you allow him to be successful, you will not be able to enjoy an intimate relationship with the Lord.
* You will never be able to come to know for yourself the loveliness’ and excellence of God’s personality.

The result of allowing Strongholds in your life is that your emotional lives will not be released into full affection for God.

This affects everyone around you!

***2 Corinthians 10: 3-4:***

**2Co 10:3** For G1063  though we walk G4043  in G1722  the flesh, G4561  we do not G3756  war G4754  after G2596  the flesh: G4561

**2Co 10:4** (For G1063  the G3588  weapons G3696  of our G2257  warfare G4752  *are* not G3756  carnal, G4559  but G235  mighty G1415  through God G2316  to G4314  the pulling down G2506  of ***strong holds;)***G3794

**2Co 10:5** Casting down G2507  imaginations, G3053  and G2532  every G3956  high thing G5313  that exalteth itself G1869  against G2596  the G3588  knowledge G1108  of God, G2316  and G2532  bringing into captivity G163  every G3956  thought G3540  to G1519  the G3588  obedience G5218  of Christ; G5547

This passage reveals the following facts about we are to war:

* Our battle is not planned according to the way the world would fight;
* Earthly strategies are not our concern but we need to be away of them;
* Our weapons are not physical because our warfare is spiritual in nature;
* Our power to fight these strongholds must come from God alone;
* God’s plan is for us to demolish these spiritual strongholds.

Only the Truth will overcome every Stronghold - which is an inward lie!

 **NOTE: We need to put on THE BELT OF TRUTH everyday!**

Think of Strongholds like this:

A stronghold in the mind is a spiritual fortress made of wrong thoughts, a fortified dwelling place where demonic forces can hide and operate in power against us.

***The ideas and thoughts that make up these strongholds are based on lies that challenge the truth of what God has revealed about Himself to us through His Word.***

**STRONGHOLD – Greek**

**G3794 -** ὀχύρωμα, ατος, τό ochuróma: a stronghold, fortress

Original Word: ὀχύρωμα, ατος, τό
Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter
Transliteration: ochuróma
Phonetic Spelling: (okh-oo'-ro-mah)
Short Definition: a fortress, strong defense
Definition: a fortress, strong defense, stronghold.

**3794** *oxýrōma* (from the root *oxyroō,* "fortify") – a fortified, military stronghold; a strong-walled fortress (*A-S*), used only in 2 Cor 10:4. Here 3794*/oxýrōma* ("a heavily-fortified containment") is used figuratively of a *false argument* in which a person seeks "shelter" ("a safe place") to *escape reality*.

[[3794](http://biblesuite.com/greek/3794.htm) (*oxýrōma*) is also used for a *prison* in antiquity. "The word is not common in Classical Greek, but occurs frequently in the Apocrypha. In its use here there may lie a reminiscence of the rock-forts on the coast of Paul's native Cilicia, which were pulled down by the Romans in their attacks on the Cilician pirates. Pompey inflicted a crushing defeat upon their navy off the rocky stronghold of Coracesium on the confines of Cilicia and Pisidia" (*WS*, 833).]

**STRONGHOLD – Hebrew**

מִשְׂגָּב: H4869 The word: “Stronghold” in Hebrew is Misgab (Mis-gawb)

מִ = Mem = Chaos

שְׂ = Shin = Destroy

גָּ = Gimel = Pride

ב = Beit = Division of House

***MISGAB***

From [sagab](http://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7682.htm); properly, a cliff or other lofty or inaccessible place; abstractly, altitude; figuratively, a refuge -- defence, high fort (tower), refuge, Misgab, a place in Moab -- Misgab.

***SAGAB*** Meaning: exalted, high, lifted, raises, safe, securely on high, set him securely on high, set me securely on high, set you securely on high, sets the securely, unassailable.

**MISCONCEPTIONS OF SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS:**

Many Christians believe that strongholds are a demonic influence that is only evident in extreme or violent behavior and gross sin. But the truth is:

* Most Christians suffering from demonic activity lead relatively normal lives while experiencing serious personal and interpersonal problems for which no cause or solution has been found.
* They usually relegate satanic involvement only to mass murderers or violent sex criminals.
* They are problem-plagued individuals wondering what's wrong with them and why they can't just "do better."

Satan's first and foremost strategy is and has always been deception. It is not the few raving demoniacs who are causing the church to be ineffective, but Satan's subtle deception and intrusion into the lives of "normal" believers.

**BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION:**

***LIE:***

* Freedom from spiritual strongholds is always the result of a power encounter with demonic forces.

***TRUTH:***

* Freedom from spiritual strongholds is not a power encounter; it's a truth encounter.

Ladies, Satan is a deceiver, and he will work undercover at all costs to plant the stronghold which is a lie.

***Satan's power is always in the lie, so be looking for the lie! When his lies are exposed by the truth of God’s Word, his plans of destruction can not be carried out.***

Let’s Read:

**Act 5:3** But G1161  Peter G4074  said, G2036  Ananias, G367  why G1302  hath Satan G4567  filled G4137  thine G4675  heart G2588  to lie G5574  to the G3588  Holy G40  Ghost, G4151  and G2532  to keep back G3557  *part* of G575  the G3588  price G5092  of the G3588  land? G5564

When God first disciplined the early church in Acts 5, He did so in a dramatic way. Peter confronted Ananias and Sapphira: "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?"

God wanted the church to know that Satan the deceiver can ruin us if he can get us to believe and live a lie. If I could infiltrate a church, a committee, or a person undetected, and deceive them into believing a lie, I could control their lives!

That's exactly what Satan is doing, ***and his lie is the focus of the battle.***

#### Stronghold #1: Incorrect perception of God

This stronghold is where a person sees God incorrectly. They see Him as a cruel, distant and un-loving God, instead of the loving Father that He really is.

**Some of the common symptoms of this stronghold include:**

* Lacking the desire for an intimate and close relationship with God,
* A lack of love in a person's heart for God.
* Feeling unwanted, and unloved by God.
* Even OCD can be driven by irrational fears of God. It can drive a person into what they call perfectionism, so that God will love and accept them.
* Anybody who has fears of the un-pardonable sin is pretty much guaranteed to have a stronghold.
* A stronghold will cause a person to find it hard to trust God.
* It can cause a tremendous amount of legalism in a person's life..

#### Stronghold #2: Incorrect perception of yourself

When a person has this stronghold, they feel unworthy, dirty (guilty) and often suffer from low self-esteem... just to name a few.

**Some of the common symptoms of this stronghold include:**

- Low self-esteem, where a person is constantly looking down upon themselves.

- A guilty conscience is often found when a person doesn't perceive them self as a new creation in Christ, who's sins have been washed away.

- Feeling worthless and condemned. Fears of hopelessness are usually strong signs of this stronghold.

- Shame based thinking is a sure sign of this stronghold. Guilt is where somebody looks at their failure, but shame is where a person looks at themselves as the failure.

- If a person has a dirty conscience, it will hinder his or her faith.

- If a person feels worthless, they will be unable to walk in confidence to carry out the work that God has for their lives.

#### The Demonic and Strongholds

There are also demonic factors to consider in many of the stronghold and issues listed above. Demons often work hand-in-hand with strongholds to carry out their dirty work in a person's life. I have found that there are many cases where both strongholds need to be torn down, and demons need to be driven out before the person experiences complete and lasting spiritual freedom.

Demons often hide and work behind strongholds, and work at establishing them in our lives, making it difficult to tear down.

If a demon is behind a stronghold, and you are successful at tearing down the stronghold, but leave the demon remaining, you'll likely find that stronghold keep returning out of nowhere. That's because the root of the problem wasn't addressed.

On the other hand, if you only cast out the demons, but don't renew your mind, you will be continually badgered by those strongholds. Maybe not near as bad as before, but none the less, they can remain and bring your mind much torment.

***It is important to address both the demonic factors (if any) and tear down the strongholds as well.***

***Anything less will often bring temporary relief and partial victory.***

**NEXT WEEK:**

**BINDING AND LOOSING:**

**IDENTIFY YOUR STONGHOLDS:** For every negative stronghold, there’s a powerful way to surround it with opposite truth from God and His Word:

* If you are struggling with a stronghold of depression, surround it with hope;
* If you are struggling with a stronghold of rejection, surround it with acceptance from God;
* If you are struggling with a stronghold of unresolved anger, surround it with forgiveness;
* If you are struggling with a stronghold of fear, surround it with the knowledge of God’s love;
* If you are struggling with a stronghold of failure, surround it with the victory of the resurrection;

Once you’ve identified a stronghold, go to the scripture, and study the opposite truth about what God said.

If the stronghold is rejection, study all that the Bible says about God’s acceptance.

Use your concordance or a chain bible or topical bible. Then surround that stronghold with the word of God!

Ladies, once the enemy sees he’s surrounded by humble submission, praise,
and the word of God, his resistance will quickly weaken, and if he isn’t gone already!