

Hindrances to Fulfilling Your Call





40%

- **What percentage market share do you think Coca-Cola has of the soft drink industry?**

3% 10% 20% 40% 50%

35-45% of US Population Claims to be “Born-Again”

2006: 45%

2004: 38%

1999: 40%

1998: 39%

1997: 43%

1996: 39%

1995: 35%

1994: 36%

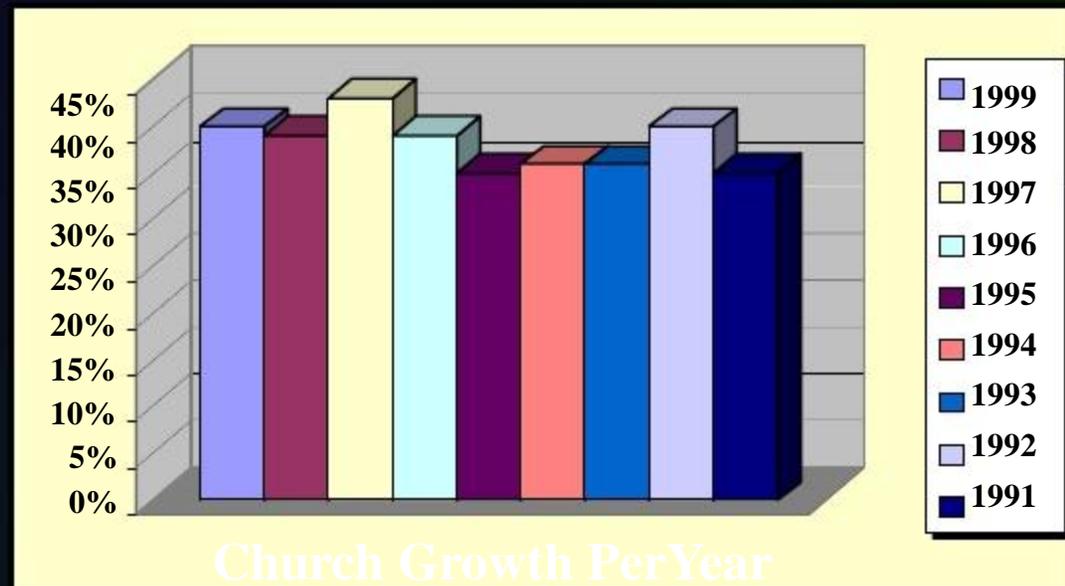
1993: 36%

1992: 40%

1991: 35%

Barna Research

2006 Survey: 45% of all adults and one-third of all teenagers estimates 98 million adults and children who have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior.

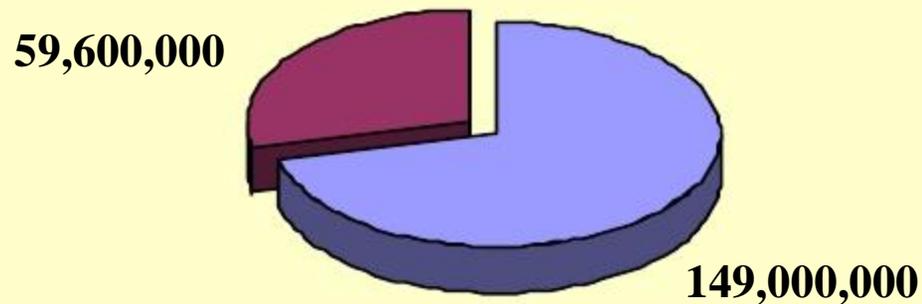


Market Share (US Mission Field)

149 million workers Yr 2005

Our Two Target Markets

1. Christians in the U.S.
2. Non-Christians in U.S.



US Population:
296m

Total U.S. Workforce 149 million

Source: 2005 U.S. Bureau Labor Statistics

If 40% Are Christians: 59.6 million (Barna)

59 million Christians

**So, where's
the impact?**



4 Primary Hindrances

to becoming a Christian who transforms their workplace for Christ.

- 1. Unbiblical View of Work & Ministry**
- 2. Greek vs Hebraic view of God**
- 3. Religious Spirit**
- 4. Generational Strongholds**

Hindrance #1

1. Unbiblical View of Work & Ministry



Hindrance #2

2. Influence of the Greek Philosophers vs. Hebraic Roots

For I have bent Judah, My bow, Fitted the bow with Ephraim,
And raised up your sons, **O Zion, Against your sons, O Greece,**
And made you like the sword of a mighty man."

Zech 9:13



How We Relate to God

Hebraic

Active

appeals to the heart

Greek

Cognitive

appeals to the intellect

Influence Greek Philosophers vs Hebraic Roots.

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. 1 Cor 2:4-5

- Greeks acquired wisdom by reason and analysis—
- Hebrews acquired wisdom by obedience.—
Ps. 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- Early church understood that knowledge was not what changed the world, it was the power of God working through people.

How We Relate to God

Hebraic

- Process Focus
- Obedience a priority
- Relationships
- Transparency, love

Produces Mature
Believers

Greek

- Cognitive
- Program focus
- Information a priority
- Controlled groups
- Service, activity-based

Produces Shallow
Believers

HEBRAIC

**Active - appeals to the heart
intellect**

Process Oriented

- Emphasizes direct participation
- Emphasizes age and wisdom
Role modeling, mentoring,
and discipleship indispensable
- Leadership by personal example
- Character of leaders essential
- Personal relationships essential

Biblical Application

- Doers of the Word
- Bible – reality that must be
confronted
- Goal – develop Christlikeness

Ministry Activity

- Small intimate groups
- Leader as facilitator
- Cooperative, participatory
planning
- Spiritual gifts shared
- Frequent scheduled and
unscheduled gatherings

Fruit

- Love, acceptance, forgiveness
- Transparency encouraged
- Active participation

- Each believer trained to serve
- Produces mature believers

Source: *Restoring the Early Church*, Mike and Sue Douglass, Arden Group Publishing

GREEK

Cognitive - appeals to the

Program Oriented

- Heavy program emphasis
- Emphasizes education
- Relies on speaking skills,
oratory, programmed materials,
information conveyance
- Leader's personal life less essential
- Personal relationships optional

Biblical Application

- Belief without cost to self
- Bible – data that must be taught
- Focus on rules – do's and don'ts
- Emphasizes distinct denominations

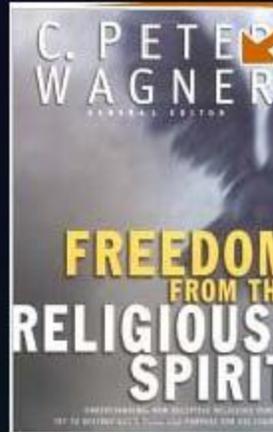
Ministry Activity

- Large impersonal groups
- Leader-directed and controlled
- Organizational roles important
- Acquisition of knowledge
emphasized
- Reliance on scheduled gatherings

Fruit

- Mutual toleration
- Transparency discouraged
- "How you serve" vital
- "What you know" vital
- Trained professionals utilized
- Produces spectators

Hindrance #3: Religious Spirit



- **Defines the religious spirit as “an agent of Satan assigned to prevent change and maintain the status quo by using religious devices.”**
 - Dr. Peter Wagner

*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 y realms.*

– Ephesians 6:12

Jesus primary opposition

- "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices-mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law-justice, mercy and faithfulness...Matt 23:23-24

Key Attributes of Religious Spirit

- Seeks to **distort** a genuine move of God through deception, control and manipulation.
- Operates out of old religious structures and attempts to maintain the status quo, favoring tradition over a genuine, intimate relationship with God.
- Influences believers to live the Christian life based on works instead of grace.

...attributes

- Depends on human effort to acquire spiritual knowledge and favor from God.
- Deceives believers into thinking g that the only way to get God's approval is through works.
- *The spirit of religion's primary strategy here is to promote the idea that belonging to a Christian church or doing religious things is what saves you or makes you holy and acceptable to God..*

The Religious Spirit in the Workplace

Motivates believers to live out their faith in legalistic and rigid ways.

Especially evident in the south.

In the workplace

They may refuse to join a workplace prayer group or Bible study because they feel that it is trying to replace the role of a particular local church.

They discount the idea that Christianity could transform a workplace, city or nation as “overzealous,” “naïve” or even doctrinally wrong.

4 ways Jesus Operated Free of Religious Spirit

1. **Spent time with sinners**
2. **Met their needs**
3. **Prayed for them**
4. **Gave them the Gospel**

Knowledge Vs Power?

Spiritual Strongholds in the Workplace



Recognizing the Enemy

*People in my life don't
make me the way I am,
but reveal the way I
am.*

Dr. Sam Peoples





Meet John

Need for recognition from performance.i.e., civic projects, sports, business success.

Emphasis on building financial security - workaholic.

Lack of emotional intimacy.

Activity-based relationship towards God - works.

Over- -control of people & circumstances.

Hillman Family

3 Generations of Business Owners

Generational Stronghold:

Insecurity & Fear

Primary Manifestation:

Control



Definition

- “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 10:5).

**Satan wants to kill your destiny and make
your past your future.**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

If he can't kill you, he'll wound you in childhood.

Accuser of brethren. -Rev. 12



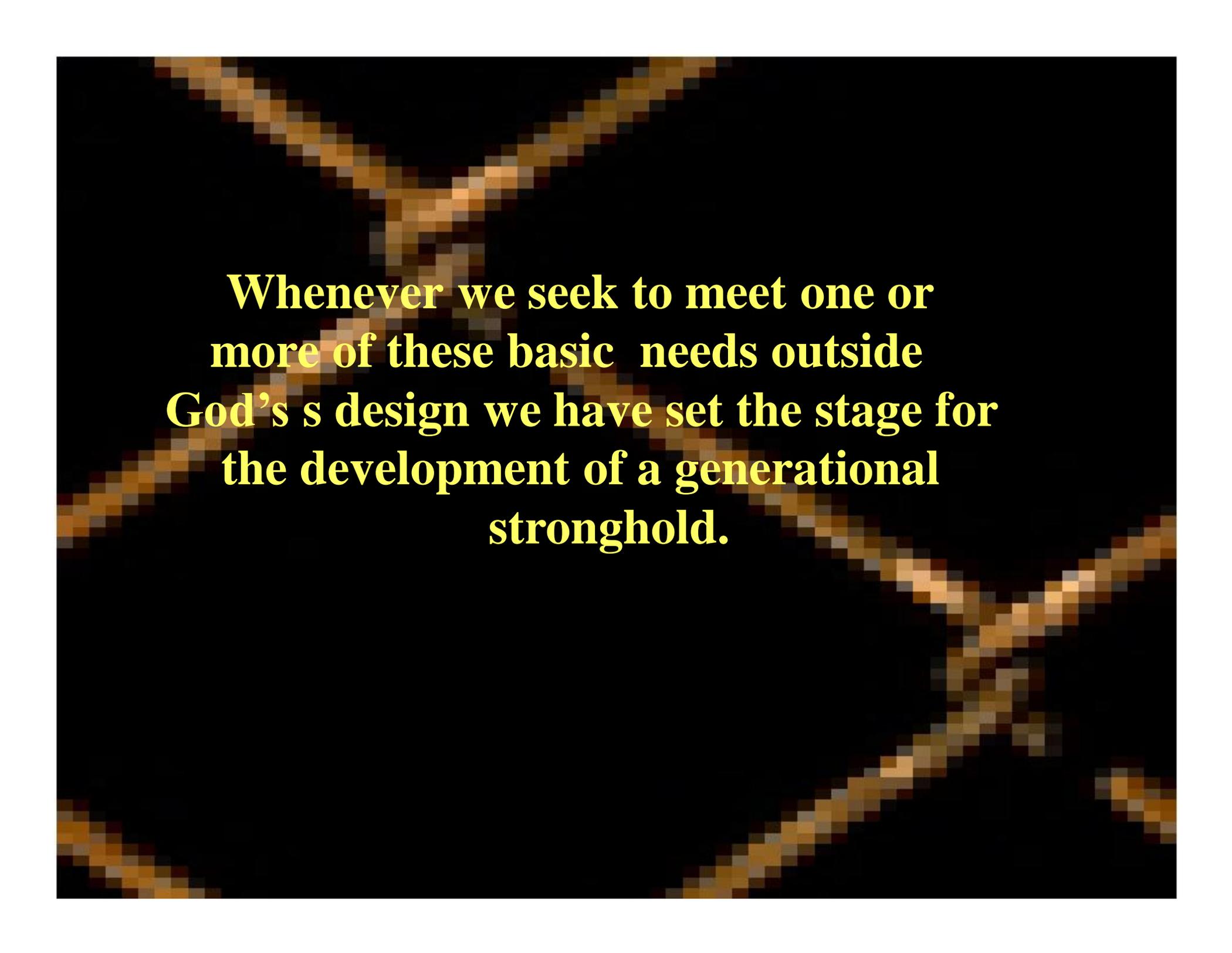
Created to Experience the love of God

Eph 3:17-19

- And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

God created us with seven needs

1. Dignity
2. Authority
3. Blessing & provision
4. Security
5. Purpose & meaning
6. Freedom & boundary
- 7 7. Intimate love & companionship
- Genesis 1&2



Whenever we seek to meet one or more of these basic needs outside God's design we have set the stage for the development of a generational stronghold.

The Family Challenge

CALLED TO THE WORKPLACE
FROM ESAU TO JOSEPH

Session 2

Strongholds & Their Symptoms

Deceit - Total _____

- ____ Lying
- ____ Fantasies
- ____ Delusions
- ____ Rationalization
- ____ Wrong doctrine/
Misuse of scripture

Confusion - _____ (Doubt & Unbelief)

- ____ Suspicious
- ____ Apprehensive
- ____ Indecisive
- ____ Skeptical
- ____ Unsettled

Independence & Divorce - _____

- ____ Insensitive
- ____ Lonely/Alloof
- ____ Self-determined
- ____ Withdrawn
- ____ Excuse making
- ____ Lack of trust
- ____ "Martyr" complex

Control - _____

- ____ Manipulative
- ____ Striving
- ____ Lacking trust
- ____ Insensitive
- ____ Desiring
recognition
- ____ Violent

Stupor & _____ Prayerlessness

- ____ Distanced from
God - *cold love*
- ____ Distracted
- ____ Spiritual blindness
- ____ Laziness
- ____ Deceived
self-appraisal

Pride - _____

- ____ Vain
- ____ Self-righteous
- ____ Self-centered
- ____ Insensitive
- ____ Insensitive
- ____ Materialistic
- ____ Seeks positions

Bitterness - _____

- ____ Resentment
- ____ Racism
- ____ Unforgiveness
- ____ Anger/Hatred
- ____ Violence
- ____ Revenge

Rejection - _____

- ____ Addictive behavior
- ____ Compulsions
- ____ Seeks acceptance
- ____ Unworthiness
- ____ Withdrawal

Sexual Impurity - _____

- ____ Lust
- ____ Seductiveness
- ____ Masturbation
- ____ Fornication
- ____ Adultery
- ____ Prigidity
- ____ Homosexuality
- ____ Pornography

Heaviness - _____

- ____ Depression
- ____ Despair
- ____ Self-pity
- ____ Loneliness
- ____ Unconfessed sin
- ____ Suicidal thoughts

Rebellion - _____

- ____ Self-willed
- ____ Stubborn
- ____ Pouting

- ____ Strife
- ____ Factious
- ____ Divisive
- ____ Anger leads to
argument
- ____ Independent
- ____ Unteachable

Idolatry - _____

- ____ Frustrated
- ____ Hopeless
- ____ Greedy/selfish
- ____ Financial problems
- ____ Wrong goals/
decisions
- ____ Living a lie
- ____ Apathetic

Jealousy - _____

- ____ Spiteful
- ____ Gossip/slander
- ____ Betrayal
- ____ Critical nature
- ____ Judgmental
- ____ Suspicious

Religiosity - _____

- ____ Seeks activities
- ____ No spiritual power
- ____ Spiritual blindness
- ____ Hypocritical

Fear & Insecurity - _____

- ____ Inferiority
- ____ Inadequacy
- ____ Timidity
- ____ Pleasing people,
not God
- ____ Lack of trust/worry
- ____ Phobias
- ____ Perfectionism
- ____ Dread of failure
- ____ Inability to set
goals
- ____ "Motor-mouth"

Sample:

DECEIT - Total 5
6 Lying
2 Fantasies
1 Delusions
9 Rationalization
7 Wrong doctrine/
 Misuse of scripture

Total the number of symptoms under each heading.
 Ex: 6 + 2 + 1 + 9 + 7 = 25

Divide by the number of symptoms in that category.
 Ex: 25 ÷ 5 = 5
 5 is the total for "Deceit" category.

Suggested Prayer

In the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce the influence of

in Jesus' name and by His shed blood on the cross in order that I can be free to know and choose to do the will of God. As children of God seated with Christ in the heavenlies, we agree that every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ be bound. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Suggested further study: *Devil's Deceiver*, Neil Anderson; *Living Free In Christ*, Neil Anderson; *Victory Over the Darkness*, Neil Anderson; *Breaking Strongholds in Your City*, Edited by Peter Wagner, Regal Books.

Spiritual Strongholds Work At The Subconscious Level. Their Influence Is Often Unseen Until There Is A Problem.

Strongholds are designed to keep us from experiencing God's love. Strongholds are often generational.

All strongholds that are built in our lives are a result of seeking to meet one or more of these needs apart from God's will for us.

Examples of Some Major Strongholds

- Rebellion
- Pride
- Insecurity
- Sexual Impurity
- Control
- Independence
- Doubt
- Anger
- Fear
- Heaviness/Depression
- Jealousy
- Religiosity
- Rejection
- Deceit
- Doubt & Unbelief

“You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments” (Exod. 20:5).

Refer to self-inventory sheet on strongholds.

Stronghold Development Process

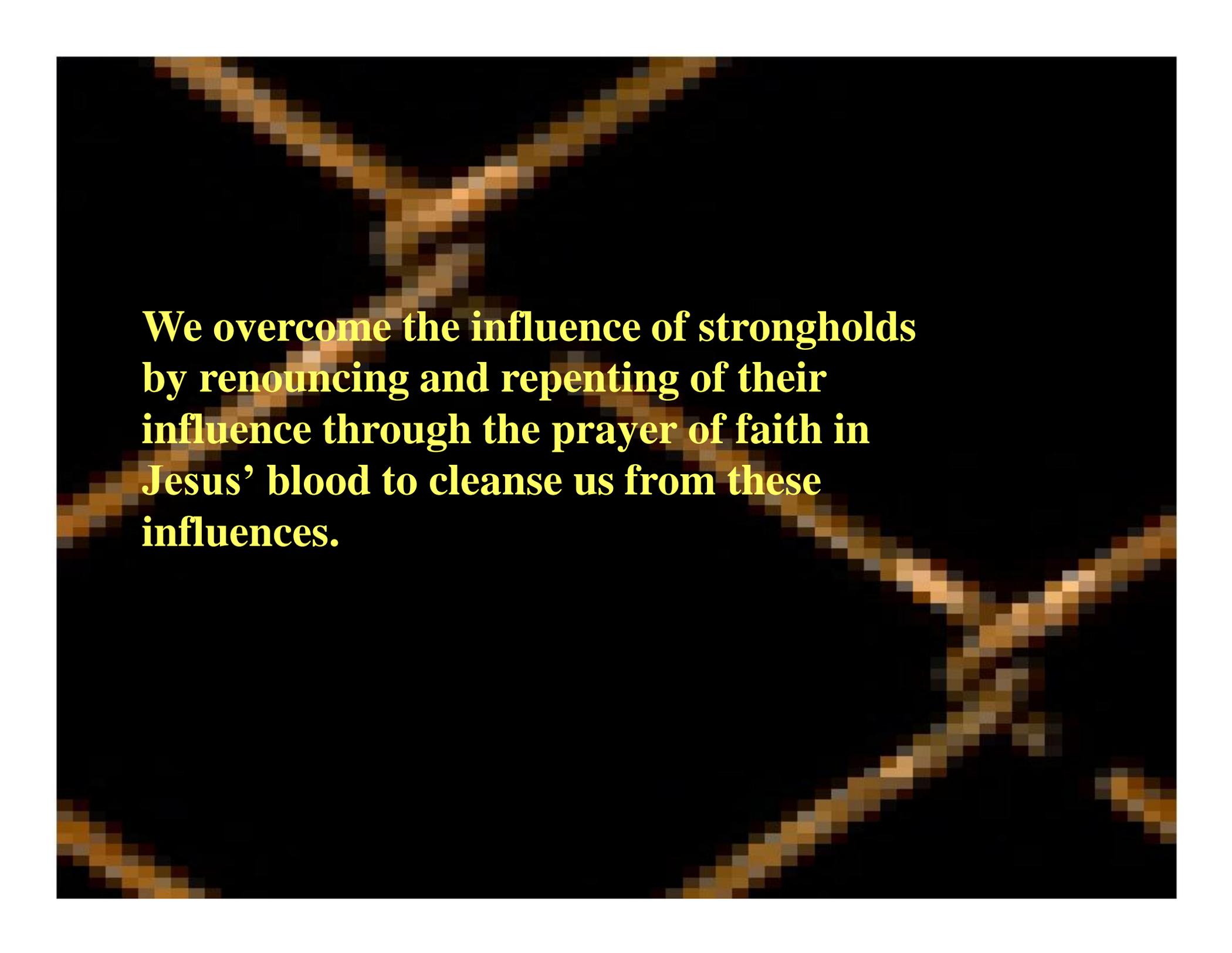
- 1) Satan inspires THOUGHTS into my mind (subconsciously) which appeal to my natural tendencies to meet needs.
- 2) Entertaining these thoughts brings on EMOTIONS.
- 3) Giving in to emotions eventually leads to taking some sort of ACTION.
- 4) Continual participation in this behavior causes me to develop a HABIT.
- 5) Once a habit is developed, a STRONGHOLD is built by that spirit

Strongholds oppress versus *possess*. They:

- (1) Control, dictate, and influence our attitudes and behavior;
- (2) Oppress and discourage us; and
- (3) Affect how we view or react to situations, circumstances, or people.

Singapore woman

“Sunglasses”



**We overcome the influence of strongholds
by renouncing and repenting of their
influence through the prayer of faith in
Jesus' blood to cleanse us from these
influences.**

Examples of Generational Strongholds

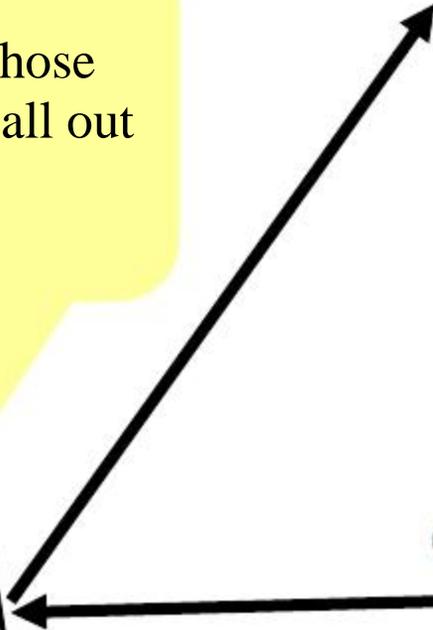
- **Deceit & Lying**
Abraham,
Isaac, &
Jacob
- **Control**
Laban,
Rebekah,
Jacob,
King Saul
- **Sexual**
Rahab, David,
Bathsheba,
Absalom,
Amnon,
Solomon

A Stronghold Rejects Truth

“I’m so angry at those lawyers! They’re all out to get me!”



“John, I see this is getting you very angry. They really aren’t doing anything out of order.”



Angie

Generational Stronghold

Family Stronghold: Rejection

Event: Father – orphan

Angie - father left at age 12 (father
stronghold)

Symptoms: Sought acceptance
from men. Unable to make
long g term commitment

Other Factors

- Likeminded strongholds attract one another. The primary stronghold of the marketplace is mammon (greed) and pride.
- Companies can attract the same stronghold.
- Churches can attract the same stronghold.
- Cities and nations have strongholds.
- Industries have strongholds. (Brett story)

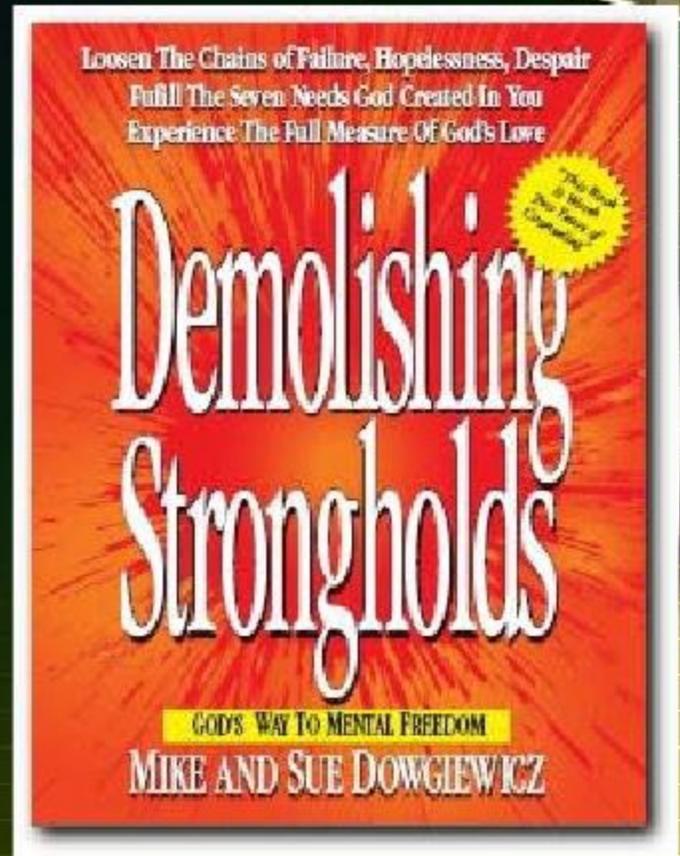
Steps to Freedom From Strongholds

- 1. Identify Strongholds and their Symptoms. Rank them from 1 (lowest influence)-10 (greatest) by the level of influence they have. Work with someone close to you to confirm the strongholds. i.e., spouse, close friend.**
- 2. Confess and renounce the influence of strongholds in Jesus' name. Each believer has the power of the Holy Spirit to renounce the influence of strongholds over their life. We "have divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).**
- 3. Meditate and walk according to the Word. Renew your mind.**

Personal Reflection

- Self-inventory stronghold test
- Further study

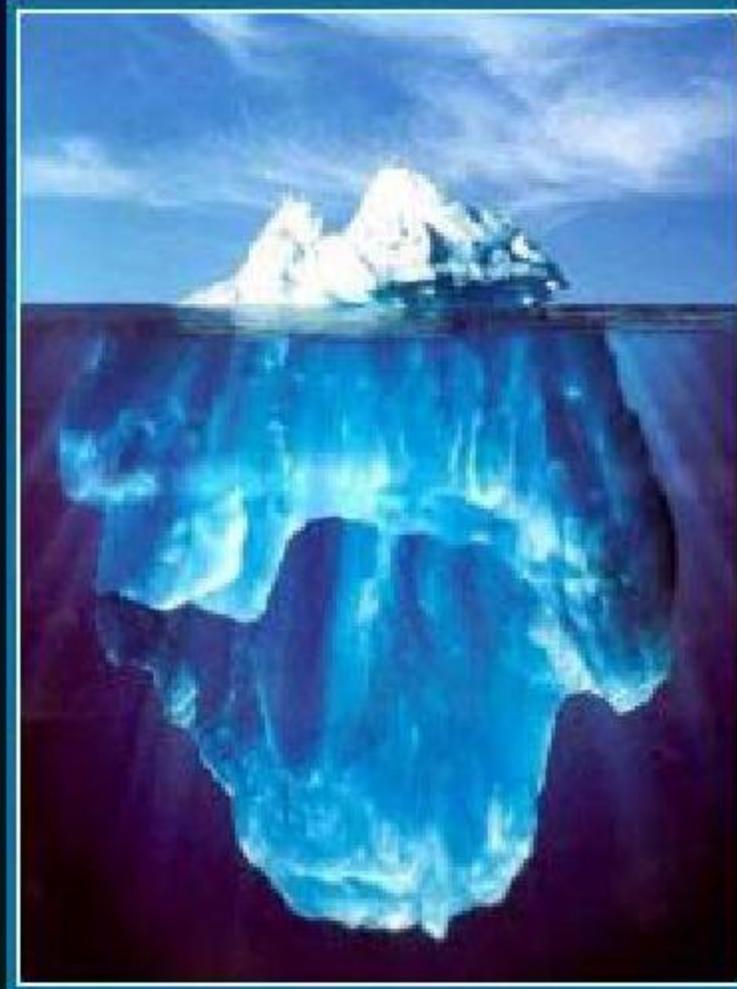
See resource table



Prayer

- **In the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we renounce the influence of _____, _____, _____ in Jesus' name and by His shed blood on the cross in order that I can be free to know and choose to do the will of God. As children of God seated with Christ in the heavenlies, we agree that every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ be bound. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Symptom Merely Indicates there is a Root



Q&A

Name the four hindrances to fulfilling your call:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Why is it difficult to live for Christ without dealing with these root issues?

Discussion Question

Give some examples why the four hindrances can keep people from fulfilling God's intended purpose for their life.

- 1. Unbiblical view of work and ministry**
- 2. Greek Vs Hebraic spirit**
- 3. Religious Spirit**
- 4. Spiritual Strongholds**