



## *Why Leaders Don't Make Excuses*

Excuses come in all forms. Here are a couple that were (allegedly) offered to teachers by parents on behalf of their children:

"Please excuse Fay for missing last Tuesday. She had very loose vowels."

"Please forgive Sam's absence. He was sick, and I had to get him shot."

And here are some you might want to try if a patrolman pulls you over:

"Officer, I know I was speeding. But I was trying to get to a gas station before I ran out of gas."

"Please don't give me a ticket. My wife ran off with a state trooper, and I didn't stop when I saw your blue light for fear he was bringing her back."

Excuse-making seems to be an art form for some people. It is the rare and exceptional person who steps up at a critical juncture to accept responsibility when something has gone wrong.

Remember the Garden of Eden? Adam blamed Eve, who promptly put the blame on the serpent. Pity the poor serpent, for there was nobody left to blame.

One of the things about leaders is that they take responsibility for what happens on their watch. They are less concerned to point fingers than to make constructive changes in what is happening. They want things to be better, and change for the better doesn't happen when somebody is more concerned to fix the blame than to improve the situation.

The legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant coached the University of Alabama's football team to winning season after winning season — including some national championships. He once explained his theory of how to build a successful team. "I'm just a plowhand from Arkansas," said Coach Bryant, "but I have learned how to hold a team together — how to lift some men up, how to calm others down, until finally they've got one heartbeat together, a team. **There's just three things I'd ever say; 'If anything goes bad, I did it; if anything goes semi-good, then we did it; and if anything goes real good, then you did it.'** That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you."

That's also part of the essence of all leadership. Whether it's in athletics, on the job, or at home, leaders are quick to give credit to others and to shoulder responsibility for problems. Jesus is the perfect example of that sort of leadership. He took the sin problem of the entire world on his shoulders. It wasn't fair, but it was the only way that would work for others' benefit.

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many ([Mark 10:45](#) TNIV).*

Anyone good at making excuses will seldom excel at anything else.

- **By Rubel Shelly**, (Reprinted from [www.heartlight.org](http://www.heartlight.org))

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# Breaking Down the Strongholds in Your Life

Who said that being a Christian means living free of problems or struggles? Just because we have a relationship with Jesus does not mean that life will be a stroll down easy street. Life can be tough. And as Christians, we will face many challenges.

Before we were saved, we were no threat to the devil. But when we accepted Jesus into our heart, something changed. We took up a new residence in the spiritual battlefield and immediately became an enemy of Satan.

We live in two worlds - the natural world and the spiritual world. Both are going on around us, yet one we can see, and the other we cannot.

When we find ourselves faced with battles or temptations in our lives, we must realize that there is much more going on than what we see with our natural eyes. Many battles, struggles and trials are rooted in the spiritual realm. As a result, war must be waged on the spiritual battlefield and fought with spiritual weapons.

Take depression for example. Millions of people in the U.S. are diagnosed with clinical depression every year. I have faced it in my own life. However, depression is often a spiritual condition. Please don't take this wrong, I am not against doctors or medicine. In some cases, depression stems from physiological or chemical issues. But many times, depression is a spirit. And to overcome, not just mask the issue, we must look at the root and declare war! We must fight with the weapons that God provides.

By Ben Cerullo

Depression is only one example of a stronghold. Others include addiction, sickness, poverty, hatred, bitterness, gossip, etc. But, God is a good God and would never leave us defenseless or send us into battle unequipped. He has given us the most powerful weapon in the world, His Word.

The Bible is referred to as the sword of the spirit and for good reason. God's Word is the ultimate authority over the lies of the enemy. There is something that happens when we put God's Word in our mouth and begin to point it at the enemy. God's Word will dethrone principalities and release the power needed to stand your ground. Remember you are not in a fight for victory; victory is already yours. You are just enforcing it!

The only way to fight on the spiritual battlefield and gain true victory over the enemy is through the truth written in God's Word. I am not speaking about your everyday prayers, but prayers that aggressively target and pierce the root of the problem. Prayers and declarations that strip the enemy of any authority or rights he may currently possess and give God permission to move on your behalf.

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 it says, "For though we walk 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 strongholds."

Our spiritual weapons are mighty in God to overcome the

strongholds of the devil. Your battles will only be won in the prayer closet through head-on confrontation. You have been given dominion over the strongholds in your life, through the truth of God's Word. In exercising this authority, you let the enemy know that he no longer has permission to harass you.

Jesus said, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

You see, the devil is a liar. That's his nature. Scripture tells us that he is "the father of lies." From childhood, we learn to believe his lies. Lies about God, lies about the world, lies about other people, lies about our own selves. Yet God wants to bring circumstances in our lives that uncover those lies in order to replace them with His truth.

Ask God to show you the lies that he wants to bring to light. Maybe you know the root, maybe you don't have a clue. The good news is that there is someone who does, and He's just a prayer away. If you pray and ask the Holy Spirit, He will reveal the root of the lies in your life. You don't have to go through a long ritual, simply pray and open your heart and ask God to show you.

Be patient, the answer might not come right away, but if you will wait on the Lord, He will bring you the answer. So many times, we want our answer at microwave speed, right now! But if we really want freedom and breakthrough we have to be willing

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**Thinking small, isn't hard. It's just a habit. A habit with consequences. Same for thinking big.**

# Breaking Down the Strongholds ....



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to persist. Patience is not a virtue that comes easy for me; I have to really work at it, as I am sure many of you do as well. But if you do not grow frustrated or give up, you will be able to face the lie and replace it with the truth – and the truth will set you free!

When you seek the Lord, try to find a quiet place where you can block out the distractions around you. Just ask and wait. Soak in His presence. Enter into worship. Try not to do all the talking; just be still and listen. As you do, you may get a picture in your mind, a thought, memory, or impression. God reveals things to people in many ways. When He reveals the root to you, it's time to allow the His spirit to heal you. This may mean it is the time to shift gears and confront the stronghold with the Word of God. Don't be afraid to stand toe to toe with the enemy. He has something that belongs to you. Step up and let him know that he has no rights in your situation or life.

Remember greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. In the name of Jesus, pull that stronghold down. You

need to go past the surface and rebuke the enemy at the root of the issue. Let the devil, powers, principalities, and rulers of darkness know who is in control. You must move into an offensive position, this is no time for defense. Speak to your circumstances as a child of the King and joint heir with Christ. Your words create your realities don't take them lightly.

Don't stop pressing in until the victory is won. As a Christian, you have the power over the devil, but he's not going to give in without a fight. You must realize the authority God has given you and lay an ax to the root of your needs.

I pray that God will give you a revelation of the spiritual weapons He has given you as a believer. I pray you will be empowered with wisdom and discernment on how to use those weapons. I pray that the warrior inside of you will awaken and the anointing of Almighty God will breakthrough the natural and pull down the strongholds in your life and the lives of those around you, setting the captives free.

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## Sermon

A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone.

"I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

## Just like Jesus !

An old preacher was dying. He sent a message for his doctor and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room the preacher held out his hands and motioned for them to sit, one on each side of his bed. The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything. Both the doctor and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled; the preacher had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them. They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness and avaricious behavior that made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the doctor said, "Preacher, why did you ask us to come?" The old preacher mustered up his strength, then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves; and that's how I want to go."

## More Fun!

After a church service on Sunday Morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."

## GOD DOESN'T ANSWER?

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her preacher father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why.

"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me to preach a good sermon."

"Well then, how come He doesn't do it?" she asked.

## In The News ...

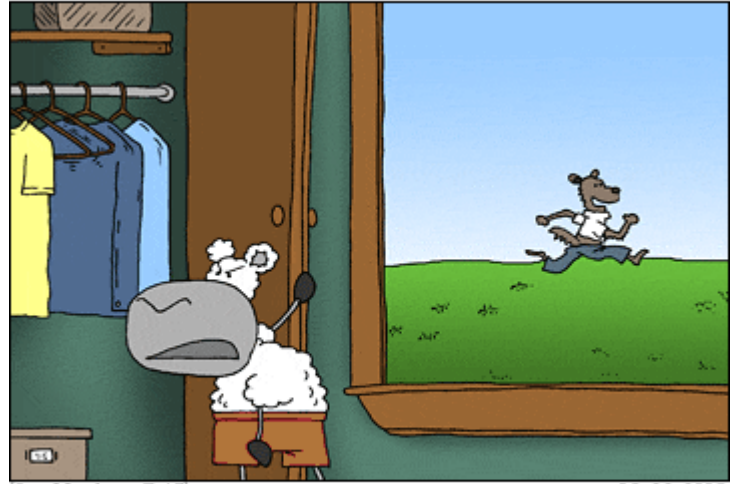
**M**assive protests were held in Iran after the current president Ahmadinijad was declared as a winner in a presidential election which the opposition complained was rigged. Over a dozen people have died and the trouble in Iran may deepen in the coming days.

**S**hiny Ahuja, a filmstar from Mumbai was accused of rape by his maid was arrested by Mumbai Police and is awaiting trial in Arthur Bunder Road jail.

**M**aoist communist rebels in West Bengal launched attacks on Police and government institutions in West Bengal. The Police had to fight hard to take back the areas taken over by the rebels.

**I**nstead of the inflation that shot the prices of essential commodities sky high for many years, India is experiencing deflation now which means that the prices are actually moving in the opposite direction. Even bank loan rates are coming down.

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(See Matthew 7:15)

06-22-2009

HEY MARTHA ... IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF MY CLOTHING HAS GONE MISSING AGAIN

**Join us every Friday**

**Three Worship Services :**

**10 AM : English / Kannada service at Fahaheel**

**4 PM : Kannada Service at Annxe Hall, NECK,**

**6 PM : English Service at 'Hall of Hope' NECK.**

**# A Single combined service Every Last Friday of the month — 6 PM at Hall of Hope**

**We also have Cell Groups every Sunday @ 7 PM at Salmiya & Fahaheel**

## Celebrating Birthdays ...



June 27



July 5



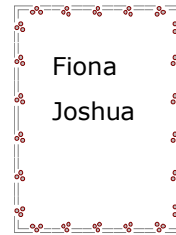
July 8



July 10



July 13



July 18



July 28

## & Wedding Anniversaries



**Sunil & Jasmine**

July 30



**Philip & Sahana**

July 30

You can wish the birthday celebrant's on the Church Website.

It takes just a minute to spread some happiness around!

[www.hallofhope.com](http://www.hallofhope.com)

**"We either make ourselves miserable, or we make ourselves strong. The amount of work is the same."** Carlos Casteneda