

BRINGING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

I. What is the Reason to Enter Into the Conflict at All?

A. Jesus' ministry

1. Luke 4:18 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me
 - a. Preach good news
 - b. Proclaim liberty to captives
 - c. Recovery of sight to the blind
2. Goal is to win men and women to God

B. Paul's Ministry

1. Acts 26:16-18
 - a. Testify to what you have seen and will see
 - b. Open men's eyes
 - (1) That they may turn from darkness to light
 - (2) That they may turn from bondage to Satan to God
 - (3) That they may know forgiveness

C. We enter the conflict to see men (the prize) released from the enemy

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.

~ Luke 4:18

But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appointed you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me .

~ Acts 26:16-18

In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

~ 2 Corinthians 4:4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

~ Revelations 12:11

II. How Are Men Held?

A. They are bound in their minds

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4

a. Gospel is hidden because Satan blinds the mind (vs. 4)

b. Gospel takes effect because God brings light (vs. 6)

2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

a. We are destroying speculations

b. Things which have exalted themselves against the knowledge of Christ

III. How Do We Fight the Fight?

A. The Weapons

1. Word of God
Ephesians 6:17

2. Our testimony to the truth
Revelations 12:11

3. Prayer
Ephesians 6:18

B. The Power

1. Spirit of God