

PRAYER STUDY #123

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

SOME THINGS YOU PROBABLY WON'T HEAR IN CHURCH

1. **Praying with an idol in your heart:** *...any man in the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols. Ezekiel 14:4 King James*

What is an idol? An idol is anything that you want or enjoy more than you want God. In the Old Testament we do not find the children of Israel ascending from idol worship to pure worship of God, rather we find true believers falling, usually at the influence of a religious leader, to idol worship. Those believers who worship idols are practicing spiritual adultery. Examples of idols in our day are the human body, money, sports, houses, cars, etc. Idols do not have to be materialistic. Galatians 5:19-20, for example, associates idolatry with sexual sin, not a materialistic object. Idols can possess a demonic presence whether materialistic or not.

When you go to the Lord in prayer, you have to lay down your own will and be a living sacrifice, seeking and asking for His will alone. You must be totally sold out to the will of God in whatever issue that you are praying about. If you don't have that attitude of self-denial and really seeking His will, you need to pray that God first change your attitude and when He does, then you will be free to pray. If you already have a definite direction in your mind as to how the Lord should answer this prayer, that becomes an idol of your own will and causes you to think that God is answering the way you want whether He actually is or not. If your will is His alone whether it is, then the answer from the Lord will be pure revelation, not contaminated by your own desires. A true word from the Lord comes when you are fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2).

The best example, perhaps, in the scripture is the story of Balaam, the prophet. In Numbers 22 Balak wanted Balaam to come to him and curse the enemies of Balak which were the Israelites. The Lord told

Balaam not to go and not to curse the Israelites. Balak sent messengers with the promise from Balak to Balaam of honor, riches and gold, if Balaam would come. Balaam wanted these things more than he wanted God's will. He prayed with this idol in his heart and so he interpreted the word from the Lord as, "Sure! Go ahead!" God was angry with Balaam and sent an angel with a sword to block his path. This is when Balaam's donkey spoke. Other examples of people praying with an idol in their hearts is when Israel wanted a king and got Saul, and when Israel lusted for meat in the wilderness and God gave the meat to them but also sent leanness in their souls(Psalm 106:14-15).

2. **A Root of Bitterness:** *Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.* Hebrews 12:14-15

There are generally two points of view about a Root of Bitterness. I personally subscribe to the point of view put forth by the ministry "Love Worth Finding", which says that a root of bitterness is bitterness in a heart that harbors hostility and old hurts. People who have a Root of Bitterness look for things to criticize, find fault with others, are hypersensitive, ungrateful, insincere, hold grudges, and have mood swings. People with a root of bitterness have trouble forgiving others. Although many Christians have a root of bitterness, God is not real to them. They often feel abandoned by the Lord. A root of bitterness, according to this point of view, is about relationships between the brethren(and sisthren!).

The other theological view is that the root of bitterness speaks of an individual being defiled by false doctrines and things not of Christ. This point of view says a root of bitterness is talking about a heart of unbelief, someone who once believed but has been lead astray from the faith by false teachers and false doctrines. According to this point of view, a root of bitterness is not between specific individuals but against unity in the congregation. One with a root of bitterness cannot have fellowship and unity with the righteous. There is a breakdown in relations among believers because one believer has become bitter because of his hold on false, contrary doctrine. His bitterness is against truth and those who hold to that truth(see Deuteronomy 29:18, Matthew 7:17-19, and Hebrews 3:12).

3. **The Slumbering Spirit:** Obviously this is a spirit that causes individuals or whole church bodies to be asleep and thus those with a slumbering spirit are the antithesis of the Tribe of Issachar (*And of the children of Issachar, who were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...* 1st Chronicles 12:32). This is a common spirit and is often rooted in deep sorrow or depression as when the disciples could not stay awake in the garden (*And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping FOR SORROW.* Luke 22:45)

His watchmen are blind. All of them know nothing. All of them are dumb dogs unable to bark, dreamers lying down, who love to slumber. Isaiah 56:10

And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. Romans 13:11

Awake, awake. Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments. Isaiah 52:1-2

Therefore, be on the alert-for you do not know when the master of the house is coming...lest He come and find you asleep. Mark 13:35-36

You, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 1st Thessalonians 5:4-6

4. **Jezebel Spirit:** *But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bondservants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.* Revelation 2:20

Males as well as females may have a Jezebel Spirit. This is a spirit of religion, manipulation, control, lust, perversion, occult, self-promotion. A person with this spirit may not show all of these characteristics but will especially have control issues. The goal of a Jezebel is to disable and destroy individuals, ministries, and churches.

It gossips against fellow believers, talks disrespectfully about other ministries, and reveals personal tidbits shared in confidence. It usurps authority, makes private accusations, and listens to accusations without a proper witness. It sows divisiveness in a church, involves false flattery, pits one person against another, declares he or she knows the mind of God, appears religious, and gives false dreams and revelations. The family life of a Jezebelite is usually unstable, and this spirit breeds negative attitudes and behavior. Jezebelites believe their assessment of a pastor's leadership is correct, and they attempt to launch a revolt. This spirit disrespects the preciousness of human will and devalues individuals. It struggles with being overlooked, undervalued, or rejected and struggles with bitterness, criticalness, and anger. Those who operate in this spirit often refuse to communicate truthfully or not at all. It is often characterized by self-pity, pride, bitterness, selfishness, anger, resentment, jealousy, and a pattern of broken relationships. Jezebelites embrace a victim mentality and exude a lack of gratitude. It is not unusual for a person who has a Jezebel spirit to have a true prophetic call from God that has been perverted, distorted, and misused. Individuals with a Jezebel spirit are skilled in getting their way through flattery, persuasion, sexual seduction, slander, lying accusation, intimidation, secrecy, framing a person for a wrong done, or generating emotional and/or spiritual dependency in someone. Jezebelites who seek to control others, will be frustrated by godly authority and threatened by those to whom control is entrusted. Accusation is a common tool used by those with a Jezebel spirit, and it works hand and glove with a religious spirit. Although many Jezebelites don't have this problem, the Jezebel spirit is often the controlling influence directing the lesser demons of homosexuality and is often connected to the demon named "Faultfinder."

5. **Behemoth:** *Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hastened not; he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth. Job 40:23*
(For more description of this spirit, read Job chapter 15- 24.)

Behemoth means something of massive size and strength. Some think it is a bull, elephant, hippopotamus, or rhinoceros. Others think it is an animal that no longer lives. It represents any demonic system that can oppress large numbers of people. Behemoths are strongholds of the enemy that must be destroyed before millions come to know Jesus.

The Israelites were under a Behemoth in Egypt. This was confronted by Moses. The pharisaical religious system of that day was confronted by Jesus. Modern Behemoths include Communism, Islam, Humanism, Witchcraft, Materialism, Religion and Tradition, etc.

6. **Belial**(a title for a worthless person): *And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?* 2nd Corinthians 6:15

Belial “is in charge of confusion; it takes feelings away; it puts walls around the heart and seems to disable the mind and love in a person.”

7. **Spirit of Molech:** *Again thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he is of the children of Israel, of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, who giveth any of his seed unto Molech, he shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.* Leviticus 20:2

Molech is the spirit behind infertility and is connected with abortions.

8. **Dagon:** *And when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.* 1st Samuel 5:4

Dagon seeks to manipulate the plans of God.

9. **Baal:** *And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he who troubled Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but you and your father’s house, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed Baal.* 1st Kings 18:17-18

Baal is considered as the fallen angel Beelzebub by some. He was a Canaanite god of rain, thunder, fertility, and agriculture. He was the son of Dagon. He opens people up to adultery, prostitution, debauchery, drunkenness, idolatry, and sexual sins of all kinds.

10. Python Spirit: *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain maid possessed with a spirit of divination[in the Greek, python] met us, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The same followed Paul and us and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the Most High God, who show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee, in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. Acts 16:16-18*

This spirit wants to quench through suffocation the life and breathe of God from your lungs and crush your hopes and dreams, faith and vision. It is closely connected to discouragement, spiritual apathy, laziness, a constant feeling of being weighted down, sometimes choking manifestations around the throat at night, fatigue and hopelessness. It is associated with witchcraft which is closely related to rebellion. It wants to keep you from doing what God wants you to do. It also casts doubt and suspicion on God's word.

For More Information:

The Jezebel Spirit by Francis Frangipane

The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Unmasking the Jezebel Spirit by Rick Joyner

How to Try a Spirit by Mary Garrison

Guidelines to Deliverance by Dr. Paul Cox

Behemoth, Antichrist, and Absalom Spirits by Jane Hamon

Healing the Wounded Spirit by John and Paula Sandford

I, of course, did not come up with all these different spirits and spiritual problems on my own. These thoughts came, sometimes directly quoted, from the above sources. I cannot remember where I got what but do want to emphasize that I borrowed from other sources.