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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 16 - Exposing the Spirit of Antichrist! (Part 2)

Deliverance From Antichrist on a Personal Level

Each of us has thinking processes, strongholds in our minds, which have been shaped and conditioned by the spirit of antichrist. Let us not defend those thoughts or attitudes that are “anti” Christ; rather, let us expose them as sin and see them defeated. Antichrist has been around for a long time; its thought-systems may not depart suddenly from any of us. But if we can discern the difference between the loving voice of Christ and the arrogant rebellion of antichrist, we can take a major step toward seeing our lives conformed to our Savior.

How do you know if the lack of love you feel toward other churches is only your flesh or if it is a stronghold for the spirit of antichrist? Repent for rebellion and cold love. Ask God to give you His love for all those who are truly born again. Then audibly pray against the antichrist spirit. You will immediately discover a distance between you and the enemy and a closeness between you and the Lord.

Christianity Without the Antichrist Influence

There are many ways the antichrist spirit seeks to display itself as being God: the New Age Movement, Communism, etc. But the unique way it masquerades in the church as God is this: there is a natural, religious reverence men have toward death. Antichrist uses this phenomenon by conditioning congregations to accept the solemnity of death as though it were true reverence of God. The Almighty, however, is not the God of the dead but of the living, and true reverence is that which is accompanied by awe, joy and thanksgiving.

You can discern antichrist in a congregation that is reverent toward its deadness. The atmosphere is not filled with holiness but hollowness. *It is the same essence that lingers in an empty funeral home.* Antichrist will sit over a people, exuding an aura of coldness that literally fills the atmosphere of a church building.

When the Holy Spirit first began to unveil this entity, we saw how it had distorted our basic concept of Christianity. In fact, the stronghold of antichrist thinking is an “acceptable” condition in the church. This spirit has so worked its way into “the temple of God” (the

corporate but divided city-church), that in many congregations and to many believers, it is “displaying [itself] as being God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

It was obvious to us that this principality was seeking to “exalt [itself] above all that is called God” (NKJV). When we sought to teach the people, the words of our messages fell to the ground amidst tremendous resistance, as though a blanket were covering them. We sought the Lord and a few days later the Holy Spirit revealed discernment we had been missing. He illuminated the first words of 2 Thessalonians 2:4, “[he] opposes.”

The antichrist spirit literally opposes truth, especially new truth that unmask its nature. It resists any movement in the body of Christ toward life. In the churches where it presides, should an “amen” squeak out of one in support of the preaching, this spirit glares through the faces of those whose minds are its stronghold.

When we better understood the antichrist spirit, we could war successfully against it. Our intercessors began to pray against this spirit’s influence over our county. Less than one week later, five other pastors and myself, as well as several para-church ministries, gathered together and committed ourselves to meet for weekly intercessory prayer in each other’s churches. Three months later, that number had doubled and has been increasing ever since. How did it occur? The intercessors discerned and bound the spirit of antichrist. Suddenly the godly desires to meet and pray with other pastors began to prevail in our community!

Understanding the Citywide Church

God sees the church community as one body fused together in the fire of Christ’s love. He would have us praying together, working and building our churches in the spirit of His kingdom. No one knows the local battle better than the local pastors. When Jesus spoke to the churches in the Revelation of John, He identified the church as a local organism in each city. He did not say, “To the Christians in Asia who are of Paul, I say this...”

No. Jesus addressed the churches by the name of their geographic locations. They may have had spiritual roots with extra-local apostolic leaders, but their primary relationships were with each other (see Acts 13:1-2). These were local people who knew the people’s needs, and Jesus viewed them as such.

Yet, the penetration of the antichrist spirit into typical Christian thinking is so deep that its deceptions are preached from pulpits and accepted in the pews. Therefore, you must persevere for the sake of Christ in your community.

Let your faith continually increase while your fleshly ambitions proportionally decrease. Personal ambition is the motive of the antichrist; it is the name of the stronghold that has made us divided. You must approach others in the spirit of servanthood, not with the motive of fulfilling selfish ambition. If you are called to a leadership role, the others will recognize that call by your meekness and good fruit. Your ministry will come naturally, without self-promotion. Remember the commandment of Jesus: “Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ” (Matthew 23:10). In truth, God is not raising up leaders; He is training bond-servants, men and women who will pray together for Christ’s leading.

Therefore, when you meet Christians from other churches, come as their servant and look to bless them. If you are a pastor, find out the needs of your fellow pastors and begin to pray for them. Perhaps one needs a piano player; if you have two, send a pianist (see Luke 3:11). Most pastors struggle with unique fears and insecurities. But if you come in the love of God, you will disarm their fears.

The spirit of antichrist is world ruler (see Ephesians 6:12). It cannot be cast out as lesser demon might. Ultimate victory over all such principalities comes through displacement, where the encouragement and love of Christ floods the thought-life of the local Christian community. As we become the opposite of antichrist, we will see Christ’s body healed, and the spirit of antichrist trodden under our feet.