

ABOUT THE BOOK

“Strongholds are real” is a book of experience. It is as practical as one breaths the air. Knowledge is power and to be ignorant is to accept to perish. To refuse knowledge is to refuse the truth. To know the truth is to be free. Strongholds are real, Satan is real and his evil works. God’s existence and His power and control over Satan are real.

Seek to know your strongholds which have constituted a serious threat and set back to your progress and deal decisively with them.

Ask God for a revelation and experience and His instructive insight. Be spiritually sensitive to yourself, environment and the world around you. Stop pride. This book will help you.

Pick a copy now!!!

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INTRODUCTION

Everybody everywhere is faced with the problem of strongholds. Strongholds vary from family to family, community to community, nation to nation, culture and culture, with a special reference to the Prince of Persia in Daniel 10: 13a. These are powers that constitute impossibility. The interplay of spiritual forces- fallen angels, demons and all their co-horsts, are there. They may manifest themselves in the physical as agents of light by using human beings at their initiation or disposal.

The sole purpose is to destroy and hinder God's purpose from being fulfilled or otherwise, thwart and hinder people's destinies from being actualized. They can receive the mandate from Satan to delay or torture people or nation and keep them in perpetual bondage except God intervenes as in Daniel 10: 13b.

They may seem to control destinies of people, families and nations who are buried in the ignorance and belief of superstition, evil covenants with demons and Satan, fetish practices and cultism.

Some of them are under the cloak of veil and accept charms and magic as a means of survival and making it in life. Ritual killings and killing of twin babies in those days and even today continue to testify against them. They engage in human sacrifices, divinations, spell castings and all sorts of diabolical and sacrilegious practices, as a way of getting to the top.

By so doing they pass down sufferings to their children who may be innocent of all these havocs. The Scripture says, "Our fathers sinned and are no more, and we bear their punishment" (Lamentations 5:7NIV).

Paul the apostle declared *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"* (2Corinthians 4: 3 – 4 KJV).

All the perpetrators of those heinous acts are destined for judgment together with Satan, Revelation 21: 8.

Thank God for Christ has broken the charms and powers of all satanic strongholds in His atoning sacrifice and death on the cross.

“And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven our all trespasses; Blotting out the hand writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2: 13 – 15 KJV).

He made a declaration of independence to all who were in bondage of any form **“It is Finished”** (John 19: 30). Declaring and sanctioning the believer’s independence and victory over Satan’s domination. If the Son therefore makes you free, you are free indeed, John 8: 36. Enjoy your freedom in Christ as you read on.

CHAPTER ONE

DEAL WITH YOUR STRONG HOLD

Strong holds are real. Strong holds refer to the various demonic backgrounds or foundations that each of us comes from and which are strongly fortified by the powers of the devil. Some backgrounds vary very considerably from others.

By this, I mean the various demonic, witchcraft, idolatrous, mystical and superstitious beliefs with their associated evil altars, images and groves raised ignorantly by families or our forefathers with the mind that they have done something that will ensure life, safety and direction or guidance to themselves and their succeeding generations, but which in real sense of it, they have

covenanted and linked up with the spirit world with its generational havoc: cyclical maladies, pre-mature death, poverty, divorce, insanity, etc. These strong holds affect and influence us negatively.

Paul in writing to the Corinthians had this to say *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hidden to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blindeth the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”*. (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

This strong holds had blinded the eyes of our fathers that they did not believe the truth. They owed these gods everything they ever did and had especially speech, worship and writing which are the major areas of satanic manipulation since they determine destinies' fulfillment.

They were buried in a gross ignorance which has plagued the generations into untold disarray. They felt they were secured by what they had gotten themselves into but did not know they had sold themselves to the devil to manipulate and use from time to time as slaves.

This uncomfortable situation is so alarming that some buildings no matter how nicely built, have been dedicated to Satan. These buildings cannot just be accepted or entered easily by people or tenants like that for living or anything else for fear of these high powered manipulations. Some families run away to somewhere to live to be free from these attacking powers. These buildings have been sold to witches and satanic manipulations hence a negative effect on those living there.

Hear My Personal Experience

I remember a building we had lived some years ago where members of the family had to quit to somewhere to live for fear that the building was invaded with strange powers. We succeeded to live in that building after series of prayers and intercessions. The members of the family came back to claim their property.

Again, we went to a place on transfer in the year 2004, the local church we were transferred to could not prepare the house they had told us to pack in time since there was no enough fund. We were rather squeezed into a brother's parlor with all our belongings for almost two months. Life was tough and difficult.

In the morning of the next month, the youth of the local church came to me and told of a vacant flat-to-rent just very close to where we were temporally living. We went in to see it and admired it because it was a very beautiful house. Sources held it that: that flat had been where the in-law of the landlord was living with the wife and that he left the place because the landlord was accused of trying to kill the wife and inflicting her with sickness. That after a while, the wife actually died and there was a very serious case between the two of them during and after the burial.

Within the first one month of our having packed to the new station, at the end of the month of September precisely, a strange thing happened to us. My son, Ebenezer, one morning with no previous symptoms of malaria or fever, slumped and convulsed. We started to look at each other, got rid of the boy and immediately prayed for him. The stiffening and the jerking of the muscles stopped.

This kind of thing has never happened to any of my children, not even in their childhood, how does this come, I asked? I went to the church to meet with the ministers who were there for the end of the month's account. Suddenly, I saw

my wife carrying the boy on her shoulder to the church in an intense convulsion and the boy was almost giving up.

After praying with the ministers for the boy, I directed that he should be taken to the hospital for immediate medical attention. The nurse on duty refused admitting him on the ground that the boy will not survive, but after much pleading, she accepted. The boy was under that condition for three days and three nights as the convulsion intensified each time.

The influence was so strong that the boy's brain cells were affected which resulted in his behaving abnormal sometimes. After times of prayer and exercise of faith he was delivered and healed to regain his full consciousness and self-esteem. People who saw the boy survived were surprised and admitted such case as miraculous intervention of God as such case had always resulted in death, but that God's hand was strong in this boy's case. Due to what we were going through, I hadn't any choice than to see the landlord to pack into the new place despite the ugly news I heard of him.

The landlord accepted and told us exactly what was told against him and what transpired between him and the in-law living in the house.

Before we accepted to go into the flat, members had told us that the environment was not a good one because of the children. By that I knew what they meant but we had no option since we were pushed to the wall. We decided not to be afraid of powers knowing that what is in us is greater than that of the world.

Within three weeks of our having packed in, we started to pray every morning and every night. The whole environment was calmed spiritually and physically. One day a man of God came as if to visit.

He called my wife and I together and confided in us the following: *the place you are living is a strong one, be prayerful and vigilant.*

The morning prayer and night you have been praying do not stop it. I was nodding my head as something I had known and told of.

When we heard all these, we were thankful to God and knew we were in for battle. My son Ebenezer who had suffered from convulsion began to reduce and be slimmer and slimmer every day. This is somebody who was robust from onset.

Each time he will fall under an influence that kept him unconscious for some minutes and afterwards he will go into a deep sleep to wake up normal. This happened for a long time. Efforts to deliver the boy seemed abortive.

One day when I went home on the invitation of the Lagos believers- brethren-home crusade that influence came upon him so serious that he fell almost every second. After the program, I came home at the weekend and saw he was tormented greatly.

He immediately told me of his encounter, he repeatedly told me and followed me at the back, and I called him, laid my hands on him and said few words. That was the end of that trouble in his life.

Everybody observed him and repeated what the boy told me, I told them I had prayed for him. They wondered when I had done so. It was after someday that

my wife and daughter witnessed and accepted that they had been a performance in that God had divinely touched him.

My wife then boldly told me that she saw and believed without doubt that God had delivered the boy. He lived nine years after that and became an anointed evangelist and a singer and a lover of prayer. He was preaching everywhere at schools, Churches and home for people to repent and turn their lives to God before he went to be with the Lord.

When the enemy knows he cannot reach the parents he tries or passes through the children .Thank God.

My landlord and the wife just started to hate my children without reasons. I also got to know that this landlord was known to be contravening with his tenants. I had actually mediated between him and other tenants on his plausible pretensions on several occasions.

Every time we went out and came back, my children will be crying that he came in or the wife to beat them on flimsy reasons. When I heard this, I warned him.

When he realized he could not succeed in all his schemes, he issued us a seven day ultimatum to quit. He took us to the court after the seven days ultimatum had expired, he took us again to the community youth council where he thought that was faster than the court.

When I was allowed to make statement at the youth council, the whole situation was reversed. He apologized before the youth for two or more times for deformation of character.

The youth council told him in their judgment to allow us to stay until the December of that year after settling him with his outstanding rent which he did

not want to receive initially. He accepted before them but at home, the wife broke into shouting, alarming the whole environment that we had brought the most powerful Juju from our village to blind the community youth to favor us and that she would not accept. She kept on shouting and making noise that unknown people will lift us away to unknown destination one day.

Within this period, two of my children were intercepted by unknown persons at different places, one with a white car and the other with machine. They called my name to one of my children that I have sent them to bring them home which they refused.

He kept charms to two of my children, prepared food and sent it to them to eat in a-take-away plate which I threw them all into the toilet. They kept on saying; *“They will carry you in corpses out of their compound”*.

Within one week of the judgment of the youth council, he went and issued us another court summon for his claim of his four bedroom appurtenances and others.

The more we prayed in the morning and evening the more they became fearful and alarming.

He brought a notorious trouble maker and pretended that he had given out the house we lived on rent to him. This babbler came with threats that he was going to throw us out if we did not quit the house for him. I reported to his Lawyer and the police.

Eventually, we were given a transfer to another station. This created a joyful mood to both of us. They wished us every bad thing they can in the next station but that did not disturb us.

When we visited the new station on the first Sunday of September 5th 2008, they were deceived into believing that we were going to pack that very Sunday. The land lady and the husband arranged with some ignorant street women to mock at us and played and sang round the whole environment to disgrace us during our departure. They made noise all over the environment and played their gong and danced around the environment.

To their greatest shock and embarrassment, this was a dilemma, the beginning of disgrace to them because we did not pack as they intended. We started hearing and knowing their plan for the first time when some of them started quarrelling among themselves, that they had lost their business opportunities and wasted their time for nothing on something that did not hold. Some of them regretted coming and promised not to be led ignorantly like that again.

Within that week, when they knew that their plan had not worked out, they decided to use violence. My children and other children were playing outside when the ball did not actually hit my landlord nor their things but the pavement of their house.

Suddenly, the landlord came out and attempted to get hold of the ball. The children rushed and intercepted by getting the ball out of his reach.

He fell down; the wife came out with a heavy big plank and started beating our children, wounded them while we were still in the house. Before we knew what was happening, the landlord and his wife had gotten hold of our children ready to throw them down.

Immediately, I went and separated them and brought our children into the house. His wife then started cursing us. When our children responded and

returned the curse to her, she said they had curse her and that she was going to institute a summon against them the following day.

Early in the morning when we were praying during our family altar, I got an inspiration to go to them and ask them to forgive those children for whatever they may have done and forget about the matter. I told them that they needed to have alerted us rather than beating the children in our presence and wounding them. We did not look for our right anywhere but wanted God to have His way.

The landlady told me that the case was not in her hand but that I will spend money to end the case. She referred me to the women leader who was directly in charge of the case. The women leader on her part said that I had to pay the sum of #5,000.00 for having intervened to plead for forgiveness otherwise a huge sum of #20,000.00 naira and a goat and other things would have been paid.

I was almost confused and thought if the voice and inspiration I got during the family altar was from the Lord or Satan. But since I wanted peace, I was prepared to pay whatever price. I offered five hundred naira, it was refused; she told me that because she loved me, she could only receive four thousand naira. I actually accepted but with mix feelings.

Because I wanted peace, I foolishly borrowed two thousand naira to pay her. When I came back home, the whole family was sad, could not eat. All of us turned the whole day to a day of mourning. Spiritually, we were saddened how such money should be spent like that.

It was in the evening that the unexpected began to happen. There was a serious confusion in the midst of the women. A strong disagreement arose among them.

The women leader told them that she received one thousand naira from us but on finding out she had received two thousand naira from us, expecting another two thousand. Quarrelling grew stronger and they told her that if I had pleaded for those children that that two thousand naira was too much. It should be at most five hundred naira. That such money is blood money and that it should be returned.

I came back in that evening to see one of the women who throughout our stay there could not come to our house sat down with my wife and was revealing the whole misdeed to my wife and how they felt uneasy and ordered that the two thousand naira should be returned for their best interest.

We started to praise God for becoming fool before them to proof the wisdom of God. Thanks be to God for such a timely victory. It takes wisdom to actually be foolish and foolishness to be wise.

As if this was not enough, it's funny to see the way Satan uses those that obey him. We came back from the new station another Sunday to see that the street women had gathered again at the landlady's compound to demand for something from us.

No sooner we entered the house, they sent for my wife and I came out and told them that we had no problem with them and that if they did not want to remove themselves from somebody's trouble they will all have problem. They went and told all of them what I said. This resulted in their quarrelling and scattering, as they were going home that night. They purported that I told them that they were all going to die.

Few days to our packing in one morning, my children called me from my room to attend to a visitor. I realized he was from the area command with a letter sent to me inviting me to be there for assault, malicious damage and threat to life.

I was not told who wrote it, I knew it was my landlord who tendered the report to the police. The day before we packed was the day I was invited to come to area command and I did not go due to busy preparation to pack, rather, I sent one of my friends who went and dismissed the case.

Since he could not succeed in any of these ways, he went and connived with all the cult members, Indian herm, and marijuana smokers including all the bad gangs of the street and paid them to resist and oppose our packing.

They actually came with the intention of making serious trouble but were intercepted by my peaceful disposition and straight forwardness. It took the intervention of the youth leader by name Levile, my district Superintendent Rev. Asukwo Nduonyi who calmed the landlord and these hungry ignorant folks for us to pack finally at late hours. Due to this unfortunate situation, we missed some properties in the night travel.

Thunder Experience

EyoAbasi church which we faced all these troubles had a standing areas of her pastor's house rent. They couldn't pay due to lack of money. Due to this, the land lady took away the house from the church.

At our arrival, she came to me and asked for her money while we were squatting in an improvised place, waiting and looking for a place to live.

I didn't know how to answer her due to my predicament. We were looking for money to pay for the new place which we had seen. When we finally succeeded to loan some money to pay for this new place and packed in, no sooner she heard of this, she came in furiously and demanded for her rent. She did that

repeatedly, and each time, I would tell her, she should exercise patience that we would do something.

On eventful day, she came while the cloud was very gloomy and asked for her money. My children and I were at home. I told her I had discussed her case with the committee of the church and that we were going to do something.

She could not take it. She became very furious as at other time and at the instant of her exit, the unexpected began to happen. Heavy down pour and thunder storm took the scene.

Before I knew, thunder struck directly with flaming fire to where I was sitting at the parlor. But just before that scenario, I had stood up to close the louvers in our bedroom.

Instantly, I heard the children shouting and simultaneously, I saw a flash of fire like living thing walking towards me from the parlor where we were to my bedroom. I shouted “the blood of Jesus”, many times. I was pushed down and immediately, I woke up with the shock and tried to rescue my children who were already screaming and crying at the parlor.

Some of them who were affected by the shock fell down and were unable to walk. I prayed for them and got them up. The shock disappeared and they regain their strength.

We realized that before the thunder struck our house, it had dismantled a coconut tree into pieces that was at the front of our house. Praise God for His timely intervention.

We Are At Spiritual Warfare

The Bible makes it categorically clear that we are in a battle but not with flesh.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your

loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6:12-18 KJV).

We are at warfare not with the flesh but with the spiritual forces that dominate the air. With the whole armour of God we are bound to be victorious in the spiritual warfare. A spiritual warfare demands a spiritual combat rather than fleshly weapons. The world as an environment is a battle field and his dwellers must be battle conscious, for even the kingdom of God suffers violent and the violent takes it by force.

The Efficacy of Our Weapons

The potency of our weapons is seen in its power to produce a desired result. In my book “Path To Greatness” I have spent time to exegesis and explain on the weapons of our warfare. Its efficacy can never be over emphasized.

“For though we work in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled” (II Corinthians 10:3-6).

Many miss out when they are ignorant of what weapons God has provided to them and the right application of these weapons. Physical weapons like machetes, knives, guns etc are fleshly and carnally limited whereas the spiritual weapons are spirit and unlimited. The spiritual weapon is able to penetrate into far spectrum (Isaiah 31:1-3; Hebrews 4:12-13). Nothing physical or spiritual can escape the grasp of the spiritual weapons. They are the master weapons of warfare.