

# BREAKING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

## PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

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Turn to II Cor. 3 we have been talking about pulling down strongholds. Today we want to give some solutions on pulling down strongholds. Last week we saw how the transformation of the mind is related to the glorification of each one of us. How the renewal of the mind will transform each one of us.

II Cor. 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.* We clearly understand all these verses where it says that we with unveiled face as we behold the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into the same image. As we behold we are transformed. As we see the Lord so are we changed into His likeness. We have mentioned that the first condition before those things can take place is in the first phrase in verse 18 that it says *we all with unveiled face*. Now obviously if we have a veiled face we cannot see Him. If we cannot see Him we cannot be transformed into His image. Seeing Him and being transformed into His image will take place. But the condition for seeing Him is that our faces must be unveiled. Paul was not talking about just our physical faces. He was talking about something deeper. Not a physical veil but a veil over the mind.

We know that from the preceding verses, Paul was referring to the Jews who were not born again. It says here in verse 14 *But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains* - he is now spiritualizing the Old Testament veil. In the Old Testament it was the physical veil over Moses' face. Now he spiritualizes it and says now in the New Testament in all the synagogues during Paul's time there is a spiritual veil that remains while the Old Testament is being read in all their

synagogue. But he tells us the veil is taken away in Christ. Then verse 15 *But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.*

How is the veil removed? Verse 16 *Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.* Now we are going to consider that how the veil is taken away and how the veil still can affect our heart and our mind if we don't watch it. That is why the bible says to put on the new man. But many times we struggle with our old man. We don't know how to put on the new man. There is a veil that prevents one from seeing the Lord. Now we are not necessarily talking about the gift of discerning of spirits and visions but we are talking about how every believer in their heart in their being can perceive and fellowship and relate to the Lord in their own way. As they perceive and see the Lord they will be transformed. The requirement as given to us in verse 18 is *but we all, with unveiled face.* We must take away that veil.

We have brought to you last week that the veil is the mind - the carnal mind, carnal thinking and all the various thought pattern. Last week we showed you how one tiny thought pattern can be multiplied and can be twisted and turned into a pattern until it becomes a very strong rope. We illustrated with some toilet rolls last week. We showed you how we can turn toilet rolls into a rope so strong that you can't break it. All of us could easily just tear a piece of toilet roll. But last week we showed you how we could twist and turn it and form it into a pattern that is so strong and binding. The same way don't ever despise thoughts that come to your heart and mind. Some of the wrong thoughts that seem like nothing is just like a piece of toilet paper. When it becomes a pattern and develops stronger, it becomes a stronghold. That stronghold becomes a veil of darkness over your heart and mind and keeps you from perceiving the truth. As long as we wear dark glasses we will see everything darkly. If you wear polka dotted glasses you will see everyone with polka dots. No matter how much you try to wipe away the polka dot that you see outside you can't unless you take out your glasses and realize that the polka dots were on your glasses. It is important for us to understand that it's the conditioning of our mind that prevents the transformation.

Notice in chapter 3:14 how the veil was formed by the first sentence. *But their minds were blinded.* The word *mind* is the word *noema*, which is a normal word, used for thought life, thought pattern, the conscious mind. When the bible refers to your

normal conscious mind it uses the word *nous* or *noema*. The general word for mind talks about thought life. But their thought life is set into a certain pattern that now forms a veil over their life and they can't see clearly.

What causes the hardening? We will examine that because the opposite of that will be true. We will show you from the bible here in the book of Romans chapter one how the hardening takes place. He is talking in general about all people of the earth, all of creation, all of mankind. Rom. 1:19 *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.* He is talking about knowledge of God generally given to all mankind. Verse 20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they know God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.* God couldn't deal with them any more and surrendered them to their sin.

Notice what takes place in verse 21 *although they knew God they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* What caused the hardening process? There is the word *glorify* and there is the word *thankful*. It's important to see here that a grateful heart and a grateful mind is an important key to being free from strongholds. No matter how the strongholds came into your life, in your childhood, in your teenage time the key starts by being grateful. The key starts with thanksgiving. There are a lot of things we can thank God. For many things we can give thanks with gratefulness, no matter how hard your life is, how difficult it is.

Do you know how people's hearts become hardened? The bible tells us here though they knew God, they glorify Him not nor were thankful. It's a very simple key to pull down strongholds. No matter how strong a person under oppression, suppressions, 20 years, 30 years, remember it doesn't mean that if it is thirty years it takes thirty years to clear it off. It does not work that way. The woman with the issue of blood in the bible suffered thirty-eight years but Jesus in a moment cured

her. We must learn how to position ourselves to receive His empowerment.

The first important key is thanksgiving. Give thanks with a grateful heart. Think about those who are bound by wrong thinking. You can find that they have not been giving thanks. Why do two people go through the same situation and come out differently? They go through the same tribulation and come out differently. One sees all the bad things and blames God and people. While the other no matter how difficult says, "I am thankful for this. I am thankful for that little thing." They remain in the spirit of thanksgiving and they come out differently. The breakthrough in your life over strongholds begins with thanksgiving. You know how to thank God for big, big things. Try to find something in your life you can give thanks for. If somebody comes and say, "For the past ten years I have been suffering." Don't tell me for ten years they got nothing they could thank God for. But isn't it strange that a person under a stronghold is so convinced that for ten years they have nothing to give thanks. I am not just talking about just thanking God, thanking those around you.

Your parents no matter how bad you think your parents have been surely you can find some good you could thank God for. Suppose you came from a terrible background where your parents didn't know the Lord and they really did a lot of damage to you. You say that I find hard to think of something to thank God for. Automatically as you are saying that, your heart had hardened.

Hardening of heart is caused by a lack of thanksgiving. Glorifying Him of course is about praise and worship. You can never enter His courts with praise unless you enter His gates with thanksgiving. It starts with thanksgiving. The psalmist said, "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His court with praise." It starts with praise, worship and thanksgiving - to God first and then to the people around us who have been blessings to us in some way. I don't care if you think there is nothing I am sure there is something. You ask, "Pastor, what happens if I choose not to give thanks?" Automatically you are building a stronghold of evil. That is the hardening that you allow into your heart that will eat you up. If you are praying for something and you find yourself complaining you can be sure your prayers will never be answered. If you are anxious for an answer to your prayer you can be sure they will be hindered. The best position for God to hear our prayers and for

God to answer and meet the needs of our heart is to give thanks. Give thanks to God for whatever you are. If you are in a place and you are struggling with mortgage for your house or the rental of your house and sometimes you have difficulties in meeting the dues for even those areas and you are thinking of why, why. Wait, why not give thanks for that place? Why not remember to thank God for that place? If your heart is full of thanksgiving the answer will come very fast. The financial need will be met very fast. Giving thanks is a very important key to a breakthrough over strongholds.

Lets turn to the book of Ephesians chapter 4. You never realize that thanksgiving can affect our mind. It does. Romans one tells very clearly. Though they knew God they didn't glorify Him as God and they were not thankful to Him therefore they became hardened. Their hearts became futile. Eph. 4:17 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.* So Paul is saying don't walk like the way they walk in the futility of their mind. Now look at Rom. 1 again at the incident how their thoughts became futile. Rom.1: 21 *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in heir thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* A veil has formed, a stronghold has formed through the lack of thanksgiving.

Look at Eph.4: 17 it tells you the inner process of what took place in Rom.1. *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.* There is a stronghold over their lives by the enemy. Verse 18 *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.* Now Eph. 4:17-18 doesn't mention thanksgiving. But when you put it together with Rom.1: 21. Rom.1: 21 tells us that their minds became futile through the lack of thanksgiving. But it didn't mention the full hardening. It say the darkening but here in Eph. 4:17-18 it says there is a process of hardening of their heart because their understanding was darkened. We know from Rom. 1: 21 that the problem is that they are not thanking God. As far as I know even if non-Christians or people who have not met the Lord if they in a general way begin to look up to the God of creation, God will do what He did to Cornelius where as he begin to sought God and love God and reach out to God give thanks to God and do things onto God. God brought him the gospel of salvation through Peter in the book of Acts 10. This explains why God can

work with some people and why God can't work with others. Some people's hearts have hardened. But some people's hearts are softened because of constant thanksgiving to God and God can work in their lives.

One more scripture to prove to you it that it all ties up to the mind in Phil.4. We have never related thanksgiving to the mind in a direct sense. Phil.4: 6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* It says whatever is the problem that you are facing when you pray and supplicate to God you must remember to bring thanksgiving into the picture and when you bring it to God with gratefulness, with thanksgiving to Him, there will come a peace that guards your heart and your mind. The evil stronghold cannot form. Instead God's peace will have a stronghold in your life. All these tie to the word *thanksgiving*.

The word *thanksgiving* comes from the Greek word *eucharistia* and the root word is from the word *charis*, which means grace. Thanksgiving is referring to tapping on the grace of God. We need grace in this life. In fact it is by grace that mankind have been able to know God. Even in the Old Testament even though they were still operating under the law every one who came to know God came to know God through grace. As they tap on the grace of God then they came to know God. The difference in the new is that what was revealed to a few in the Old Testament is now common knowledge with the coming of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The message of grace is onto all. Giving thanks taps on the power of God's grace in our life. So the first important key to breaking strongholds is thanksgiving.

Whenever you want to minister to people as they come for prayer whether here or in an evangelistic crusade or in a convention do you know what is the most important attitude to help people? Thanksgiving. That is why in many of Kathryn Kuhlman's miracle meetings, there is always the mystery of why some people are healed and some are not. Some really prayed very hard but some did not. That is one of the factors. It's always a mystery why some were healed and why some were not in the same meeting with the same power and the same Holy Spirit. Why were some healed and why were some not? Why allowed God to reach out to some easier than others? The mystery is solved. It is the conditioning of their mind at that

point. If your mind is on your problem and partially blaming others and partially blaming God it causes a blockage. But when your mind is on God, how good God is, then the blockage is clearing up and God's power can come through.

Some of those who were healed in Kathryn Kuhlman's meetings said that when they come to the miracle crusade with problems in their life and then when they see others with worse problems then their hearts go out to them. Instead of praying for themselves they started praying for others. They started thanking God for who He is or what He is. While they were doing that for others they got healed. You see the power of God is available anywhere, anyplace, any time. Right now in your seat you can receive the miraculous healing power of God. You don't have to wait till convention comes. Or miracle service specially designed for the sick to be prayed for. The power of God is in your home as easily as it is here. It depends on our conditioning to Him. When we praise, glorify and worship Him we move ourselves into a position where His grace can flow to us. All the healing of God is based on His grace. All the power of God is based on His grace. All the gifts of God are based on His grace. *Eucharistia* thanksgiving puts you in a position for grace. So the first key to pulling down strongholds is thanksgiving.

Whenever you minister to people with mental problems and difficult situations in their lives, the first area is to get them to start thanking God. Sometimes they do it not from the heart because you told them to. You are going to pray for them and it has to go deeper than that. Sometimes it takes time to soak in a person's life. It is not just empty word – thank you Lord, thank you Lord, I mean you could tell that its not coming from inside. But when something changes on the inside and they begin to look around everywhere with thanksgiving, they will start experiencing God's providence in little ways. Like for example how do we continue to release finances into the body of Christ. Simple - thank God for whatever finances have come in. As you give thanks to God for all those things and you pray and worship God, more finances will come in to complete the lack or shortfall.

In many places sometimes people are so conscious of what they want they forgot to give thanks for what they already have. Sometimes people are wanting for a big convention or something. They want many people and not many people have

signed up for the convention. They are looking around asking why all those people didn't come. Something is wrong and the Lord says if you really want to be blessed thank God for the people who are coming. In our twenty years of ministry, the first five years of our ministry were mainly traveling. In some places, sometimes we get a well-known evangelist from overseas to conduct some services. People had worked hard to organize the event. They rent a big hall that can seat ten thousand people and then only five hundred people showed up. It's going to look very funny of course. If people don't know how to concentrate on the Lord they could be blaming why the other nine thousand five hundred didn't come instead of giving thanks for the five hundred. But if they spend their time complaining about the nine thousand five hundred, do you know even the five hundred would also run away? It is important to give thanks. Remember sometimes God is testing your heart.

Suppose you open a care group or a home group and you want ten people, you want fifteen people, you want twenty people. You did everything that you can. Only three people showed up. You are so upset at the rest who should show up but didn't show up that you forgot to give thanks for the three. By your acts and by your words and all your complaining even the three people would also run away. Next week, there's no more coming to your home group. Learn to say, "Praise God I am glad you made it," and give thanks for these three whom God brought to your meeting. Pour your life to them and give your heart to them and encourage them. After one whole month of meeting like that the three brought another three and you got six. Remember there is no short cut in a ministry, in spiritual growth or in any area. You start as you are. Sometimes God tests you with the twos and threes. Why do you think He put that scripture there? Where two or three are gathered together in My name. It is because that's where we start.

Some of us will say, "I will wait till my circumstances change then I give thanks." Sorry your circumstances are not going to change. The sad news it's going to grow worse by your attitude. Even that which is there is going to grow worse. Begin in a small way to give thanks. Just as we encourage people even if one person turned up, two or three turned up give thanks and do your best for the meeting. This works in the same way as you learn how to break the strongholds. Don't wait till big, big things happen before you start giving thanks. For all those everyday things, say, "Thank you God. Thank You for Your blessing. Thank you for help. Thank You O God for Your grace. Thank You O God for Your wisdom." Thank God for things

you already have and more things will come. You could be in the sales area. You are trying to make your sales and you got ten contacts. They are not the ones you want. You want other contacts. You are so fed up with all your problems you are not making full use of thanksgiving. Instead of thanking God for those that you have, you keep aiming for things that are in the future. In the end you even miss the future. We have to give thanks for where we are now. Start where we are giving thanks to God. Give thanks to God for your situation in your home. Find some areas you can thank God for. We are not talking about giving glory to God for things that He has not done. God didn't send sickness, diseases. No matter how big your problems are or how small they are, there is always room to give thanks to God. Point No.1 is thanksgiving.

Point No.2 why thanksgiving? When you pull down strongholds we are fighting spiritual battles. One of the most important keys is learning how to fight the fight of faith. The fight of faith is not really your fight. It is learning how to enforce the fight that Jesus had completed.

Lets turn to I Tim.6: 12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

He says fight the good fight of faith. We know that Paul himself has fought a good fight. He has run the race. He has finished the race. What is the fight of faith? The fight of faith is not fighting the devil. Not exactly that. The difference between enforcing Jesus' victory and you fighting the devil is a difference between day and night. Many Christians have been fighting the fight the wrong way. They are not fighting the good fight of faith. They are fighting the bad fight of fear. It is not the good fight of faith; it is the bad fight of fear. The good fight of faith is a different fight altogether.

The key is found in understanding what Jesus had done to the devil. When Jesus was going to the cross of Calvary Jesus mentioned something that was going to happen to Him. He was going to be hung on the cross and after three days He will rise from the dead. But He mentioned something is going to happen to the devil. He is not talking about after the tribulation period. He is talking about something happening when Jesus died on the cross found in Jn. 12. Jesus before He went to the cross said something here in verse 30-31 *This voice did not come because of Me, but for*

*your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.* Some people think that Satan's judgment will come. No, Satan has already been judged. His capture is coming but his judgment has been passed from that day at Calvary. You know sometimes a court proclaims a judgment. But the convict is still running loose. He is not captured yet. Jesus said now is the time of judgment. If you read the context He is referring to the cross of Calvary. The prince of this world Satan is judged of course it goes down the line to all his cohorts. Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary is doing something about the devil.

In Heb. 2:14 it tells us something that He has done to the devil. *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.* Now notice when it took place. Not in the future. He says through death. Now when did Jesus die on the cross of Calvary? When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary He says during His death notice it is through His death not in the future. Jesus needs only to die once. Jesus is coming again but He doesn't have to die again. Jesus had died once and for all for the sins of the world. Through His death and when was His death? Nearly two thousand years ago on the cross of Calvary. Through His death He might destroy him who had the power of death. The word *destroy* means to reduce to zero. To reduce to nothing. When did that take place at the cross? In the spirit world time is of no consequence. But the acts that are released by God through the spirit go backward in time and goes forward in time. He has destroyed the devil. Made him nothing at the cross.

I Jn. 3:8 tells us for this purpose the Son of God was manifest to destroy the works of the devil. Now is it future tense, past tense or present tense? Something happened to the devil that he is hiding from the world. Something happened to the devil that he does not want the Christians to know. He had been destroyed. He doesn't want the world to know. The devil hides that fact.

Col. 2:14 all the devil's cohort something happened to them too. *Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.* That was at the

cross He triumphed over all. At the cross nearly two thousand years ago Jesus Christ destroyed all the principalities and powers. The word there is *He spoiled them* is a military word speaking about how you strip off all the goods etc off the person then you display them. He would lead them in triumph. When the Roman general goes for battle and wins, he will capture all the enemy, tie them up and they will be marching throughout the Roman roads and displaying their triumph. That was what Jesus did at the cross of Calvary. He triumphs over the devil. That is the secret that Satan and demons try to hide. He has been destroyed - past tense - principalities powers and all the wicked rulers of darkness have lost all their power because when the head lost its power every thing else follows.

Now what is the fight of faith? The fight of faith is not you and I fighting the devil. It's you and I taking the place where Jesus took. Taking His victory and enforcing it on the enemy. Reminding the enemy in every way that it is done. It is not you and I that fight the devil because how do you fight a fight that has been won? You don't. You give thanks. Can you see why thanksgiving comes in to pull down strongholds? If somebody were to tell you, you don't have to do anything more. Everything has been done and completed for you all you have to do is go and take it. What would you say? Thank you. By saying thank you, you receive it and you go on. In the gospel of John, the last sentence that Jesus spoke on the cross was, "It is finished." On the cross of Calvary two thousand years ago, Jesus' last three words continue to vibrate throughout this universe. After He has taken some drink Jesus cried out Jn.19: 30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished"* Completed, the work is done, the enemy is destroyed all that the devil has done has been judged. The judge has taken the hammer and knocked his table declaring that it is finished. There is nothing that you and I can add to the finished work of Jesus. There is no more fight with the devil. There is the fight of faith. The fight is to hold on in faith to what Jesus had done. The devil is a deceiver. The devil or demon tries to hide that secret. They pretend that they are not defeated. They pretend that they still have power. To those who believe them they exercise power. To those who believe Jesus you are free because it is finished.

Now there is a slight mistranslation in the bible in the book of Eph. 6 I like to point out. It says in verse 12 some people sooner or later are going to quote verse 12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly*

places. Now in verse 12 it looks like you and I are doing the wrestling. Do you know that in Eph.12: 6 the word *we* is not in the Greek. The word *we* as in *we wrestle not with principalities powers* etc is not found in the Greek. It should have been translated *for the wrestling is not against flesh and blood*. He didn't say that you and I had to personally do it. It refers to the wrestling. For the wrestling is not against flesh and blood. The word *we* is not in the Greek at all. It's referring to the word the wrestling in a different manner. How do we wrestle? Eph. 6:11 tells us what we actually do. It's not fighting the devil. It's taking up what God has done. *Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*. Do you know that the fight of faith is learning to stand in the place where Jesus stood? That's all you do. If you say that is easy, then how come you are not doing it? A lot of people are not standing. They are doing many other things except standing. When you stand you got to stand on certain grounds. On the ground that Jesus Christ had defeated the devil and all his cohorts when He said it is finished. You stand on the fact that it is done. He may throw everything at you. You say no it is finished. The circumstances come and disturb you and say, "It is not finished. Look at this thing here, look at that thing there. It is not finished." You say, "No it is finished," and you make the stand. He repeats that again in verse 13.

See verse 12 is sandwiched by this verse on standing. *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand*. How many times did Paul mention about standing rather than wrestling? Yet we focus more on the word *wrestling* rather than the word *standing*. How is it that when the word *stand* is repeated many, many times in this passage that we still don't stand but want to wrestle instead? In verse 14 *Stand therefore*, Paul tells us. The word *stand* is repeated three times whereas the word *wrestling* is only mentioned one time and without the word *we*. We read the whole passage and we focus on wrestling rather than on standing. We are missing the point of what Paul is saying. He is saying that the important thing is to stand on the victory that Jesus bought for us with His precious blood. That's the fight of faith.

Besides that the word fight in the book of I Tim.6 that we read earlier fight the good fight of faith. The word *fight* is the word *agon*, which refers more to the word *race*. It is primarily "a gathering" then, "a contest, conflict," in a race but not so much as the word in physical fighting. There is another Greek word for physical fighting. Fight the good fight of faith. It could have been translated run the good race of faith. The

same Greek word *agon* which is translated *fight* in I Tim.6 and in II Tim. 4 has also been translated in Heb. 12:1 as *race*. *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race (agon which is translated fight in I Tim. 6 here its translated race) that is set before us.* The word *agon* talks more about the prayer aspects. Run the race and he is not talking about fighting. But he is talking about holding on to that position and you keep on moving. You keep on moving in a position that God has given you.

Do you ever contact the devil at all? If there is any contact you have with the devil at all it is when you raise up the name of Jesus, say in the name of Jesus come out. That's all. The Holy Spirit does the actual work, angels do the actual work. Your part is to stand on the victory of God. The first key to pulling down stronghold is thanksgiving.

The second key is to see that it is finished. Whether you feel it or you don't feel it is to take the position that it is finished. Now look at Heb. 12:2 *looking unto Jesus the author and finisher*. Do you know a lot of people cannot see Jesus as the finisher? They only see that He is the author. You can't see the end product. But here it says looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Of every project. Of every race He gives you to run. Of every part of His will for your life. It is finished. When you see that it is finished that the devil has been defeated your battle is different. It's totally different. Remember what we are saying when something is finished what else can you do? Nothing, you only give thanks. That is why the two are connected. Whenever you are fighting spiritual forces you must not take the position that they have the power. The moment you take the position that they have power and the work is not finished yet, you will find that you are fighting the battle in your own strength. You must take the position that the battle is finished, the victory is won and you are giving thanks.

According to Phil. 4 when you pray with supplication and thanksgiving the peace of God which surpasses understanding will garrison your heart and your mind and you will stand firm. Having done all standing you will stand. That's why Rom. 16: 20 tells you that the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet. When you stand you will experience the same thing.

In the Old Testament there is an interesting story that has significance for us today. In one of the battles a group of kings who rose up to fight against Joshua went hiding in caves. So Joshua's army blocked up the caves. After they routed the enemy, they came back to the caves and got the kings out. It's in the Old Testament in the book of Joshua. When all the kings came out Joshua asked his generals to put their feet on the kings' necks. Now Joshua could see the revelation that God has given him the land. But all his generals must see the same revelation.

It is something for Jesus to feel the victory at the cross. When Jesus defeated and destroyed the devil, Jesus wants you to feel the victory with your own feeling. For you and I to put Satan under our feet we need not fight with him any more. We only claim the victory that is ours in Jesus Christ. That is why in the book of Rom. 7 when Paul described the struggles he went through about doing the things he does not will to and not doing the things he will to, in the end he gives thanks to God that through Christ he is free. Why look onto Jesus? That's because the victory is completed. The devil has been destroyed. The battle you see is finished.

One more scriptures before we act out what we are talking about in the book of Eph. 4:17 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened being alienated from the life of God.* The word *understanding* is the word *dianoia* - having their *dianoia* darkened that they cannot see what God has done in Christ. But in Eph. 1:17-18 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding (dianoia).* Our *dianoia* is the seeing part of our mind, the inner eyes that see. Eph.4 among the Gentiles their eyes have been closed, blinded, darkened. But Eph.1 for Christians what are the eyes opened for? That you and I can keep seeing Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Lets say that this bible represents the completed works of Jesus. Lets say I am a Christian walking in my life struggling here and there. Once in a while I catch a glimpse of the revelation that it is done. The other time that the revelation that it is

done is hidden in the back of my mind or somewhere but I forgot that it is finished. Every time as a Christian I remember that it is finished I will be taking up my hands and lifting it right up. Whenever I forget that it is finished the devil will be disturbing me as a Christian, hindering me and making my life difficult. But whenever I remembered that it is finished, I lift up my hands, then the devil is going to drop down to the floor. Lets have Pastor Kumar. Pastor Kumar pretends to be Jesus. He is going to knock Vega, who pretends to be the devil, down with this bible. Vega is going to pretend to fall. That is supposed to have been done two thousand years ago. That took place at Calvary. Then Jesus Christ passes on that authority and the finished work to the disciples. Now the disciples have the revelation that the devil is defeated. Whenever the disciples forgot that the work is finished and completely done, the devil is going to wake up and use up all kinds of tricks up his sleeve to disturb the disciples.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter said it was not their power or holiness but faith in Jesus that healed the lame man. *Silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise and walk.* Why do you think we have to use the name of Jesus? Every time you use the name of Jesus you are saying it is not you who cast out the devil. It is to you who do all the work. It is you employing and utilizing the finished work of Jesus on the sickness, on the disease, on the devil. They did all those things and stepped all over the devil. Through time the disciples passed on the same revelation from one generation to another. Paul had recorded it down in his letters. Here and there Christian tradition sets in and people slowly forgot about the finished work. It is sealed up and Christians are struggling in their daily life. They try to move but the devil drags them. They try to wrestle with the devil but the devil is too strong. It's so difficult. Life is hard. Life is tough. Sometimes the church fainted. In the dark ages Christianity have lost their bible and the revelation. Finally Martin Luther found justification by faith. Now was justification by faith a new doctrine? No, it was in the bible for the past two thousand years. But Christians try to be saved but couldn't be saved. In the end they found they don't have to try to be saved. Jesus died on the cross for me and all I have to do is to give thanks and accept what He has done.

The second point is standing on the finished work of Jesus. First point is give thanks. You see there is no meaning to thanksgiving if you still got to do the work. But there are two points in breaking down strongholds. One giving thanks for

whatever reason. The second is to stand on the finished work of Jesus Christ. Remember no matter how difficult your life, how difficult your past, you begin right where you are with the finished work of Jesus. Thanksgiving should come first in your life. When you enter into the spirit of thanksgiving, your *dianoia* will be opened and you could see, you could feel, you could establish the finished work of Jesus. That is when every stronghold in your life begins to shake and disappear.