

# Praying for Protection



MetaCamp

## Protection for believers

Jesus is our model, the standard against which we are to measure our lives, and that is especially true of His prayer life. We have many references to Jesus' prayer life in the Bible—where, when and how long He prayed. And we have many of His personal teachings on prayer, but few examples of what He actually said.

The longest prayer of Jesus is found in John 17 (*John 17:6-26*). It is, for the most part, a prayer of intercession, and He offered it for His disciples and for those who will believe in Him through their message (*John 17:9, 20*). He offered it for us today, and because it is recorded in Scripture, it gives us an idea of what to pray for ourselves and for others.

One of His most direct requests is spoken twice: "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me...;" and, "...protect them from the evil one" (*John 17:11, 15*). Anything that was important for Jesus to ask in prayer should be important to us. We're to pray for protection from the evil one, in Jesus' name, the name at which every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth (*Phil. 2:9-10*).

Scripture provides encouraging promises of God's protection. Psalm 91 is an example of His faithfulness to His children who maintain an obedient, abiding, love relationship with Him. But the truth is, not all of God's children walk with Him in that way. Not all of them actively seek His shelter and protection. They need our prayers. God wants our prayers on their behalf.

**Pray with me now**—*Holy Father, we ask as Jesus asked, for protection from the evil one for ourselves and those we love—we ask it in His powerful name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Is it Satan—or self?

When we consider intercessory prayer, it's a good idea to include the same things that Jesus prayed for. When He prayed for His disciples and the believers who would follow, one of His direct requests was for our protection from the evil one (*John 17:15*).

While this is important to include as part of our daily prayers, there is a caution. When things go wrong, it's easy to blame the devil rather than ourselves. Truth is, we have three enemies—the world, the flesh (or *self*), and the devil.

Self causes many of our problems. God promises that “He Who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (*1 John 4:4, NKJV*). We have God's Holy Spirit in us, if we are His children. His Spirit is always there, yet we're told we must “be filled with the Spirit” (*Eph. 4:19*), that we're not to grieve the Spirit (*Eph. 4:30*), nor to quench Him (*1 Thes. 5:19*).

Greater is He Who is in us—but He won't show His strength if we grieve Him with unconfessed sins, or quench Him with disobedience, or if we fail to allow Him to fill us and live the abiding life through us day by day. Self, our flesh, makes those choices. Our old nature, which was crucified with Christ (*Gal. 2:20*), puts up a fight before it dies completely. And when that old sin-nature is in charge, Satan doesn't have to bother to keep us out of the will of God.

It's not only protection we need to ask for, but discernment, and hearts that are willing to yield.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we ask protection from Satan, but first we need protection from self. Forgive us for not wanting to let go, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Is it Satan—or the world?

When you pray for yourself and others, do you pray for protection from the evil one, as Jesus prayed for us in John 17? That's an important prayer we should take seriously—more seriously than many do today. But that's not the only protection we need.

The world is our enemy, too. It's a dangerous place, and we're cautioned in Colossians 2:8, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of the world rather than on Christ." James 1 tells us we should keep from "being polluted by the world" (*James 1:27*) and in First John we're told "do not love the world or anything in the world" (*1 John 2:15-16*).

The world in this sense refers to the world system over which Satan rules (*John 15:30-31, Eph. 2:2*). We must be on guard against the culture and age we live in, and the temptations we face which pull us away from God's standard and will. It's a world in which families are breaking down and those who commit sins are lifted up. It's a system which professes relative morality and encourages tolerance over truth—and it's easy for us to get caught up in its enticing logic.

Our prayer for protection must include discernment to see the world system for what it is, and the strength and courage not to be pulled away from the life we know we should lead. We must pray for a desire to know and understand truth.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, give us and those we love the spiritual eyes to help us discern Your truth. Guard our minds against the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Is it Satan—or God’s discipline?

Jesus prayed for the protection of His disciples and the believers who would follow them—asking His Father to protect us from the evil one (*John 17:15*). And He taught us to pray for deliverance from the evil one (*Matt. 6:13*).

But if things go wrong in our lives, as they often do, we must not always assume we’re under spiritual attack. That’s a relatively easy thing to deal with, because as children of God, we’re secure in the truth that Satan can’t harm us (*1 John 5:18-19*), unless we give him ground.

More difficult to live with are the consequences of the actions and attitudes that come from a focus on self or from the influence of the world. Or more difficult yet, with the discipline that comes from God. Sometimes we focus so much on God’s love and mercy, that we fail to take seriously the scriptures which tell us clearly that He disciplines those He loves.

In Deuteronomy we read, “Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you” (*Deut. 8:5*). And in Hebrews, “...the Lord disciplines those he loves...” (*Heb. 12:5-6*). In Revelation Jesus said, “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline” (*Rev. 3:19*). He was talking to the church.

God is patient and loving and merciful—but He loves us too much to let His children continue to sin without repentance or any accountability. Shouldn’t part of our prayers address this with the Lord, asking that He help us recognize when it is His hand of discipline—and why it’s necessary?

**Pray with me now**—*Father, not all prayers are easy to pray, if we’re honest. Please, tell us what we need to know about the lessons we must learn. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Victory in the truth

God's children must be greatly at risk from Satan, or Jesus would not have asked for the Father's protection from the evil one in His intercessory prayer for His disciples in John 17 (*John 17:15*). Jesus knew Satan's threat was—and is—real. Jesus had seen Satan fall from heaven (*Luke 10:18*), He had faced the devil in the desert and defeated him (*Matt. 4:10*), He had seen Satan's influence on those who were closest to Him (*Luke 22:31, John 13:2*).

Jesus told us to pray for deliverance from the evil one (*Matt. 6:13*) and He Himself prayed for our protection from Satan (*John 17:15*). He is our teacher and our example—so what do we ask? We pray for the victory of Truth in our lives. Jesus won the victory over Satan at the cross. In Colossians we read, “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he [Jesus] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (*Col. 2:15*). But His victory is only our victory when we appropriate it by receiving Him as Savior and Lord.

Then, through the Spirit of Truth, we have all of Him and His victory as part of our lives, for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life (*John 14:6*). His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, lives in and through us, when we recognize and confess our sins, and give Him our lives. He becomes our life, and our victory over Satan. Have you done that? Given Him your life? Come to a moment of decision, prayed a prayer that acknowledged your decision to God and yourself?

**If not, you may want to pray with me now—***Lord, I know I'm a sinner and that Jesus died for my sins. Please forgive me. I ask Him to come into my life as Savior and Lord. I ask it in Jesus' name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## The name of Jesus, the blood of the Lamb

Satan is a real and powerful adversary, identified in Scripture as the serpent, the dragon, and the roaring lion. His demons, the other fallen angels, are described as snakes and scorpions. Those are apt descriptions.

He is given many names, including ruler and prince of the world, the god of this age. And many dubious titles are his—such as the tempter, deceiver, destroyer, adversary, murderer, liar and the evil one. He’s a formidable foe.

When we have prayed through a concern and feel that there is a problem with the influence of evil spirits, there are three key things we must pray as we begin interceding for protection.

First, Jesus taught His disciples that they must bind Satan—the strong man, Beelzebub—before they can completely overcome him (*Luke 11:21-22*). So we ask the Lord to bind Satan and his evil spirits and send them where Jesus commands them to go, and not return.

Second, we ask the Lord to bind them in the power of the name of Jesus, the name at which every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth (*Phil 2:9-11*)— including Satan’s. And third, we ask for binding through the blood of the Lamb. In Revelation we read, “For the accuser of our brothers [Satan]...has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony” (*Rev. 12:10-11*).

Satan can’t stand against the power of Jesus’ name or the blood of the Lamb.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, help us not to be frightened or overly concerned about evil spirits, but to simply pray for Your protection in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Protection from the father of lies

When we intercede for those we love, and ask the Lord to protect them from the evil one, how do we know what to pray? We turn to the Word.

The Bible describes Satan, his power, and how he uses it, and that clarifies what we should ask. For instance, Jesus said Satan is the father of lies (*John 8:46*). How many lies would it take to keep someone out of God's will and away from the personal love relationship God wants with him?

First John 2:14 tells us how to pray for what a person needs to stand against Satan's lies—"I write to you young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one." We pray for the knowledge of the word of God to discern between Satan's lies and the truth.

We ask that our loved one would be led to spend time reading the Bible consistently every day, that he would find a Bible he readily understands and is comfortable with, that God would lead him to a church where the Word of God is taught, that the Holy Spirit of Truth would enlighten his understanding.

We would ask that the Lord help him to abide in the Vine, to allow Jesus and His Word to live in him—that the truth of Scripture would be so much a part of him that he could immediately spot one of Satan's lies. In all of this, we know we pray according to God's will—and those are the prayers He's most likely to answer.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we offer this prayer for our loved ones who are Your children, but have no real and personal knowledge of You, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Protection from the deceiver

In Revelation 20, Satan is described as a deceiver. In verses 7-8 we read, “Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth.” Verse 10 describes him as “the devil, who deceived them...”

He is the great deceiver; it’s part of his character. Paul was concerned that some in the Corinthian church were being led astray by Satan’s deceptions. He wrote in 2 Corinthians 11, “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness” (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Can that happen today? It can, and it does. And yet, in God’s Word, Jesus teaches us, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). The Bible will tell us when we’re being deceived.

In our intercessions for protection from the deceiver, we pray that those we love would take time to personally study the Bible, and that they will always listen carefully to any teaching and compare it to the truth of God’s Word. We ask the Lord to give them discernment about any spirits of righteousness or visions of angels—that they hold up what they read or hear or experience to the teaching of Jesus, to truth.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we offer this prayer for ourselves, for today deceptions about spirits and angels abound. Protect us with Your truth, in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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## Protection from the Tempter

Satan is the tempter (*Matt. 4:3*) who came after Eve in the garden (*Gen. 3:13*), who came after Jesus in the desert (*Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:13*) and who comes after us all the time.

Paul was concerned about the Christians in the church at Thessalonica, writing in his first letter to them, “For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless” (*1 Thes. 3:5*).

To the Corinthians, he wrote the same idea, “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (*2 Cor. 11:3*).

If we are praying for ourselves, or for others, to be able to resist temptation, God’s Word gives us specific things to ask. What does Paul say we need?—faith and sincere, pure devotion to Christ. That, then, becomes our prayer for protection from temptation, that our Father will build our faith in Christ, our trust in Him. That He will help us believe that Christ truly lives in us through His Holy Spirit, so that we know we can resist Satan’s temptations—not in our own strength, but in His. That He will help us live the abiding life.

We ask our Father to cultivate in us sincere and pure devotion to Christ, to balance the busy Martha side of our lives with the adoring Mary, who sat at Jesus’ feet (*Luke 10:38-42*). Our protection from the tempter is our faith in Christ.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, this is our prayer that we will live with faith and with sincere and pure devotion to Christ, in Whose name we pray, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Victory over the tempter

Satan’s temptations are real. After all, his role of tempter is his premiere role, his debut in Scripture, as he tempted Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (*Gen. 3:1-13*).

But God’s Word tells us that we don’t have to lose this battle with the tempter. Paul assures us of this in First Corinthians 10, where he wrote, “And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (*1 Cor. 10:13*).

Jesus shared the way out with Peter in the garden of Gethsemane, when He said, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak” (*Matt. 26:41*).

Watchfulness and prayer defeat the tempter. When we pray for protection for ourselves and others facing temptation, we do more than remind God that His word says He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear—we ask that He show us the way out, as He promised to do. We ask Him to open our spiritual eyes to see temptation for what it is, and to keep us alert—in Him and in His Word—so that we may know what is right.

Most of all, we ask that He help us become people of prayer, and that we learn to pray the truth of Scripture, such as, “Lord, I thank you that sin is not my master” (*Rom. 6:14*). Jesus taught that our protection and our victory come through prayer.

**Pray with me now**—*Lord, help us live out the truth that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness—in Your powerful name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Protection from the accuser

Have you ever felt guilty long after you have confessed a sin? If your heart was right; if you agreed that what you did was wrong and were sorry; if you received God's mercy and asked for His strength to turn away from that sin—and still feel guilty, even though you've not committed the sin again, that's not from the Lord.

In 1 John 1:9 He promises, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins...." We know from Jeremiah 31:34 that God says, "...I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." If God is not remembering our sins, He is certainly not accusing us after He has forgiven them.

So who is accusing us? Rev. 12:10 tells us Satan is "...the accuser of our brothers.... They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony..." (Rev. 12:10-11). We don't have to put up with Satan's accusations. Our victory over Satan is through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, the truth of God's Word. If we confess, He forgives. If He forgives, He forgets.

Guilt can cause us to feel depressed and worthless, but the truth is we are priceless, for Christ died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8). We have victory over the accuser when we claim the protection of the blood of the Lamb and declare the truth of His Word in Christ's name, through prayer.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, let the truth of Your Word overcome the accuser in our lives. Protect us with the blood of the Lamb, in Jesus' powerful name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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## Victory over our accuser

When we have received Jesus as Savior and Lord (*Rom.10:9*), sin is no longer our master (*Rom. 6:14*), for “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires” (*Gal. 5:24*). Trouble is, the “old nature” sometimes dies slowly (*Rom. 7:19*). Victory over sin is ours, but we may not always choose it.

Satan loves it when we give in to sin, to his temptations (*Gen. 3:13, 2 Cor. 11:3*). Satan accuses us before God, and through guilt, accuses us to ourselves. Guilt is different from the feeling of brokenness over our sins that leads to our confession. Once our sins have been confessed, we have no reason to feel guilt—our sins have been forgiven (*1 John 1:9*).

God doesn't let Satan get away with being our accuser, and neither should we. Zechariah 3 begins: “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, Satan!...

“Now Joshua [the high priest] was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, ‘Take off his filthy clothes.’ Then he said to Joshua, ‘See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you...’”

Satan, our accuser, is defeated by the truth of the Word in prayer—because Jesus, by His once and for all sacrifice (*Rom. 5:25*), has taken away our sins; His forgiveness is complete and our salvation secure (*Rom. 8:38*).

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we confess our sins not because You accuse us, but because we know we have disobeyed. Protect us from the accuser in Jesus' name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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## Protection from the thief

Do you remember the Parable of the Sower? The farmer scattered his seed and the birds ate some, some fell on rocky places and didn't take root, some seed fell among thorns which choked the plants, some fell on good soil and produced a crop.

When Jesus' disciples asked Him about the meaning of the parable, He said, "The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them" (*Mark 4:14-15*).

Satan doesn't want anyone to hear, read, understand, remember or apply the truth of the Word, and he will do his best to interfere. But he doesn't always succeed. The parable continues, "...Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop..." (*Mark 4:20*).

"Accept" is the word that makes the difference. When the lost hear the truth of the Gospel, they choose to accept it, or not. When the saved hear the truth of the Word, we also choose to accept it, or not—on a continuing basis. The choice to accept, apply and obey the Word of God is what prevents Satan from stealing away its truth and power in our lives. It's what produces the crop, the fruit, that Satan tries to prevent.

Our prayer of protection against Satan, the thief who steals God's Word, is that in the Spirit's strength we will understand the truth He reveals and obey. No matter what it requires of us.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, protect us from Satan, the thief of Your Word, by helping us make right choices when we read and apply it. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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## Hedge of protection

Satan is identified in Scripture as our enemy (*Matt. 13:39, Luke 10:19*), one who is hostile toward us, who hates us. That’s a sobering thought, but not a frightening one for children of God. We know Satan can’t stand against the name of Jesus (*Phil 2:9-11*) or the blood of the Lamb or the word of our testimony (*Rev. 12:10-11*), and in the book of Job we learn that sometimes God places a hedge of protection around people.

In Job 1 we read, “Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.’”

“‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ Satan replied. ‘Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?’” (*Job 1:8-10*)

Sometimes we may be tempted to pray for a hedge of protection around just anyone, but the context of this passage indicates God is most likely to have that hedge in place for those who are living a blameless and upright life, fearing God and shunning evil—not perfect, but walking in the light, confessing sins, seeking His righteousness.

Many people live this way, and when they do, they are likely to get Satan’s attention, especially if they are leaders in the body of Christ, soul-winners or serving the Lord in any kind of mission field. Asking for a hedge of protection for them, and that they might maintain their Spirit-filled walk, is not only appropriate, but needed.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, help us live blameless, upright lives, fearing you and shunning evil, that You may delight in hedging us in. We ask in Jesus’ name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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## Identifying strongholds

Second Corinthians 10:4 reads, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”

Jack Taylor, in his book, *Prayer: Life’s Limitless Reach*, says: “The word for stronghold in the Greek is a military word ... synonymous with ‘fortress.’ ...In military language it would refer to an area where the enemy is entrenched. In spiritual terms it is precisely the same, a place where the enemy is entrenched....

“The existence of a problem does not mean that one has a stronghold. For instance, the existence of worry does not mean that a person has a stronghold of worry. The probability is good, however, that if one gives in to worrying much and often, there will soon be a stronghold in which that person is bound and the matter of worry is no longer voluntary but compulsive....

“Compulsions, obsessions, fixations, and recurring involuntary thought processes would be included as suspects for strongholds. Unreasoning fear, helpless hate, unavoidable jealousy, violent temper, or a driving, aggressive spirit may be symptoms of a stronghold... [also] rejection, lust, timidity, distrust, criticism and phobias of varying natures.” [Jack Taylor, *Prayer: Life’s Limitless Reach*, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN, pp. 144-149.]

Paul told us to apply the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (*Eph. 6:10-18*) in prayer. The truth of God’s Word, offered in the name of Jesus and His redeeming blood, is our weapon for demolishing strongholds.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we don’t want to look for the devil under every rock, but neither do we want to ignore his influence. Deliver us, in Jesus’ name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Giving place to Satan

The Apostle Paul tells us: “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:4).

“Stronghold” carries the meaning of a fortress, and in the next verse, Paul uses the analogy to refer to negative influence on our thinking. He writes, “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 Cor. 10:5). Paul has said the battle is a spiritual battle, so it must be against evil spirits who maintain these strongholds to keep us from the victorious life.

How does this happen in a Christian’s life? Paul explains in Ephesians 4: strongholds begin when we “give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27) through sin. The passage, beginning with verse 26, reads: “...do not let the sun go down on your wrath, *nor give place to the devil*. Let him who stole steal no longer.... Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth.... And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.... Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you...” (Eph. 4:26-31 NKJV, italics added). Recurring sins like these give place to Satan.

How, then, are we to pray against the devil’s strongholds? We ask the Holy Spirit to take captive every thought we or others have to make it obedient to Christ. We ask for sensitivity to sin and the willingness to confess and repent in His strength.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, when we have a besetting sin, it may be our fault for allowing a stronghold. Forgive us, and give us victory in Christ’s name. Amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Breaking down strongholds

A familiar verse from the *New International Version* of the Bible reads, “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.” That’s 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Let me read now from *The Living Bible*, 2 Corinthians 10, verses 3-5: “It is true that I am an ordinary, weak human being, but I don’t use human plans and methods to win my battles. I use God’s mighty weapons, not those made by man, to knock down the devil’s strongholds. These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding him. With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into men whose hearts’ desire is obedience to Christ.”

One weapon is prayer. Many requests come to us from friends, from family—even from those we don’t know—for God’s children in rebellion. Young people leave home and are gone for years. Husbands or wives walk out and never look back. Friends live outside the expressed will of God, without concern. How do we pray for them? What do we ask?

These verses tell us we can ask God to demolish Satan’s strongholds in a person’s mind, to take every thought captive to obey Christ. With our prayers, we can “capture rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into [those] whose hearts’ desire is obedience to Christ.” Do we believe that? Do we ask for it?

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we ask now for You to break down the strongholds in our minds—allowed by self, nurtured by sin, built up by Satan. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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## Binding the strong man

One of the first things to pray when we are asking the Lord to protect those we love from Satan—especially those who are obviously not walking with the Lord—is that He will bind the strong man. Jesus referred to Satan as a strong man in Mark 4:27: “...no one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man.”

How do we do that in our prayers? We pray the truth of the Word of God, affirming our faith and trust in Him. Affirming that He alone is God (*Isa. 44:6*), we ask our Lord to bind the strong man. We pray in the name of Jesus (*Phil. 2:9-11*) and the blood of the Lamb (*Rev. 12:11*). We affirm the truth of the Word—that Satan cannot harm God’s children (*1 John 5:18*) without God’s permission (*Job 1:6-12*); and we ask the Lord to bind Satan and every other evil spirit who might be interfering in the life of the one we love and send the evil spirits wherever Jesus commands them to go (*Matt. 8:31-32, Rev. 20:10*).

We affirm the promises of Scripture. If the one we’re praying for is lost, we remind the Lord that He has said He is not willing that any should perish. (*2 Pet. 3:9*) If he or she is saved, we affirm that we know the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect His children from the evil one. (*2 Thes. 3:3*) If we discern the influence of a stronghold, we ask the Holy Spirit to open the believer’s eyes to the sin that led to it, and to demolish the stronghold by bringing all his thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ (*2 Cor. 10:4-5*).

We pray the truth—and the truth protects us and sets us free.

**Pray with me now**—*Father, we offer all that has been said as a prayer of protection and deliverance for ourselves and those we love. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

## Praying down strongholds

Paul writes, in 2 Corinthians 10:5, “I use God’s mighty weapons, not those made by man, to knock down the devil’s strongholds.” I want to share insights on the application of this Scripture from Jack Taylor’s book, *Prayer: Life’s Limitless Reach*. He writes, “I come to discuss something that is to me a vital secret in prayer, *praying down strongholds*. [It] accomplishes something that is accomplished in no other form of praying....

“When we come against [a stronghold] in our lives or in that of someone else, we are coming in the name of Jesus, on the authority of the Word of God, standing in victory attained by the shedding of his blood....

“In the process of the mighty advance of our prayers, thoughts are taken captive! Imagine that! You and I through prayer can have effect on the thinking of those around us.

“Begin with yourself. Identify a stronghold. Confess the sins that have aided that stronghold and perhaps caused it. Dismiss the enemy just as you have encouraged him before. Declare that you are God’s property and he (the devil) is a trespasser. Confess that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. Take your stand against any encroachment of the enemy in your mind and body. Declare your right to be free in Christ. Receive your freedom! Thank God for it. Then stand ready to help others in becoming whole people in Christ.” [Jack Taylor, *Prayer: Life’s Limitless Reach*, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN, 1977, pp. 144-149.]

**Pray with me now**—*Father, not every problem is a stronghold, but we know strongholds are real. We ask for discernment as we pray, in Jesus’ name, amen.*

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer for Protection

Holy Father, we come secure in the knowledge that we are righteous in Your sight because of Jesus' death on the cross. It is in His powerful name that we pray, the name at which every knee shall bow. We ask You to bind Satan and his evil spirits away from ourselves and these we love, in the name of Jesus and in the power of His blood, which overcomes the accuser. We ask You to send these evil spirits wherever Jesus tells them to go.

In the truth of Your Word, we come against the father of lies, asking that Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, set us free from Satan's influence. We stand against the deceiver, asking the Holy Spirit of Truth to reveal to us when Satan is trying to disguise himself as an angel of light.

We come against the tempter, asking for the strength to watch and pray, to have victory over temptation through Your Word. We ask that You not allow the thief to snatch Your Word from us, for You have promised Your Word will not return void. We come against the accuser who tries to discourage us with guilt regarding sins You have already forgiven, for Jesus is our Advocate.

We stand against Satan's strongholds in our lives, and any sins that have given the devil a foothold. We ask for broken and contrite hearts, willing to confess and repent and to live in Your strength. We ask You to bring all our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ.

We thank You that we are Your children, and Satan cannot harm us without Your permission. We have put our hope in the living God, Who is the Savior of all men—Jesus, in Whose name we pray. Amen.

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me—*

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*My prayer response—*

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*God wants me to—*

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*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_