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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 17 - Discerning the Spirit of Jezebel (Part 2)

Set the Captives Free!

Jezebel's spirit flows unhindered throughout the entertainment industries. It flaunts itself in the world of fashion; it holds degrees in the philosophical departments of our schools and colleges. Where can you go in our society that the influence of this spirit is not felt? She is the destroyer of politicians and preachers alike. She is cruel motivators behind abortion. It is Jezebel who frequently generates dissatisfaction between spouses.

This spirit was sitting in the church in Thyatira when the Holy Spirit exposed it nineteen hundred years ago (see Revelation 2:19-29). It still has its favorite seat in church today. There are respectable men who love God and who seek to serve Him, yet secretly in their hearts they are prisoners of Jezebel. Even now, they are deeply ashamed of their bondage to pornography, and they can barely control their desires for women. Ask them to pray and their spirits are awash with guilt and shame. Their prayers are but the whimpers of Jezebel's eunuchs.

There are good women who come to church seeking God, but this spirit has them fantasizing about the men in their assembly - lamenting that their husbands are not as "spiritual" as other husbands. Soon, these women develop problems that "only the pastor" can understand. Ladies, the "older women" (Titus 2:3-5) - the godly women in the church - are the ones you need to consult with first, not the pastors or elders. If you must counsel with a church leader, do not be offended when he asks for his wife or an older, godly woman to join him.

Anyone who is hit by this spirit needs, first of all, to repent deeply of their sympathetic thoughts toward it, and then war against it! Do not waste days and weeks under condemnation. Separate yourself from that Jezebelian thinking that was fostered upon you in your youth, pick up the sword of the Spirit, and war against the spirit of Jezebel! Pray for the saints in your church. Pray for the Christians throughout your community. If you war against Jezebel when you are tempted, eventually you are going to become dangerous. This spirit will stop attacking you once it recognizes that your aggressive counterattack is setting other people free.

Likely Targets

We have stated that this spirit prefers to exploit the more complex nature of a woman, yet this demon can also operate through men. In fact, Jezebel seeks the highly refined qualities of the professional musician, especially when such a man has both the ambition and the opportunity to become a worship leader or director. It will also seek to surface in the life of the pastor himself, in which case he will become very authoritarian and unyielding in his control of the church. Such a pastor will invariably be isolated from fellowship and accountability with other pastors. The man will find himself lured into maintaining flirtatious and sensual relationships, “special intimacies” with one or more women in the church. In time, he will most likely succumb to adultery.

Yet this spirit more often seeks the disposition of the feminine nature. And since certain female ministries are more involved than others, it follows that they could become targets for the spirit of Jezebel. Church leaders should take heed. This spirit will seek to maneuver itself into leadership positions. Remember, Jesus said of Jezebel, “[she] calls herself a prophetess” (Revelation 2:20). A woman can most certainly function prophetically; she can be anointed by God to serve in delegated authority as a prophetess. But when she insists upon recognition, she manipulates or entirely disregards the male leadership in the church, when she “calls herself a prophetess,” beware.

Prayer leaders, church secretaries, worship and song leaders, pastors and their spouses, you are all especially targeted by this spirit. All of you serving in these roles should be instructed and warned about the warfare that may come against you. Each of you should be part of a church warfare team that is trained to discern and war against Jezebel.

To be continued...