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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 19 - Our Experience with Jezebel (Part 1)

What we present to you comes from our experience. We offer you no theories, no speculations. What we share with you has worked.

To Deliver, We Ourselves Must Be Delivered

“He will deliver one who is not innocent, and he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands” (Job 22:30). There is a difference between repenting for a sin and actually pulling down the stronghold within us that produced the sin. The first involves faith in the cross of Christ; the second demands we embrace crucifixion ourselves. In this regard, in 1971 the Lord began a foundation work of cleansing my heart from the influence of the Jezebel spirit.

This season of repentance lasted about forty days. During that time, through the Holy Spirit, the stronghold which was tolerant toward the spirit of Jezebel was pulled down. I should make it clear that I was not repenting again for sins previously washed and forgiven. My repentance was not for sin but for the nature that caused my sins. This is the essence of pulling down strongholds: we destroy the defiling, oppressive system of thinking which, through years, has been structured into our nature. My goal was simply that I “be renewed in the spirit of [my] mind (Ephesians 4:23).

The manner in which this happened was as follows: the Holy Spirit brought to mind many of the sins from my unsaved youth. Two or three times a day, every day, in dreams or as I worked, the Lord brought events to my mind. As the Lord revealed these incidents, I covered each memory with the blood of Jesus. Each time I prayed, I knew that through the Spirit another “stone” was being removed from this fortress in my mind.

Finally, the Lord revealed through a dream that this stronghold had been pulled down. In the dream two men were talking, one of whom was holding a baby. The one holding the child used a vile word in his conversation. Suddenly embarrassed because of the infant, he quickly reassured himself that the baby was so innocent that it did not know the meaning of the immoral word. In the dream, I realized that I also did not know the meaning of this word. In this, the grace of God had brought a new innocence into my heart of which the baby in the dream was a symbol. At

that time I knew nothing of the spirit of Jezebel. Nevertheless, the Lord was building in me a measure of immunity against it.

Our First Encounter with Jezebel

During the 1970s I pastored in an organization that had a number of leaders who functioned in the revelation gifts. There was “day and night” prayer, beautiful worship, commitment and power. As the Lord was to the nation of Israel on the plains of Moab, so He was also to us like the horns of the wild ox (see Numbers 22-25). There seemed to be no curse or omen that worked against us; God had given us His blessing; success seemed inevitable. But as Balaam counseled Balak to seduce the Israelites with the daughters of Moab, so the spirit of Jezebel launched its attack upon this work of God.

If the enemy cannot attack you directly, he will seek to bring you into sin, thereby positioning you under the judgments of God. When the Jezebel spirit began to manifest itself, and tolerance toward sexual sins increased, I approached the founder of the movement with my concerns. Meeting with him privately, I entreated him as a son does a father, but he dismissed me. Three months later I approached him again, appealing this time to the entire governmental team that was with him, warning them with tears that the judgment of the Lord against tolerating Jezebel was sickness and death (Revelation 2:22-23). Once more I was dismissed. Several months later I was taken out of leadership and then, ultimately, the hand of the Lord removed me from the group. Within months after I left, the leader divorced his wife, and less than a year later he married his secretary. Within two years he was dead from prostate cancer.

The impact of this experience was both devastating and enlightening. Even though I personally went through a period of great discouragement and self-doubt, I learned much about Jezebel and the sin of presumption. I saw that when men assume God will not judge or punish them for their sin, it is only a matter of time before the tempter comes to destroy them. It is significant that, while Jesus had the spirits of wisdom and understanding, counsel, strength and knowledge, His delight was “in the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:2-3). The sin of presumption is the antithesis of the fear of the Lord. It is the harbinger of future defeat.

To be continued...