



EXPOSING THE HIDDEN AGENDA

DR. ED LAYMANANCE

“This exercise guided me to the most powerful spiritual awakening of my life!”

Michael Smalley



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All referenced verses are from the New International Version as published by Zondervan (unless otherwise referenced).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOURCE IS TO HELP YOU
STAND AGAINST THE HIDDEN AGENDA SPIRITUAL
EVIL HAS CONCERNING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
SO YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, AND
ALLOW GOD TO DO WHAT ONLY HE CAN DO.

DR. ED LAYMANCE

PERSPECTIVE



“There are two ways to be fooled; one is to believe what isn’t so, the other is to refuse to believe what is so.” Soren Kierkegaard

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe and feel an unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” C.S. Lewis

When faced with life issues, everyone wants simple answers and simple solutions. Sometimes things are simple. Most of the time, however, they are not. Many factors and combinations of factors contribute to the problems and difficulties we experience.

These factors fall into four general areas...the physical, the mental, the emotional, and the spiritual. Think of it as four tires on a car, each representing an area of your life. To enjoy the “ride” of LIFE (John 10:10), you must pay attention to the condition of all four tires.

For example:

Physically—your body chemistry may not have what it needs to function properly; physical resources may have been depleted due to lack of deep sleep, physical illness, a medical condition, poor health choices, new limitations or changes within the body; perhaps stressors from work, family, school, where you live, the seasons, the weather, etc. are draining you

Mentally—negative thinking has consumed you; false or wrong beliefs are leading to frustration and disappointments; painful memories overwhelm you; a lack of knowledge, skills, or understanding has limited your ability to cope; a chemical imbalance, neurological difficulty, or psychological issue needs to be addressed

Emotionally—your wants, needs, or expectations have not been met; you may be experiencing grief or loss concerning someone or something; relationships with significant people in your life are fractured, strained, or changing

Spiritually—you may be separated from God, and do not have a personal relationship with Him; perhaps you are ignoring God’s plan for you life and living in disobedience; your old nature and new nature in Christ may be in conflict; God is convicting you of your sin; this is a time of growth and trusting God; spiritual evil is exerting influence and control

If you do not appropriately deal with all issues contributing to your problems, you will not experience the freedom you seek. While all four areas must be addressed, this resource will focus on just one aspect of the spiritual – the influence of evil.

Our point of view concerning spiritual evil tends to be one of two extremes. Either we are consumed with the thought of spiritual intrusion, and ascribe all problems and difficulties to the enemy; or, we disregard evil as a legitimate influence and focus only on human responsibility. A balanced approach is needed. Sometimes what we are dealing with has nothing to do with the enemy, sometimes everything.

The enemy does not want you to see or know what they are doing. In fact, they hope they are never discovered. They function like a terrorist network looking for ways to bring about destruction undetected. As a result, we grossly underestimate their abilities and capabilities. More importantly, we fail to grasp the unending faithfulness of our Heavenly Father, and the awesome power and authority already granted in Christ Jesus to do something about it.

Spiritual warfare is really about intimacy with Christ. My prayer is that the exercises in this material will lead you to a place of deeper intimacy, and help you recognize, identify, and learn how to stand against the hidden agenda of spiritual evil. As your relationship with Christ grows so will your spiritual discernment—your ability to distinguish between what is human and what is not.

OVERVIEW

We are engaged in a face-to-face conflict with spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12) which is fought on a spiritual plane with spiritual weapons. (Ephesians 6:11, 2 Corinthians 10:4)

Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, (1 Peter 5:8)

therefore, it is not a matter of if the day of evil comes, but when. (Ephesians 6:13)

In order to implement his strategy (2 Timothy 2:26, Ephesians 6:11)

the enemy must first get our eyes off Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2)

or he will not be able to get a grip on us. (1 John 5:18)

So, Satan lies to us (John 8:44)

using temptations (1 Thessalonians 3:5)
 accusations (Revelations 12:10b)
 and deceptions (2 Corinthians 11:14)

hoping to trap us (1 Timothy 3:7)
 establish strongholds in our lives (Ephesians 4:27, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
 and take us captive to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:26)

We are not to fear the enemy (1 John 4:4, 2 Timothy 1:7)

for he is a defeated foe! (Col. 2:15, 1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14-15)

We are to understand our position in Christ, (Ephesians 2:6)

submit every area of our lives to the lordship of Christ, (James 4:7-8)

and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, (Ephesians 6:10)
 put on the full armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 be alert, (1 Peter 5:8)
 resist, (James 4:7)
 stand firm, (1 Peter 5:8)
 stand against, (Ephesians 6:11)
 do not give ground, (Ephesians 4:27, 6:13)
 destroy strongholds, (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
 advance, (Matthew 28:19-20, 16:13-19)
 overcome all the power of the enemy. (Luke 10:19)

STRONGHOLDS



“It was for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)

“...do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:27)

“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)

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

“...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Strongholds are a network of entrenched thoughts, feelings, ideas, emotions, imaginations, beliefs, and /or patterns of behavior through which the enemy exercises influence and control. You can think of them as a number of playgrounds the enemy has opened and connected together for the purpose of his pleasure – your destruction; or as military bases of operation in communication with each other that the enemy uses to coordinate an attack on your life. Another way to see them is like a number of virus programs, custom designed by the enemy to hopefully run undetected behind the operating system of your daily living, creating chaos, confusion, disruption, and eventual shut down.

THREE WAYS WE DEVELOP STRONGHOLDS

In everyone’s life there are three basic ways strongholds are established:

1. As a result of your sin. When you sin, you open a doorway or access point for the enemy to work in your life. “But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you” (Genesis 4:7)
2. As a result of being sinned against. When someone hurts you or harms you in some way, this creates an opportunity for all kinds of negative thoughts, feelings, and emotions to develop. Because you were sinned against, it may never occur to you that the enemy can use this to harass and control you. “In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)
3. As a result of sin in your family system. Everyone is responsible before God for his or her own actions, but the enemy will seek to use the sin that has worked well with others in your family, past or present, as a way to intrude in your life and future generations. All you want to pass along to your children and grandchildren is a Godly heritage! “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:1)

BREAKING FREE

“For 36 years I suffered from the crippling effects of fear, worry, anxiety, and thoughts of condemnation. I sought help everywhere I could find it – in both secular and Christian counseling, and through books and audio tapes. A friend of mine told me about Dr. Laymance. He was the first person to ever suggest to me that what I was suffering from was probably the result of demonic intrusion. Never before had I considered this. After meeting with him, I went home and performed the exercises outlined in his material. In an amazing 9 days (several days off work and large blocks of time dedicated to the process) I was set free from my strongholds! Jesus said that everyone He sets free is free indeed. Today, I can honestly say, I AM FREE INDEED!”

”Steps To Freedom” on the following page is a way to help you destroy strongholds – a model to guide you in breaking free. Before you get started, there are a few important principles to keep in mind:

- » This is a process, not an event. You will not find the time to go through this—you will have to schedule the time and then purpose to make it happen. Stay after it and be persistent!
- » This is an intimate time with God. Choose a place that you can be alone before the Lord. Do everything possible to insure privacy and eliminate interruptions (silence cell phones). Ask God to temporarily move aside anything and everything that would interfere with your ability to hear His voice clearly. Read some of your favorite passages of Scripture, and sing or listen to spiritual songs that will help you focus on God.
- » Ask friends and family to pray for you while breaking free. Prayer support is HUGE! Tell those who are interceding when you will be spending time with the Lord. Ask them to pray that you would hear from God, do what He says, and that the enemy would not be effective in hindering or stopping you.
- » Don’t base what God does on how you feel or what you experience. This is not about emotions – what you feel and experience does not determine the freedom. It is a matter of believing that what God says is true, and you are choosing to trust Him to free you.
- » This should be done out loud. Once something is said, it is no longer just a thought or idea. Now it is a matter of record. You have declared your intentions to yourself, your Lord, and the enemy. This gives clarity, certainty, and added weight to the resolve of your commitment.
- » Some of this process may be painful and difficult to do. Do it anyway.
- » Some of this you may not want to do. Do it anyway.

“When God sets out to free us, there will often be a price we will have to pay. Grief can be a terrible form of bondage, yet we can become comfortable with it. We can grow so comfortable with fear that we don’t know how to live without it. As destructive as our sinful habits and lifestyle might be, we may prefer living with the familiar, rather than being freed to experience the unknown. We may recognize the harmful influence of a friend but choose to reject God’s will rather than offend our friend... Have you been lulled into a comfortable relationship with your bondage? Do you fear change more than you fear God? Are you willing to allow God to do what is necessary in order to free you?” (Blackaby and Blackaby, “Experiencing God Day By Day”, p. 127)