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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Part 3 - The Battleground of the Heavenly Places

The last frontier of battle is the heavenly places, the dimension known today as the spirit realm. It is here that angels and demons wage their war for our cities. But let the reader take note: This dimension is currently enemy territory! Only according to the measure that our heart is like Christ's do we have authority in the heavenlies; only a citywide, Christ-centered church can displace the powers of darkness from the spirit realm.

Chapter 15 - The War Over Reality (Part 1)

Created in the image of God, man was given limited, yet distinct, inherent powers. He was granted the power to imagine, as well as the faculty to define and then establish reality. And, operating within the boundaries preset by God, man does this, for better or worse, according to the free selection of his will. As we understand this, we see that the essence of spiritual warfare is in who shall define reality: the Word of God or the illusions of this present age.

What We Agree Upon

What is reality? How does life appear - to you? The dictionary defines reality as "that which is real; an actual thing, situation, or event." Such is reality in terms of objective analysis. But reality is not just objective: there is also a subjective or personal side to reality which is rooted in our feelings, attitudes, and beliefs. From this perspective, life "done for [us] as [we] have believed" (Matthew 8:13).

In this personal side of reality, what seems real to one is very often unreal to another. Consider the Eskimo's view of reality: traveling by dog sled and dwelling in an igloo, living in the land of the northern lights and the midnight sun. Compare that to a businessman living in a concrete world of skyscrapers and parking lots, with the stress of rush hours and a high-pressure job in a brokerage firm. Reality in both locations, though strikingly different, is uniquely functional and subjectively real to each individual.

Let us, therefore, learn from these examples an important principle: whatever a society agrees upon and establishes through consent, compromise and constant use will ultimately define reality to them. Understanding this precept is very important because, as we come into

agreement with the principles and standards of the kingdom of God, our whole definition of society is going to change.

An example of this in Scripture is seen in the book of Genesis. “And the Lord said, Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible to them” (Genesis 11:6 AMP). This is what the Lord Himself said concerning the ungodly Babylonians. He said that *whatever mankind imagined, it had the potential to accomplish.*

If a man’s mind can imagine it and he can get others to believe in it, their spirits can accomplish it. And with a few exceptions, nothing will be impossible, even for as small a group as two or three, once they believe a thing can happen.

This is exactly what the warfare is centered upon in the church today: the devil wants us to accept Christianity as it is, as though division, sin, and spiritual impotency were the ultimate reality God has provided for believers on earth. Satan wants us to agree with and thereby reinforce this deceptive view of the church. There are many promises that are yet to be fulfilled concerning the people of God. These are holy and noble purposes which shall unfold in the last days. Therefore, our agreement must be with God’s plan for a holy, undivided, powerful church, for He is calling us to establish His kingdom, not the status quo!

While we must work with the church as it is, we must ever realize that what we see is Christianity is not what the church will be like before Jesus returns. In fact, our call is to cooperate with God in bringing forth of revival and the raising up of the body of Christ. Our quest is to serve the vision of the Lord until He present “to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:27).

Before Jesus returns, the Father has promised His Son a bride without spot or wrinkle. She shall be a powerful witness of Christ Himself in the earth.

To be continued...