



Next Steps - Freedom Ministry



Standing Firm

understanding authority in Christ

www.c3churchgoulburn.com

Welcome

Welcome to [Next Steps - Freedom Ministry](#).

We are so glad you are here. Whether you have just made a decision to follow Jesus, or you have been a Christian for a while and want to grow deeper in your faith, this pathway has been designed with you in mind.

At C3 Church Goulburn, we believe that following Jesus is the greatest adventure life has to offer.

Yours in Christ
Ps Ken & Fiona & the team

On a personal note — the topics in this booklet are ones I have wrestled with personally. Understanding who I am in Christ has been one of the most transformative and ongoing journeys of my Christian life.

I didn't write this booklet from a place of having it all figured out — I wrote it as a fellow traveller who has discovered that what God says about us is far more true and far more beautiful than anything the world, our past, or our own hearts have told us.

Ps Fiona

How to Use This Booklet

This booklet is yours to work through at your own pace. There is no rush.

You can:

- Read through it on your own and reflect personally.
- Work through it with a leader or mentor.
- Do a bit of both — read ahead, then chat it through

Each section includes some teaching, key bible passages to look up, reflection questions and space to journal your thoughts.

Don't skip the writing spaces — sometimes the most important discoveries happen when we put pen to paper.

This booklet is the second step in the Freedom Ministry stream.

Future material will be part of the **Steps to Freedom In Christ** programme, by **Neil T Anderson**.

Please speak to a leader once you have finished this step to be advised on how to continue.

We Have A Real Enemy

Let's start with something the Bible never tries to hide.

You have an enemy. This isn't a metaphor, or a symbol for your inner struggles or bad habits. He is a real, personal, spiritual being who is actively opposed to your freedom, your growth, your relationships and your walk with God.

His name is Satan — which simply means *adversary* — and the Bible describes him in very specific terms:

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

A roaring lion. Not a harmless inconvenience. Not something to be dismissed. A deliberate, strategic opponent who is looking for an opportunity.

Now — before you feel unsettled by that — here is what you also need to know. A lion that is roaring is a lion that is trying to intimidate you into running. Lions do not roar when they are in control of the hunt. They roar when they want their prey to panic and scatter.

The enemy's greatest weapon is not power — it is deception. He wants you to believe he is more dangerous than he is, that you are more vulnerable than you are, and that the battle is more uncertain than it is. None of those things are true.

What the enemy actually does

He lies

Jesus called him *"the father of lies"* ([John 8:44](#)). His primary weapon is deception. He cannot create — he can only counterfeit, distort and deceive.

He accuses

[Revelation 12:10](#) calls him *"the accuser of our brethren."* He will use your past, your failures, your weaknesses and your sin to build a case against you in your own mind.

He tempts

He looks for the places where we are vulnerable and offers counterfeit solutions to real needs.

He blinds

[2 Corinthians 4:4](#) tells us he has blinded the minds of unbelievers. His goal is always to keep people from seeing the truth clearly.

Notice what he does not do — he does not have the power to remove your salvation, to separate you from God's love, or to change who you are in Christ. Those things are settled. Permanent. Beyond his reach.



Read John 10:10

Jesus describes the enemy's agenda in one verse — and then contrasts it with His own. What does this tell you about the two kingdoms at work in the world?

But here's the truth

The enemy is real — but he is also a defeated enemy. There is a world of difference between those two things.

At the cross, Jesus did not just defeat the enemy — He disarmed him. Stripped him of his authority. Made a public spectacle of his defeat. The battle has been fought. The victory has been won. What we are engaged in now is not a battle to determine the outcome — it is a battle to enforce an outcome that has already been decided.

You are not fighting for victory. You are fighting from victory. That changes everything.

Colossians 2:15

"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

The Victory Is Already Won

This is the most important thing you need to understand about spiritual warfare — and it is the thing that most Christians either don't know or have never fully grasped.

The war is over. Jesus won.

Past tense. Complete. Finished.

When Jesus cried out from the cross *"It is finished"* — the Greek word He used was *tetelestai* — a word used in the ancient world to stamp across a debt: *paid in full*. The penalty for sin — paid. The power of death — broken. The authority of the enemy — stripped.

Hebrews 2:14

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus destroyed — rendered powerless — the one who had the power of death. This is not poetry. This is legal, spiritual, cosmic reality.

So why does it still feel like a battle?

This is the honest question — and it deserves an honest answer.

If the enemy has been defeated, why does he still seem so active? Why do we still struggle? Why does darkness still seem to have so much influence in the world and sometimes in our own lives?

The answer is this: **there is a difference between a defeated enemy and a surrendered enemy.**

Think of it like this. In World War II, Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945 — Victory in Europe Day. The war was officially over. But there were still soldiers in remote locations who hadn't received the news. There were still pockets of resistance. There were still people suffering the consequences of the war long after it ended.

The enemy knows he has lost. But he has not surrendered. He continues to operate — not because he has power over you, but because he is hoping you don't know what happened at the cross. He is counting on your ignorance of your own authority.

This is why Paul writes:

Galatians 5:1

"Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Stand. This is not conquer or attack, but stand. Hold the ground that has already been won. Enforce the victory that has already been secured. Refuse to surrender what Christ has already purchased.



Read James 4:7

According to this verse, what are the three things that enable believers to overcome the enemy? Which of these feels most relevant to where you are right now?

The mind is the battlefield

Here is something that will change the way you think about the spiritual battle — most of it happens in your mind.

The enemy cannot force you to do anything. He cannot override your will. What he can do is suggest, accuse, whisper and deceive — and hope that you agree with him.

Every lie you believe gives him a foothold. Every truth you stand on pushes him back.

This is why your identity — knowing who you are in Christ — is not just a nice theological idea. It is your primary weapon. A person who knows who they are cannot be deceived about who they are.

Your Authority in Christ

Here is something that will genuinely surprise many Christians: **you have been given authority.**

This is not a far off promise for when you are mature enough or experienced enough. Right now. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you carry delegated spiritual authority that the enemy is legally required to respect.

Luke 10:19

"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Jesus said this to seventy ordinary disciples — not apostles, not spiritual giants, not people with decades of experience. Ordinary followers of Jesus. And He gave them authority over *all* the power of the enemy.

That same authority belongs to you.

What is spiritual authority?

Authority is not the same as power. Power is raw force. Authority is the legal right to exercise power on behalf of someone greater.

Think of a police officer. A police officer does not overpower a criminal because they are physically stronger — they carry authority that represents the entire law enforcement system behind them. When they speak, they speak with the weight of that system.

When you speak in the name of Jesus, you are not doing so on the basis of your own strength, goodness or spiritual maturity. You are doing so on the basis of who Jesus is and what He has done. You are exercising delegated authority — and the enemy knows it.

Every knee. Every name. Every power. Every spiritual force — including the enemy and all his works — must bow to the name of Jesus. And you carry that name.

Philippians 2:9-10

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth."

You have authority - but it must be exercised

Authority that is never exercised is authority that makes no practical difference.

Imagine a property owner who has the legal right to remove trespassers from their land — but never actually does it. The trespassers don't leave on their own. They stay because no one tells them to go.

The enemy is a trespasser. He has no legal right to occupy territory in your life — your mind, your emotions, your relationships, your identity. But he will stay if you don't tell him to leave.

This is not about working yourself into an emotional state. It is not about shouting or straining. It is about calmly, confidently and deliberately exercising the authority you have been given — in the name of Jesus, on the basis of His finished work.

**Read James 4:7**

This verse has two parts — submitting to God AND resisting the devil. Why do you think both parts are necessary? What happens if you try to do one without the other?

Submit To God

Before we talk about resisting the enemy, we need to talk about the foundation that makes resistance effective.

James 4:7

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Notice the order. Submit first. Resist second. This is not accidental — it is the key to everything.

Spiritual authority is not something you possess independently. It is something you exercise as a representative of the One who has all authority. And that means your effectiveness in spiritual warfare is directly connected to your closeness to God.

A soldier who goes rogue — who acts outside the chain of command — loses the backing of the army they represent. An ambassador who speaks against their government loses the authority of that government. Authority flows from relationship and submission.

This means that the most powerful thing you can do in spiritual warfare is also the most simple: **stay close to God.**

What submission to God looks like

Submission to God is not passive resignation — it is active, deliberate alignment with who He is and what He says.

It means trusting His word over your feelings

When the enemy whispers that God has abandoned you, submission means choosing to stand on [Romans 8:38-39](#) rather than the feeling. When accusations come, submission means agreeing with what God says about you rather than what the accuser says.

It means choosing His agenda over your own.

Spiritual authority is not for building your own kingdom — it is for advancing His. Authority flows most freely when our hearts are genuinely oriented toward God's purposes.

It means staying in ongoing conversation with Him

Prayer is not just asking God for things — it is the primary way we stay aligned with Him. A prayerless Christian trying to exercise spiritual authority is like a soldier trying to fight without any communication with command.



Read 1 John 4:4

What difference does it make to know that the Holy Spirit — the very power that raised Jesus from the dead — lives inside you?

The power of humility

There is one more dimension to submission that is worth sitting with — humility.

James 4:6 says that *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* Pride — thinking we can handle things in our own strength — actually closes the channel through which God's grace and authority flow. Humility — acknowledging our complete dependence on Him — opens it.

This means that the posture of spiritual warfare is not aggressive self-confidence. It is humble confidence — knowing that in ourselves we have no power, but in Christ we have all the authority we need.

2 Corinthians 12:9

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Resist The Devil

Now we get practical. [James 4:7](#) promises something remarkable — that when you resist the devil, he *will* flee. Not might flee. Not sometimes flees. Will flee. This is a promise, not a possibility.

But resistance is active. It requires you to do something. Here is what that looks like in practice.

Recognise what is happening

The first step in resisting is recognising when the enemy is at work. Not everything difficult in life is spiritual warfare — but some of it is. Learning to discern the difference is important.

The enemy's fingerprints tend to look like:

- Thoughts that contradict what God says about you — accusation, condemnation, shame
- Sudden, intense temptation in an area of known weakness
- Irrational fear, anxiety or despair that seems disproportionate to circumstances
- Confusion, discouragement or a sense of spiritual deadness that comes out of nowhere
- Persistent lies that replay in your mind like a recording

When you notice these patterns, the response is not panic — it is recognition. You name what is happening, you refuse to agree with it, and you respond with truth.

Speak the truth out loud

There is something significant about speaking truth out loud — not just thinking it, but declaring it.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He didn't just think scripture at the enemy — He spoke it. Each time the enemy came with a lie or a temptation, Jesus responded with "It is written..." and declared the truth of God's word.

You can do the same. When accusation comes, speak the truth:

"I reject that lie. The truth is that I am forgiven and there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1."

When fear comes, speak the truth:

"I refuse this spirit of fear. God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7."

When the enemy reminds you of your past, speak the truth:

"My past does not define me. I am a new creation in Christ. The old has gone, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17."

This is not a magic formula — it is the deliberate, faith-filled exercise of the authority you carry in Christ.

Rebuke directly in Jesus' name

Sometimes a more direct approach is needed. When you are aware that the enemy is specifically at work — in your thoughts, your circumstances or your environment — you have the right and the responsibility to address him directly in the name of Jesus.

This is not complicated. It is not dramatic. It is simply the calm, confident exercise of delegated authority:

"In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you. You have no authority here. I am a child of God, covered by the blood of Jesus. I command you to leave."

Notice the basis — it is always the name of Jesus and the finished work of the cross. Never your own goodness or spiritual achievement. The authority belongs to Him. You are simply enforcing it.



Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Paul talks about "casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God." What are the specific arguments or thoughts in your own mind that most consistently exalt themselves against what God says?

Renewing the Mind - taking thoughts captive

We have already seen that the mind is the primary battlefield. Now let's get very practical about what it means to fight there.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Every thought into captivity. Not the obviously sinful ones. Every thought that sets itself against the knowledge of God — against what God says about you, about Him, about the world.

This is active, intentional mental engagement. It is the daily practice of refusing to let lies live rent-free in your mind.

What is a stronghold

A stronghold is a pattern of thinking — a deeply entrenched belief system — that has been built up over time through repeated agreements with lies. It is the mental equivalent of a fortress — walls built so thick and so high that truth seems to bounce off them.

Strongholds sound like:

- *"I will never be good enough."*
- *"God couldn't really love someone like me."*
- *"I always fail. Nothing ever changes."*
- *"I'm not worth fighting for."*

These are not just negative thoughts — they are fortresses of deception that the enemy uses as a base of operations in your life. And they are pulled down not through willpower alone, but through the **sustained, consistent application of God's truth.**

The three-step practice

Here is a simple, practical framework for taking thoughts captive:

1

— Notice the thought

You cannot deal with what you don't acknowledge. When a negative, accusatory or fearful thought arrives, stop and notice it. Name it. Don't just let it run.

2

— Evaluate it against the truth

Ask *"Is this what God says about me? Does this align with scripture?"* If it doesn't — it is a lie. If it does — receive it and act on it.

3

— Replace it with truth

Don't just reject the lie — fill the space with truth. Find the specific scripture that speaks to that area and declare it. Repeat it. Let it become more familiar than the lie.



Read Romans 12:2

The word translated "transformed" is the Greek word metamorphoo — the same word used for Jesus' transfiguration. What does it mean to you that the renewing of your mind is a process of genuine, radical transformation rather than just behaviour modification?

Strongholds that have been built over years are not pulled down in a single prayer — although sometimes God does move dramatically and quickly. More often, it is the consistent, daily practice of choosing truth over lies that gradually shifts the landscape of your mind.

Be patient with yourself. Be persistent in the truth. And remember — you are not doing this alone. The Holy Spirit is your partner in this process. He is the one who leads you into all truth ([John 16:13](#)), who intercedes for you ([Romans 8:26](#)), and who is actively at work in you both to will and to do what pleases God ([Philippians 2:13](#)). The mind that was once a battlefield becomes, over time, a place of genuine peace — the peace that Paul describes as surpassing all understanding ([Philippians 4:7](#)). That is not wishful thinking. It is the promise of a faithful God.

Reflect and Respond

Take some time to work through these questions honestly. There are no right or wrong answers — this is between you and God.

1. Before reading this booklet, how much were you aware of the spiritual battle you are in? Has your understanding shifted? If so, how?

2. The enemy's primary weapons are lies and accusation. What are the specific lies you are most prone to believing — about yourself, about God, or about your situation?

3. [James 4:7](#) says to submit to God first, then resist the enemy. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current level of submission to God — your alignment with Him through prayer, His Word and dependence on the Holy Spirit? What would it take to move that number up?

4. Have you ever actively resisted the enemy — spoken truth out loud, rebuked a lie, declared scripture? If not, what has held you back? If yes, what did you notice?

5. What is the most persistent stronghold — the most entrenched lie — that you are aware of in your own thinking? Write it down, and then write the specific truth from scripture that directly contradicts it.

6. The promise of [James 4:7](#) is that when you resist the devil, he *will* flee. How does it change your approach to the spiritual battle to know that resistance is not optional but that its outcome is guaranteed?

Your Next Step

You now have the two foundational pillars of walking in freedom:

Who you are — a child of God, a new creation, transferred from darkness into light, complete in Christ.

How you stand — from a place of victory, in the authority of Jesus, submitting to God, resisting the enemy, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

These are not just ideas. They are a way of life. And they take practice — daily, intentional, sometimes imperfect practice. But every day you choose truth over lies, every time you resist rather than agree, every moment you submit to God rather than go it alone — the landscape of your inner life shifts. Slowly, steadily, you become more free.

The next step in the Freedom Ministry pathway takes both of these foundations and applies them in a very practical, personal way.

The Armour of God

Our next booklet — *The Armour of God* — takes a deep dive into Ephesians 6 and explores each piece of spiritual armour that God has provided for the battle. It is one thing to know you are in a battle — it is another to know exactly how to dress for it.

The Steps to Freedom in Christ

When you feel ready to go deeper — to address specific areas of your life where the enemy has had a foothold, and to walk through a process of genuine, thorough repentance and declaration — the Steps to Freedom in Christ is waiting for you.

Developed by Dr Neil T. Anderson, the Steps to Freedom is a personal ministry experience that has helped hundreds of thousands of believers around the world find lasting, genuine freedom. It is not about dramatic spiritual experiences — it is about walking carefully and honestly through the areas of your life where lies have taken root, and replacing them with truth.

Speak with a pastor or leader about taking this next step. You do not need to have it all sorted before you begin. In fact, the more honestly you can come, the more fruit you will see.

More than conquerors. Not barely surviving. Not holding on by a thread.
More than conquerors — through Him who loved us.

That is who you are. That is where you stand. Now go and live like it.

Romans 8:37

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Freedom is not just a doctrine.

It is your inheritance in Christ. And it is available to you —
today.

Continue Your Journey

Scan the QR code to explore more **Next Steps** resources online



A Christ-Centred Community

C3 Church Goulburn

Goulburn Community Centre
155 Auburn St Goulburn

Ph 02 48639942

Email get-in-touch@c3hurchgoulburn.com

Service Times Sundays @ 4pm



[Find Us on Facebook](#)



[Visit Our Website](#)