

PRAYER STUDY #47

“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

What is a Root of Bitterness?

1. According to “Love Worth Finding”, 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.
2. Other theologians see the Root of Bitterness as speaking to 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 away 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)

Adrian Rogers’ Three Steps to Eradicating Bitterness

1. Let God reveal it. The heart is deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9) so just because you think you don’t have it is no indication that you do not.
2. Let Grace reveal it. Forgive those who have wronged you. “Justice is God giving us what we deserve; mercy is God not giving us what we deserve; grace is God giving us what we don’t deserve.”
3. Let Good replace it. Hebrews 12:14 says, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” You cannot be holy unless you follow peace with men.

Some Things You Probably Won't Hear in Church
(from Guidelines to Deliverance by Dr. Paul Cox)

Prayerfully consider the following:

PYTHON SPIRIT: This spirit wants to quench through suffocation the life and breathe of God from your lungs and crush your hopes, faith, visions and dreams. It is closely connected to discouragement, spiritual apathy and laziness, a constant feeling of being weighted down, sometimes choking manifestations around the throat at night, fatigue, and hopelessness.

ABSALOM SPIRIT: This spirit is rooted in distrust and resentment of one's authority. It believes most authority is not to be trusted; most authority is incompetent; and "I know the right way to handle this." An Absalom Spirit is rooted in pride, self-promotion, manipulation, selfish ambition(disguised to appear as service to others), negative criticism, divisiveness, false humility, religious hypocrisy, hype, and rebellion. It is rooted in a deep-seated desire to be close to/next to/in a place of favor with the one in authority and is rooted in impressing and stealing the hearts of the people who are under authority in order to eventually "dethrone" and replace the one in authority.

LEVIATHAN: The visible fruit of this demon's presence is that Leviathan twists communication to cause damage to relationships. "The root that enables Leviathan to operate is pride in competence. When someone is excellent in their field, a pride in their own excellence can open the door for Leviathan to skew what is said or heard. Hence this critter tends to operate best among high-level Christian leaders, explaining in part the massive fragmentation in the Body. So many times one leader does not trust another leader so they won't let their followers partner with the other organization either. There are actual ethics-based problems at times, but if you trace most divisions among leaders back to the point of deviation, it was a discussion somewhere that went awry. One person walked away from the relationship convinced that the other person's motives stunk, and they arrived at that conclusion because of miscommunication."

SERPENT: It is the result of "the curse" of death and is rooted in human pride.

BELIAL: It 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.

DAGON: It seeks to manipulate the plans of God.

THE LEOPARD: It symbolizes a spirit rooted in insecurity and unbelief.

SPIRIT OF MOLECH: It causes infertility and is connected with abortions.

SPIDER: This spirit seems to pump anointings and spiritual gifts into a cavern, thus preventing people from walking in their giftings.