

“EMPOWERED TO PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS”

II Chronicles 10: 4 (NKJV)

March 6, 2007

Senior Pastor, Darrell Jackson, Sr.

- On January 1, we proclaimed that 2007 would be a year to be empowered.
- Throughout the month of January, we discussed how we are empowered by the attributes of God, such as by His name, His Word, His presence, and His love.
- Last month, we looked at how we are empowered by our faith, our words, our struggles, and our praise.
- As we enter the month of March, we will examine not just how we are empowered, but what we are empowered to do.
- God does not empower us just so that we may build spiritual résumés, or to brag about how powerful and anointed we are.
- We as believers are empowered by God to do something - to make a difference.
- According to our scriptural text, one of the things we are empowered to do is to pull down strongholds.
- The word, ‘stronghold’ is often used in conjunction with the term fortified or fortification.
- Webster’s New World Dictionary defines stronghold as a fortress, a mighty thing.
- In a biblical sense, the term *stronghold* usually refers to an entrenched position the enemy has in our lives.
- A stronghold is viewed as a power position.

- When the enemy has a stronghold on any aspect of your life, it means that the enemy has control over that particular part of your life.
- When we as believers allow anything or anyone to control any aspect of our lives, we are living beneath the authority God has given us.
- We have been empowered to pull down every stronghold in our life.
- Jesus says to His disciples in St. Matthew 16:19, "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- The key to overcoming the strongholds in our life is that we must do something.
- Paul says in our text that we must pull down the strongholds we encounter.
- Jesus says in St. Matthew 16:19 that we must bind and loose things on earth.
- In other words, we cannot sit around and wait on the Lord to pull down the strongholds or bind and loose things in our lives.
- We have been empowered by God to do some things for ourselves.
- Finally, in verse 5, Paul tells us that pulling down strongholds begin with our imagination and our thoughts.
- The text says that we must cast down evil and counter-productive imaginations and bring into captivity (control) every thought that works against God's purpose for our life.
- By doing this we will destroy every stronghold the enemy brings our way.
- We are empowered to pull them down!