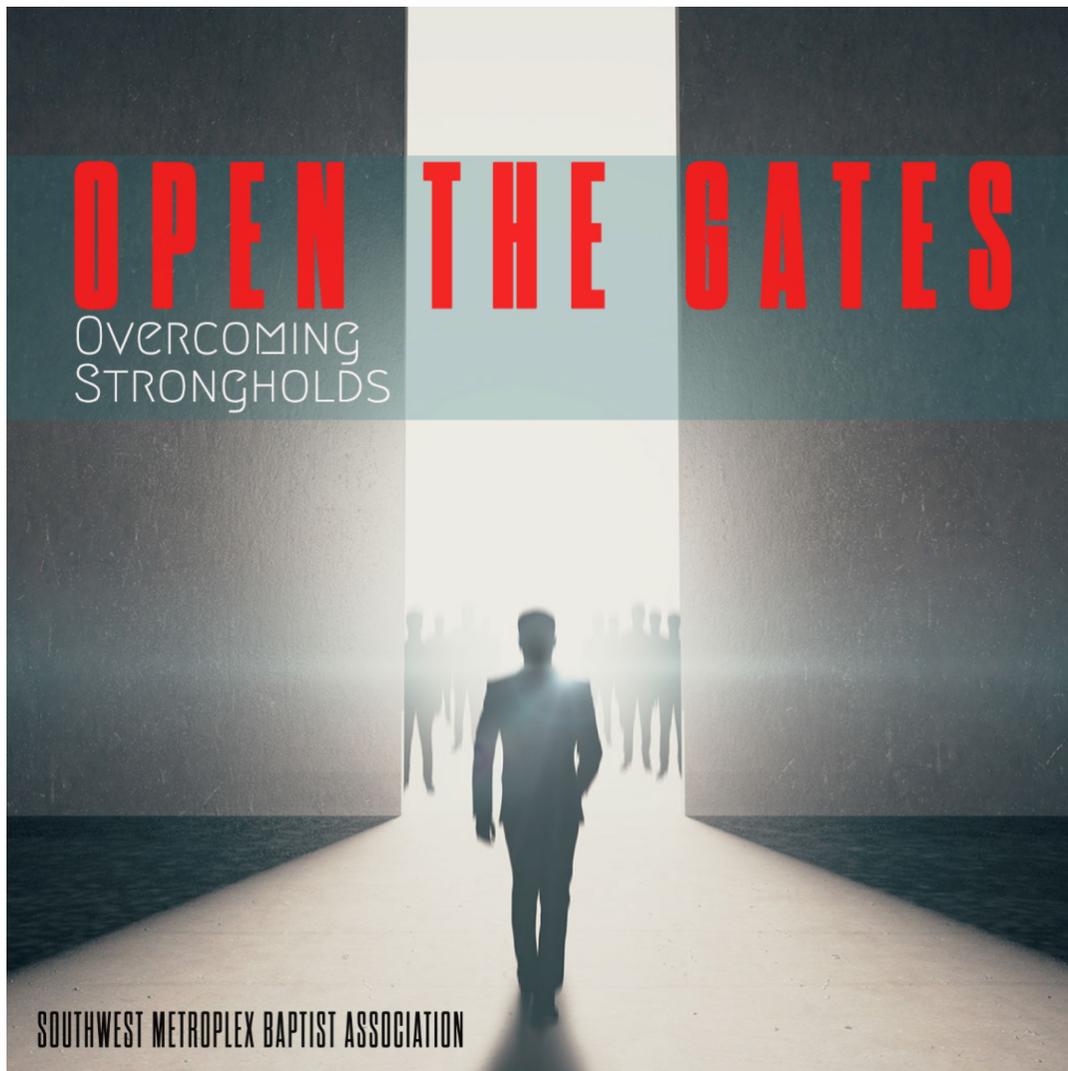


Praying Strategically for Revival and Spiritual Awakening in the Cleburne Area



In Judges 6-7 we read that Gideon and his band of three hundred were used by God to deliver Israel from her enemies. Before their victory, however, God told Gideon to tear down the idols in the community. As Gideon obeyed, God brought further victories and delivered the people. To see revival and awakening, we too must tear down spiritual strongholds (Mt. 12:22-29) that oppose God's Kingdom (2 Cor. 10:4, Eph. 6:10-17).

1

**REPENTING AND
APPLYING THE BLOOD
OF JESUS FOR
FORGIVENESS**

2

**EXERCISING OUR
AUTHORITY IN CHRIST
TO TEAR DOWN
STRONGHOLDS**

3

**BLESSING CHURCHES
AND COMMUNITIES
TO HEAR AND
RECEIVE GOD**

Repenting from:

- the worship (or making idols) of money, sex, sports, power, celebrities, etc.
- pornography and sexual addictions
- love of money
- greed, putting self first, pride
- dishonest gain
- prejudice and racism

Strongholds to tear down:

- worldly prosperity
- religion/tradition
- rebellion
- division
- pride
- idolatry
- fear

Blessings:

- open hearts to hear what the Spirit is saying
- repentance
- love for one another
- obedience
- hunger for God's Word
- humility

A Biblical Basis for Tearing Down Strongholds

Spiritual strongholds refer to those areas under the control, influence, power, or authority of another, namely God or the devil (demonic). Although God created the world and mankind to be completely under His rule (Gen. 1-2), Adam and Eve's sin gave entrance to the devil's authority and power upon humanity and God's creation (Gen. 3). Since the Fall, God has been working to restore all things to their rightful place under His kingship (Acts 3:19-21, 1 Cor. 15:24-28, Eph. 1:9-10, 20-23). God breaks the power of the devil (death, sin, wickedness) for all who believe in the cross and profess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 2:1-9; Col. 1:13, 2:14; Rom. 6:1-11, 10:9-10). One day, the kingdom of God and his followers will reign supreme in all creation after God judges and separates those who reject Jesus, including the devil and all his demons (Rev. 20:10; 21:1-8). Until that time, however, God has called and empowered His followers to stand firm against the spiritual forces opposed to the Kingdom of God (Eph. 6:10-19), tear down demonic strongholds (2 Cor. 10:3-4), and testify of Jesus (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20).

Spiritual strongholds relate to anything that has power over people or lands to oppose the work of God. In the Old Testament, the "high places" were often associated with pagan worship and evil activity (Jer. 19:5, 32:35). Consequently, God repeatedly condemned the high places and commanded them removed (Ex. 34:11-14; Deut. 12:2-4, 13-14). Neglecting to remove the high places robbed the people of God's blessings and instead brought God's

We do not wrestle with 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. (Eph. 6:12)

judgment (1 Kings 11:7-11; 2 Kings 17:7-23; Ps. 78:56-59; Jer. 7:3-31; Ezek. 6:1-3; Hos. 10:8). Removing the high places was a physical sign of loyalty to God by breaking all alliances with pagan worship and brought the blessing of God (2 Kings 18:3-5).

Jesus and his followers confronted spiritual strongholds of resistance to the ways of the Jesus and the Good News. In Nazareth Jesus could not do many miracles because of a stronghold of unbelief (Matt. 13:53-58) and taught his disciples the importance of first binding up the "strongman" (Matt. 12:22-32; Luke 11:14-23) to give the good news greater opportunities to flourish. At times, Jesus had to remove spiritual resistance (demons) within a person before the message of salvation could be heard and accepted (Luke 8:26-29). Jesus gave his followers this same power (Luke 9:1-2, 10:1, 17-19).

The Kingdom of God and the domain of darkness are opposing realms (Col. 1:13). Every believer, however, has been entrusted with authority to tear down strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4). As God's people tear down spiritual strongholds among the lost, people have a greater opportunity to hear the good news and accept Jesus as Lord!

The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:4)

