

## *The Ancient Paths*

Parents are responsible for the protection of their children. Unborn and small children are unable and not equipped to defend themselves against the schemes of the devil. As a result, God appointed agents to protect them and care for them. Again these agents are called parents. One day some years ago, the Lord opened up to me what I have since come to refer to as the **STRONG MAN PRINCIPLE**.

*"Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house." (Matthew 12:29)*

In this passage, Jesus is explaining how to expel demonic spirits. He says that there are different ranking spirits with which to deal. If you want to be rid of all the lower ranking spirits, you must first find their "chief," bind him, and then you can eliminate the others. **The "chief" is called the strong man.**

As I was studying this passage, one day the Lord spoke to me that the principle works exactly the same when the kingdom of darkness is attempting to invade your house. In the Greek language, the word translated "house" is the word "**OIKOS**." This word in this context is not referring to the physical dwelling place, but rather to the family. **OIKOS** literally means: "**the descendants thereof**."

So when the enemy (the devil and demonic spirits) comes to plunder your house (**OIKOS**), he is

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after your family. His purpose is to devastate and destroy your marriage, children, and grandchildren. **In order to do so, he must first bind the strong man.**

Who is the strong man of your house? The husband is the strong man to the wife, and both parents are strongmen to the children. **Thus, in the areas of life in which the enemy can bind the parents, he has access to the children.**