DELIVERANCE
Prayer Study # 376
First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA

Handout #28: PRAYING WITH AN IDOL IN YOUR HEART AND OTHER ISSUES OF THE FIGHT OF FAITH AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

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

Praying with an Idol in Your Heart

…any man in the house of Israel who sets up his idol 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

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 seek His will, not yours, 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 you will is His alone, whatever His will 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 of praying with an idol in one's heart 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, God's chosen people. The Lord told Balaam not to go and not to curse the Israelites. Balak sent messengers with promises from Balak to Balaam. He said that he would give Balaam 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 falsely 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 them the meat but also sent leanness in their souls (Psalm 106:14-15).

How to Test the Spirits

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [or test] *the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world* (1st John 4:1)

1. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God (1st John 4:2).
2. The witness of the Spirit (*We are of God. He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. By this know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error*-1st John 4:5).
3. You shall know them by their fruit. (*Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles?* Matthew 6:15-16).

Allowing the Jezebel Spirit to Operate

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 know the mind of God, appears religious, and gives false dreams and revelations. The family life of a Jezebel is usually unstable, and this spirit breeds negative attitudes and behavior. Jezebels 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 they do not communicate at all. Jezebels are often characterized with self-pity, pride bitterness, selfishness, anger, resentment, jealousy, and a pattern of broken relationships. Jezebels 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. Jezebels, 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 Jezebels 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."

Python

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 she did 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, in turn, related to rebellion. It wants to keep you from doing what God wants you to do. It also cast doubt and suspicion on God's word.

Leviathan

Leviathan is a spirit that twists communication to cause damage to relationships and to break trust between people. People with this spirit sometimes literally hear different words from what the person actually spoke to them. The root of Leviathan is pride.

In that day the LORD with His sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan, the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent, and He shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. Isaiah 27:1

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 opposite of the Tribe of Issachar (*And 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

Behemoth

Behemoth means something of massive size and strength. Some think it is a bull, elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, or 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 demonic power was confronted by Moses. The pharisaical religious system of Jesus' day was confronted by Jesus. Modern Behemoths include Communism, Islam, Humanism, Witchcraft, Materialism, Religion and Tradition, etc.

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

Spirit of Molech

Molech is the spirit behind infertility and abortions.
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

Baal

Baal is considered by some as the fallen angel Beelzebub. 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.
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

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 Hanson
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. I also have given you a minimal amount of information and have left out many of these specific spirits in the interest of time. Sometimes I have quoted directly from the sources above.