

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Break Satan's Strongholds in Your Life
SERMON REFERENCE:	Ephesians 4:27
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1213

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are people who get strongholds in their lives.
 - i) Many have in their hearts, minds, and lives a Satanic stronghold.
 - (1) Not only is it harming them and wrecking their spiritual life, but it is also contaminating the life of their family and the life of their church.
 - (2) The devil has found an unclean place in that person and has made a campground or stronghold there.
 - (a) The devil uses that stronghold to war against God and against the work of God.
- b) Ephesians 4:27
- c) Ephesians 4:30
- d) It ought to cause us to take notice that the children of God (those who are born again) could either give a place to the devil or could grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
 - i) Either one should be unthinkable in the heart and mind of a child of God.
- e) Once we have given place to the devil, then he is going to work on the rest of our life.
 - i) We have given him a legal right, and he will not move.
 - (1) We cannot dislodge the devil unless we legally dislodge him.
- f) In order to dislodge the devil, there are three steps that we have to take.
 - i) There must be repentance.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:22
 - (a) The words “put off” in this verse mean to “put away” or to “be done with it.”
 - (2) We have to confess our sin, forsake it, and deal with it.
 - (a) There is no other way.
 - (3) There is only one thing to do with sin, and that is to repent of it.
 - ii) There must be resistance.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:27
 - (2) What we gave to the devil, we must take back.
 - (3) We can never take it back until we take away his legal authority.
 - (a) His legal authority is sin in our lives.
 - (4) Every area where there is unconfessed sin is legal ground for Satan.
 - (a) Until we confess that sin and cleanse that sin, Satan has every right to make a campground there.
 - iii) There must be renewal.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:23-24
- g) We will never cease grieving the Holy Spirit and get Satan out of our lives until we take the three steps of repentance, resistance, and renewal.
- h) In today's message, we will look at things that give place to the devil, as well as the three steps we need to take to expunge Satan from our lives.

2) THINGS THAT GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL

- a) Ephesians 4:25

- b) Lying creates a climate for the devil.
 - i) If someone is a liar or if their life is not based on absolute and total truth, then that person has created a climate where the devil will feel welcome.
 - ii) The devil's nature:
 - (1) John 8:44
 - (a) The devil is a liar and the father of it.
 - (2) If we want the devil to feel at home in our lives, then we will live a lie, love a lie, and believe a lie.
 - (3) He is the prince of darkness.
 - (a) Lying is in the realm of darkness.
 - iii) God's Kingdom, on the other hand, is built on truth.
 - (1) John 14:6
 - (a) Jesus is the truth.
 - (2) John 17:17
 - (a) The Word is truth.
 - (3) John 16:13
 - (a) The Spirit is truth.
 - iv) If there is an area of dishonesty in our lives, then that will be the devil's campground.
 - (1) This also includes so-called white lies.
 - (2) We can lie with the tone of our voice.
 - (3) We can lie by just the arching of our eyebrows.
- c) Thievery is a climate that Satan loves.
 - i) The devil is a thief.
 - (1) Mark 5:1-19 tells of a demon-possessed man.
 - (a) The devil had stolen from that man his sanity, liberty, family, joy, and health.
 - ii) Someone who would steal so much as a pencil (carried it home from a job, for example) has made a place for the devil.
 - (1) Luke 16:10
 - (a) This verse does not say "maybe" but "is."
 - (b) A person who would steal a fifteen-cent pencil has the potentiality of stealing a \$150,000 payroll.
 - (c) If we are unfaithful in that which is least, the Bible says that we are unfaithful in that which is much; not "could be" unfaithful.
 - (i) If we are capable of stealing a little, then we are capable of stealing a lot.
 - 1. With God, thievery is thievery.
 - iii) In school, do you steal answers off of someone else's paper?
 - iv) Do you gossip and assassinate another's character in order to make yourself feel better by trying to put them down?
 - v) If we do not tithe, then we are thieves.
 - (1) Malachi 3:8

- (a) Some say that this was for the Jewish people who were under the law.
 - (i) We are not under the law; we are under grace.
 - 1. Anyone who would let someone under the law do more than we do under grace is a disgrace to grace.
 - a. Matthew 5:20
 - (2) It all belongs to God.
 - (3) Many of us have robbed God with our tithes.
 - (a) When we do, we become like the devil who tries to steal from God.
 - (b) When we do that, we have made a foul nest for the devil.
- d) Filthy speech makes room for the devil.
 - i) Ephesians 4:29
 - ii) Ephesians 5:4
 - iii) Not only is the devil a thief, but he is also filthy.
 - iv) Mark 1:23
 - (1) Jesus took out of people unclean, foul, and dirty spirits.
 - v) These Scripture passages are not talking about humor.
 - (1) Jesus used humor.
 - (2) Humor, rightly used, is a gift of God to renew, relax, and refresh us.
 - (3) These Scriptures are talking about a type of speech that tears people down.
 - vi) There is a certain kind of language, talk, and certain kinds of stories that are filthy things.
 - (1) They tear down; they don't build up.
 - (2) They destroy and desecrate.
 - (3) A person who has a foul mouth tells these kinds of stories because he has a filthy heart.
 - (a) Matthew 12:34
 - (b) That filthy heart is a place that Satan incubates and dwells in.
 - (i) It was given to Satan.
 - (ii) He will wreck and ruin our lives.
 - (iii) He will make a stronghold out of that thing.
- e) Bitterness creates a climate for the devil.
 - i) Ephesians 4:30-31
 - ii) There are Christians with bitterness in their hearts.
 - iii) The devil is bitter.
 - (1) Revelation 12:12, 17
 - (a) In this passage, we find the devil pursuing after the nation of Israel.
 - (b) The devil has a bitterness and a vendetta against God's holy people.
 - iv) Someone who is bitter is like the devil.
 - v) A bitter person has no joy in his heart.
 - (1) They have no victory.
 - (2) Their prayers are not getting through to God.
 - vi) A bitter person contaminates the lives around him.

- (1) Not only is he ruining his own life, but he is also contaminating the life of his church.
- f) Bitterness often leads to slander.
 - i) Ephesians 4:31
 - ii) The devil is called the accuser of the brethren.
 - (1) Revelation 12:10
 - iii) The word “devil” literally means “slanderer.”
 - iv) Someone who is a slanderer, a gossip, or who is evil speaking is literally doing the devil’s work.
- g) Malice creates a climate for the devil.
 - i) Ephesians 4:31
- h) How the devil works:
 - i) First, there comes bitterness.
 - (1) Bitterness is when someone feels wounded or feels like someone has done them wrong.
 - (a) That person feels that he has a right to be bitter.
 - ii) Bitterness turns to wrath.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:31
 - (a) In this passage, the Greek word “wrath” has the idea of something that burns on the inside.
 - (i) It has the idea of internal heat.
 - (ii) It is like smoldering rags in an attic or closet.
 - (2) After someone is bitter for awhile and does not deal with that bitterness, then they get a slow burn.
 - (a) That is what the Bible calls wrath.
 - iii) Wrath turns to anger.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:31
 - (2) After awhile, those smoldering rags burst into flames, and it shows up as anger.
 - (a) That which is internal becomes external.
 - (i) The devil is not finished yet.
 - iv) That anger then turns to clamor.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:31
 - (2) “Clamor” means “to speak loudly.”
 - (3) They get hostile when we talk to them.
 - (a) They get louder and louder.
 - (b) They get red in the face.
 - v) Then, that clamor turns to evil speaking.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:31
 - (2) We say things we do not mean.
 - (3) We say things that we never thought of.
 - (4) But we are out of control and say things like:
 - (a) I hate you.
 - (b) You’ll never amount to anything.

- (c) I wish we had never gotten married.
 - (i) We say these things, and we do not mean them.
 - vi) Then, it ends up with malice.
 - (1) The word “malice” means a “desire to hurt someone.”
 - (2) We want to make them suffer.
 - (3) We want them to hurt.
 - vii) We have let the devil come in.
 - (1) The devil wrecked it all, and we opened the door.
 - (a) The devil can take no place except what we give him.
 - i) We can break the heart of God.
 - i) Ephesians 4:30
 - ii) We can grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (1) Can you imagine being saved, redeemed, and born again, and this purchased temple, bought with the blood of Jesus, has become a nest of Satan?
 - (2) We open the door, and the Spirit of God is weeping.
 - (a) Satan is laughing, making a mockery of the things of God.
 - (i) We gave place to the devil in our lives.
- 3) THERE MUST BE REPENTANCE
 - a) We are not going to get that place back until we repent.
 - b) There is one thing that God will not accept for sin, and that is an alibi or an excuse.
 - c) We do not have any more rights than what a dead man has.
 - i) We are crucified with Christ.
 - (1) We belong to Him.
 - ii) We have no right to grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
 - iii) We have no right to give a place to the devil in our hearts and in our lives.
 - iv) We are not our own.
 - (1) We are bought with a price.
 - d) We are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which are God's.
 - e) Repentance is not just being broken over our sin.
 - i) It is being broken from our sin.
 - ii) The Bible says to put it away, be done with it.
- 4) THERE CAN BE RESISTANCE
 - a) After there is repentance, then there can be resistance.
 - b) Even after we repent, the devil is not going to walk out.
 - i) We are going to have to run him out.
 - c) The Bible says that we are to resist the devil, and he will flee from us.
 - i) James 4:7
 - ii) If we do not resist him, then he is not going to flee.
 - d) Take the blood of Jesus Christ as your authority and Christ as your attorney.

- i) Tell Satan that you had given him a place, but you take it back in the name and authority of Jesus.
 - (1) Bring Jesus Christ against him.
 - (2) The devil has no more right.
 - (3) The devil has no more legal authority.
 - (a) The devil will flee from us.
 - (i) James 4:7
 - e) If we try to resist the devil with unconfessed sin in our hearts and lives, then he will laugh in our faces.
 - i) He will make a mockery of us.
- 5) THERE MAY BE RENEWAL
 - a) Ephesians 4:23-24
 - i) It's not enough to put off the old man.
 - (1) We must put on the new man.
 - ii) The phrase "true holiness" in verse 24 does not mean the syrupy kind of holiness many think of today, which is pretense and not holiness at all.
 - b) Ephesians 4:30
 - c) Ephesians 5:18
 - d) We have a choice.
 - i) We can grieve the Spirit of God and be filled with the devil.
 - ii) Or, we can put the devil out and be filled with the Spirit of God.
 - e) There is no place for the devil when we are filled with the Spirit.
 - f) What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
 - i) The Holy Spirit is not some sort of a liquid, and we are not a jug.
 - (1) That is not the idea.
 - ii) To be filled with the Spirit of God means that there is not one room in this temple where He is off bounds.
 - (1) There is not one closet that He doesn't have a key to.
 - (2) We are filled with the Spirit in our business life, political life, church life, social life, in big things, in little things, in money, etc.
 - iii) When we are filled with the Spirit, there is no more room for Satan.
 - (1) If there is room for Satan, then the Spirit is grieved; and we are not filled with the Spirit.
- 6) CONCLUSION
 - a) Don't try to repent until you are honest and face your sin.
 - b) Don't try to resist until you have repented.
 - c) Don't try to be filled until you resist and until you choose against Satan and yield to God's blessed Holy Spirit of God.
 - d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

- i) Romans 3:23
- ii) Romans 10:9-10
- iii) Romans 10:13
- iv) Acts 16:31
- v) John 3:16