

# **Bringing down the Prince (2)**

## **Breaking his hold**

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# **Bible background**

## **Our authority**

**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:28)**

## **The Lord's authority**

**I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.**

**That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**

**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Eph 1:18-23)**

## **Our power in prayer**

**I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)**

## **Victory**

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)**

## **Hope**

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)**

# The beginning

We have been looking at the Prince over Ghana in the previous material, and how we can break his stronghold.<sup>1</sup>

Breaking strongholds is about prayer. We have the right to appeal to God to hinder and obstruct the grip of a demonic ruler over a Nation so that the gospel can be proclaimed, and the darkness may be lifted from the eyes of unbelieving people. Our task is to drive the Prince out of his territory by prayer. He wants us to believe this:-

**Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."**  
(Matthew 5:8-9)

But he is a liar as Jesus revealed:-

**You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**  
(Matthew 8:44)

He will resist us, because he does not want to give up Ghana. Daniel teaches us:-

**Then he (Gabriel) continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia (Daniel 10:12-13)**

We have the right to challenge him because whenever we proclaim the Kingdom of God, his Kingdom is established and any who claim ownership must leave.

**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:28)**

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<sup>1</sup> See "Breaking the Prince" on the "Fighting for the soul of Ghana" page of [www.touchingthesoul.org](http://www.touchingthesoul.org)

Despite what the Prince says, we have the power:-

**The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**  
(2 Corinthians 10:4)

## **Where does the Prince try to reign and what are his strongholds? <sup>2</sup>**

Breaking strongholds is part of the intercessory path. Intercessors see them best because of the time we spend in the heavenly places. Our task is to break them, so that God's people can be free. What are they?

**\* Pride. "I thank you Father that I am not like other men."**  
(Luke 18:11)

This is a powerful stronghold standing across the path. Humility needs us to be able to say with David "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; (Ps 51:4) and with Nehemiah "I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you." (Nehemiah 1:6)

But we much prefer the reaction of the Jewish leaders when Jesus challenged them:- "We have Abraham as our Father." (John 8:39) This is the "Pride" position, and the Ghanaian character is quick to take this attitude. I have heard so many times - "God will never judge us," and this shuts the way to repentance.

This stronghold is so dangerous because it stands against the Lord's authority. He himself said "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:2) The Virgin Mary underlined this - "He has performed mighty deeds with his arm. He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts." (Luke 1:51)

This stronghold can be broken, as this story shows.

**King David and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off."**

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<sup>2</sup> (A fuller version of this section can also be found in the *Intercession and repentance course* to be found in full at [www.touchingthesoul.org](http://www.touchingthesoul.org))

**They thought, "David cannot get in here." Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David. (2 Samuel 5:6-7)**

**\* Spiritual blindness. Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. (Mark 14:1)**

This is another hard stronghold to break down. When Jesus challenged the Jewish leaders, they shut their minds by saying "We have Abraham as our father!" In other words, "There is nothing you can tell us that we do not already know." I have found this stronghold everywhere in Ghana. We see it in this - "Whatever you say, God will never judge Ghana or leave us." I can explain the issue of obedience and judgement over and over again, but I am met with this total denial of reality. For 25 years I have faced this stronghold. Only in the last few years has it begun to yield in a small way. Jesus told us how to break this stronghold:-

**"This kind can come out only by prayer." (Mark 9:29)**

This stronghold kills. It cannot stand by while we try to open people's minds. It crushes ministries and blocks prayer. It has to be brought down.

**\* Hidden sin: "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18)**

This is another dangerous stronghold as Joshua discovered:-

**But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. (Joshua 7: 1-2)**

As a result of this hidden sin, Israel was defeated when it attacked Ai. Hidden sin weakens us in the face of the enemy.

### **Satan's ground**

Hidden sin is ground on which the Prince can build his stronghold. Often good things fail and we do not know why. This is where we have to pray for discernment. The Lord will reveal, but if we are unaware of this stronghold, how can he reveal anything to us?

We will find hidden sin everywhere - in Politics, in business and in the Church. It has to be rooted out or it will hold back the spirit of repentance.

As we see in the passage from Joshua, the Lord will not overlook hidden and unconfessed sin - a truth which the stronghold of spiritual blindness will take hold of and use. Strongholds often work together.

**\* Satanic activity: Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** (1 Peter 5:8)

Satanic activity in the land gives him ground on which to oppose us. And his activity is ugly. This story gives us an understanding of his violence and his intention:-

**Then the man of God began to weep. "Why is my lord weeping?" asked Hazeal. "Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites," he answered. "You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women."** (2 Kings 8:11-12)

Ripping open pregnant women is the standard of the Prince's heart. He is dangerous, vicious and ugly. How can we let him stay? Yet we do.

## **The gates of the Nation**

Babylon dedicated its gate to the false gods. The Ishtar Gate was the eighth gate to the inner city of Babylon. It was constructed in about 575 BCE by order of King Nebuchadnezzar II on the north side of the city. It was dedicated to the false gods. This marked the city as a place of demonic activity. The dedication effectively cursed the city of Babylon, and from it flowed so much violence and evil. The character of the city was marked as demonic and standing against God. It did not last.

The spiritual gates of a nation are part of its spiritual heritage. These gates are inscribed with words which will affect the spiritual life of the nation. It is vital that we know them and the name they carry. What about the spiritual gates of Ghana? I had this vision some years ago:-

*The lord lifted me up into the heavens, and I saw Ghana. I felt the heart of the Lord, yearning and aching for this land, which he loves. His eyes looked over the North, the South, the East and the West, and as I followed his gaze, I saw mighty angels at the gates of the land.*

*I asked, "What are these Lord?"*

*The Lord replied "I placed these Watchers at the gates of the land before the foundation of the world. They were a sign in the heavenly places that this land was under my protection, under my care. Day after day I watched over Ghana, to see that the purity of the land was protected. Then when my people were called, I trusted the land to them.*

*The watchers can only watch. But my blood can protect and sanctify this land. So I waited – waited to see if my people would take the blood of the sacrifice and place it on the bars of the gates of the land, so that they would be safe, and the heritage would be safe.*

*I asked, "What is the heritage Lord?" He replied "The heritage is that this land has been created to be a blessing to all of Africa. Here I have placed my seal, and from here I will move." I asked "Lord, have your people obeyed you? Is the blood on the gates? Is the heritage safe."*

If the blood is not on the spiritual gates, then the Prince will find easy access – and he has found easy access. If the blood is not there Ghana is not named as belonging to the Lord. This will lead to terrible consequences. We are not protected. If we are not marked with the blood, we are easily exposed to being marked by the beast. We cannot fulfil the promises of God if we do not carry his name.

It looks, if this vision is true, as if a terrible mistake was made by our forefathers, and we are now living in a spiritual environment where another is rising up, and the blood does not cry out from the gates- "These are mine." Is it time to rededicate the gates, remove the mark of the Prince and anoint them with the blood?

## **What might we do? How might we attack?**

### **1. Much prayer**

**It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.**

**So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Acts 12:1-5)**

It was prayer and prayer alone which saved Peter. It is prayer and prayer alone which changes things. If the Prince is going to be broken, the Intercessors have to increase their prayer. This is where they have to begin:-

## **\* Pouring out their hearts before the Lord**

Hannah was a very sad woman. She could have no children, while her rival could have many. One day, Hannah went to the Temple to share her sorrow with God. She was praying so hard that Eli the Priest thought she had been drinking, but she replied:-

**Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." (1 Samuel 1:15)**

She poured out her heart. Our Intercessors must also be pouring out their hearts before the Lord to break the Prince

## **\* Mourning before the Lord**

To "pouring out" has to be added mourning. The loss of our promise and the state of Ghana has to be, to us, like grief – like a death. "Mourning" must go very deep into our intercessory hearts.

Israel mourned for the loss of Israel as the people settled into Babylon:-

**Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept as we thought of Jerusalem. We put away our harps, hanging them on the branches of poplar trees. For our captors demanded a song from us. Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: "Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!" But how can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a pagan land? (Ps 137:1-4) (New Living Translation)**

Jesus encouraged mourning. He said this to the women of Jerusalem as they watched his progress to Calvary:-

**"Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (Luke 23:28)**

We can mourn when we see things from the Lord's point of view:-

*I saw the Lord staggering up to Calvary. His cross was so heavy. "I am bearing the weight of sorrow, disappointment, failure, sin, grief and death" he said. "These burdens I bear. The heaviest of all I my wasted child Ghana. This is the weight of the cross." <sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>3</sup> From "The Wasted Child."

## 2. Repentance has to begin. (1 Samuel 7)

This is the pattern of repentance we see in Samuel's experience at Mizpah. This process will lay the groundwork for breaking the Prince.

**1. Then Samuel said to all the people of Israel, "If you want to return to the Lord with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the Lord and obey him alone; then he will rescue you from the Philistines."**

(1 Samuel 7:3)

There's a lot of challenge in this first step:-

\* **Want to return.** Without this desire, the spirit of repentance cannot flow. Do the people of Ghana long for a return? Or long enough for a life changing experience of repentance?

\* **With all your hearts.** Repentance has to come from the heart, not the head. Longing and yearning flow from the emotions and the spirit, not from the head.

\* **Get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth.** Plenty of false gods in Ghana – "My personal blessing;" "My year of abundance;" "My year of overcoming." My! My! My! All this has to go, along with the prosperity message which is the foundation for all this self-promotion and self-building up. This all has to go.

The image of the suffering servant, of the obedient servant, of the sacrificial servant which has been the backbone of Faith for 2000 years has been abandoned in Ghana for one of prosperity and wealth and comfort. This false image has to go.

The Ghanaian attitude that "God will never judge us, whatever we do" has to be abandoned for a humility and a trust in a loving God who has standards of justice which we have to keep.

Even at the beginning, repentance is looking like a radical change of attitude and behaviour. I suspect few people will want to abandon their comfort for this rugged pathway. But, like it not, it is the only pathway left to us.

\* **Turn your hearts to the Lord.** This is a powerful challenge. The people of Israel had not just got into a mess by accident. They had turned away from the Lord. Now, they have to do another very hard thing - turn their hearts back to him.

This means not only getting rid of the wrong but beginning to walk in the ancient paths again – serving, being humble, trusting in him and not on themselves, hoping for his mercy, depending on his love. Ghana is in the same position. Tuning our hearts back to the Lord is a whole new way of living.

This is a work of the Holy Spirit - releasing the spirit of repentance and bringing hearts back into line with the Lord. It is a work of grace, but it requires our positive co-operation.

**\* Obey him alone.** But we have been obeying our heart's desire - taking and keeping, trusting in ourselves, looking for comfort and blessing. Changing this is not easy.

Ghana has forgotten what the voice of the Lord sounds like, so obeying that voice is not going to come back easily.

And as for "Alone?" There is already a very strong voice of another god calling, and many are obeying that voice. Hearing the true voice is getting increasingly difficult.

Our disobedience has not only wrecked our lives, it has wrecked the spiritual life of Ghana. The repairs needed are massive. Are enough of us prepared for it?

**\* Then he will rescue you from the Philistines.** God does want to call us back. But there is the word "Then." Only if we begin the repentant path does he want us back. Not because he hates us, but because he loves us and needs us to change from what have become so that we can become what he longs for us to become. Samuel might well have agreed with this verse:-

**Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.** (2 Chronicles 7:14)

**2. So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only.**

The spirit of repentance made a big impact. It did the same at Ephesus:-

**When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.**

**A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.**  
(Acts 19:17-20)

Repentance has to show. But such signs will emerge slowly. We will begin to see men and women putting their lives in order. We will see families beginning to come together to serve the Lord. People begin to return to church. Services begin to sense a new power. Ministers and ministries begin to sense a new power.

Ministers and ministries which have been ungodly die away. We will begin to see changes in our national life, with godly things beginning to happen more and more. In Ephesus this resulted in a huge public demonstration. Such things are good but in the end it is the hearts of men and women that have to be changed. The Lord sees the hearts and the changes in them and repentance begins to change things.

We need to be patient and we need to read the signs - however small they are.

### **3. Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the Lord for you.” (v 5)**

Central to repentance is moving the heart of God. The Intercessors have started to do this already. But the intercession has to change at this point.

From urging the Lord to release the longing for repentance, now we intercede for Nation itself, that the people - the whole body of Christ will be open to the Lord moving in repentance.

We need this word to fill the body of Christ:-

**Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.**  
(Hosea 6:1)

### **4. When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the Lord. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the Lord.” (v 6)**

Now we are close to the heart of repentance. Israel are admitting their sin.

**Nehemiah did this:-** "I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you." (Nh 1:6)

**David did this:-** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. (Ps 51:3-4)

It is the key turning moment in repentance. It is reversing Adam and Eve. They just tried to blame others:-

**The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it." (Gen 3:13-14)**

These days have to end. We have to be willing to say, "We have sinned." How will this work? First, it has to work at the personal level. "I have sinned." This will lead to changed lives. I have always thought that this is how the Lord would have saved Sodom. With ten repentant people living in the city, living repentant lives, a ripple effect would have started to change others.

We might think about this verse:-

**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)**

At the wider level it is not so easy. But Joel expected us to do it, so we will have to work out a way:-

**Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, Lord. (Joel 2:15-17)**

It can work nationally as well. The Chronicler taught us:-

**If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.** (2 Chronicles 7:14)

**\* 5 When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them.**

The enemy always attacks repentant people He knows and fears repentance. He knows that God is forgiving and that a repentant and re-vitalised people will be a much harder opponents.

**\* 6. Do not stop crying out to the Lord our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. He cried out to the Lord on Israel’s behalf, and the Lord answered him.**

Here we see the key to releasing the spirit of repentance - the sacrifice of the lamb. Here are some key verses:-

**He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.** (Isaiah 53:7)

**When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”** (John 1:36)

**For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**  
(1 Peter 1:18-19)

The sacrifice of Jesus is the key to all new beginnings. A new stream begins to flow from the cross. Here is how I saw it while I was in the spirit:-

*I was on the cross. Looking down, I saw a river of love. The river was deep, vast and eternal and it was flowing from his body. I saw broken people coming to the river. There they found healing and the strength to bear their sorrows. An angel came to the cross and proclaimed “Perfect love drives out all fear.”<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>4</sup> From “Touching the gold.”

**\* 7. He cried out to the Lord on Israel's behalf, and the Lord answered him.**

It is hard for us to believe that the Lord can save a nation. It seems such a huge task, and we feel so small. That's because we see things from the earthly perspective. We may be small, but God is not! If we follow the path of repentance, personally and for our Nation, God can do it, and as we see here at Mizpah, will do it.

### **3. Outposts**

Before we begin the battle, we need to place outposts in the spiritual world - places from which worship and glory can flow, preparing the way for us. What might such outposts be? Here are the ones I have discovered.

**\* "Call to me."** (Jeremiah 33:3)

This is the outpost of prayer. From this place we can pour a river of prayer into the enemy's territory.

**\* "I am the Lord."** (Exodus 20:2)

This is the outpost of authority. From it we proclaim "Jesus is Lord" and under that authority the enemy has to retreat. In this authority we are establishing the Lord's kingdom, and all thieves have to leave.

**\* By my Spirit.** ('Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6)

The Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, and we have that power. (Romans 6:10-11) As we release the power of the Spirit, every Goliath will be destroyed and every stronghold weakened.

**\* All obey** (Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water. Ex.14:16)

Nothing can withstand the word of the Lord. All creation, all humanity and all demonic must obey him. This message pours out of this outpost.

**\* Worship.** (The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. Rev.5:14)

Worship flows from this outpost, exalting Jesus and his kingship. The enemy hates this sound because it highlights his defeat.

\* **The sacrifice.** (Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. He cried out to the Lord on Israel's behalf, and the Lord answered him. 1 Samuel 7:9)

The power of the blood flows from this outpost, washing away the foundation of the Prince – his grip on us of sin and death.

\* **More than conquerors** (No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:37)

From this outpost flows the triumph of Jesus, which will never fail and I irresistible.

\* **Heals you.** (Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. Mark 5:29)

From this outpost flows the healing stream, which releases us and shows the power of the Lord in us.

\* **Repentance.** (Return to to me and I will return to you. Zech. 1:3)

This outpost holds the power of repentance. The joyful reunion of those who have fallen away. It breaks the Prince's lies - that God has abandoned us.

## 4. Infiltrate

Gideon infiltrated the stronghold of Midian:-

**“Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.” Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.**

**“Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’”**

**Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted,**

**“A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. (Judges 7:15-21)**

We need to adopt a similar strategy. In every part of our personal and National life we need to be like Gideon’s 300 - bringing the potential for breaking of the stronghold into the spiritual battle. Then, when the Lord calls, we can break our jars, and to his horror, the Prince will find that we are among him. What areas should we be thinking about?

- \* **Sickness.** Our battle cry - “I am the Lord your Healer.” (Exodus 15:26)
- \* **Stress.** Our battle cry - “No my will but yours be done” (Mark 14:36)
- \* **Temptation.** “God will provide a way out.” (1 Cor 10:13)
- \* **Pressure.** Our battle cry “Call to me and I will answer you.” (Jer.33:3)
- \* **Lack.** My God will provide my every need. ” (Phil. 4:19)
- \* **Obstruction.** Our battle cry -“At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.” (Phil. 2:10)
- \* **Sin.** Our battle cry - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)
- \* **Circumstances.** Battle cry - “You will hear a voice behind you saying “This is the way. Follow it.” (Isaiah 30:21)
- \* **Sorrow.** Battle cry - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)
- \* **Grief.** Battle cry - “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25)

## **5. Identify, Besiege, plead the blood, advance.**

\* **Identify:** We need to identify the strongholds of the Prince. All that is hidden will be revealed to us if we begin to search. Here are some of the questions which we need to think about and which will help us in our search:-

**What are the gods of the nation?**

**What are the altars of the enemy, where he and humanity have made covenants?**

**Are the leaders of nation dedicated to a god or to the Lord?**

**Has there been bloodshed in the Nation. Where?**

**On what principle has the land been founded?**

**Where were the old seats of power built?**

**Besiege:** We need a strategy to surround the strongholds with praise, prayer, the blood and angels. In this way we do to them what the Prince did to Jericho – we will “shut them up.” We need to restrict their power and push them in on themselves.

**Plead:**<sup>5</sup> We need to plead the blood actively against the stronghold and the Prince. How do we do that? The blood which is in us has great power – and we need to know that power. In a few verses, Matthew shows us the power.

*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. (Matt 27:51-53)*

**\* The blood tears the curtain.**

The blood was so powerful that it established its control over the sin which separated us from God.

**\* The blood controls nature.**

As the blood fell, the rocks had to obey it. They could not resist its power.

**\* The blood breaks death.**

The tombs came open as a sign that death could no longer make a slave of the human spirit. A greater sacrifice than that of bulls and goats had accomplished its mission.

**Advance and reclaim:** Little by little we have to crush the strongholds and take back what they have stolen. To do this, we have to have hundreds of Intercessors powerfully committed to sacrificial and continuous prayer, expecting no reward. To see what kind of person is needed, download and study the INTERCESSION AND REPENTANCE course from its own page at [www.touchingthesoul.org](http://www.touchingthesoul.org).

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<sup>5</sup> For a full teaching, see “Releasing the power of the blood” at [www.touchingthesoul.org](http://www.touchingthesoul.org)