

Pulling Down Strongholds in Prayer Partnering with God for the Lost – Part 2

**Life Church St. Louis November 30, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv**

Introduction

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Acts 26:18 (ESV) ...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

1. Pray With Divine Authority

Luke 10:19 (ESV) Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (ESV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Mark 3:27 (ESV) But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

2. Pray with God's Burden and Compassion

Psalm 126:5-6 (ESV) Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Nehemiah 1:4 (ESV) When I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Romans 9:2-3 (ESV) I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers.

3. Pray For Spiritual Birth and Transformation

John 1:12-13 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Titus 3:5 (ESV) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 37:4-5 (ESV) Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live."

Pulling Down Strongholds in Prayer Study Guide

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Introduction

1. What are some “strongholds” that keep people from receiving God’s truth in today’s world?
2. How does this passage remind us that prayer, not human effort, is the key to breaking spiritual barriers? (2 Corinthians 10:3–5)
3. What does this verse teach us about who our true spiritual enemies are? (Ephesians 6:12)
4. How does prayer open blind spiritual eyes and turn hearts from darkness to light? (Acts 26:18)

1. Pray With Divine Authority

1. What kind of authority has Jesus given believers, and how can we use it in prayer for the lost? (Luke 10:19)
2. Why is putting on the armor of God essential when interceding for others in spiritual warfare? (Ephesians 6:10–11)
3. What does it mean to “bind the strong man,” and how does this apply to praying for those held captive by sin? (Mark 3:27)
4. How can you begin affirming Christ’s authority and victory when praying for your loved ones who are far from God?

2. Pray with God’s Burden and Compassion

1. What does sowing in tears teach us about the relationship between compassion and spiritual harvest? (Psalm 126:5–6)
2. How does Nehemiah’s example show us the importance of allowing God’s burden to move us to prayer and fasting? (Nehemiah 1:4)
3. What do Paul’s words reveal about the depth of love and anguish that fuels true intercession? (Romans 9:2–3)
4. In what ways can you allow God to give you His heart for those who are lost or wandering?

3. Pray For Spiritual Birth and Transformation

1. What does it mean to be “born of God,” and how does this truth shape the way we pray for salvation? (John 1:12–13)
2. How does this verse clarify that salvation comes only by God’s mercy and not by good works? (Titus 3:5)
3. What does Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones teach us about the Holy Spirit’s power to bring life to the spiritually dead? (Ezekiel 37:4–5)
4. How can you actively pray Scripture and speak life over those who need spiritual awakening?

Conclusion

1. How does understanding the heart as a “fortress” help you view prayer as a spiritual act of warfare?
2. What step can you take this week to pray with more authority, compassion, and faith for someone who is far from God?