

HOW TO IDENTIFY WRONG SPIRITS (PART 1)

It is very easy to identify a wrong spirit or a devil in the people that you lead or people that you are working with. Satan always shows himself through people so understanding the behavior of those around you is very important. This series may help you as a leader, parent, wife, husband or even as an individual. Read it and share with as many people as you can (please do not edit it)

1. Strife/quarrelling

Strife is when you have sharp quarrels, fights over very small (trivial) things. Strife can be found amongst brethren in a church, married couples and work mates. It is the biggest killer of revivals in growing churches and it is also responsible for the collapse of many young marriages. Paul warns Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:16 (NIV)** Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. did you see that? Strife makes you very ungodly.

Paul also pointed it out in **1 Corinthians 3:2** that as long as strife is there amongst you then you are still mere men and not ready for the next level. No one can ever go to the next level of his/her life with strife. That is the reason many remain babies even in the things of the Lord.

Nothing makes you so ungodly like strife. Strife chases away all glory and all favor warn you dear leader especially spiritual leaders to avoid strife/quarrel and to also avoid people who want to strife. This should not mean that you do not argue points. You can have a good interrogation of each other's points without quarrelling.

A good leader should admire his/her pastor's decision. The day leaders start to fight their pastor's decision or quarrel with him, then you know for sure the devil has entered them. When satan wants to destroy you, he sets you up to strife with those who carry the grace that is sustaining you.

Look at Lot and Abraham. **Genesis 13:7-8**... Lot has become rich, and he started quarrelling with Abraham his uncle, the one whose grace he was benefitting from. Abraham only said to him **Genesis 13:8** "Let there be no strife between us..." that was the end of anything good to ever

happen to Lot. His family was later destroyed. Never strife with grace that is or that has raised you. Strife seeks to separate you from your source of support and later destroys you. Lot had started to be rich in livestock and he thought that was the time to now quarrel with Abraham....be careful when increase (in wealth, money, grace, knowledge) comes your way, it can destroy you. Increase if unmanaged well may cause you to undermine those who have raised you.

Maybe you are a couple and you quarrel over everything especially those things that does not help you, that does not change anything, then know that satan has sneaked into your marriage...

You do not correct a quarrelsome partner by reasoning and facts, you use serious prayers because quarrelling/strife is a spirit. It is a demon it does not listen to reason, even if you have the best facts, the quarrel will still go on. Demons enjoy causing people to fight. I have seen and heard people that fought even at their honeymoon and they thought it is just an argument. They came from honeymoon straight to the counseling room. They spent the whole honeymoon quarrelling. Imagine booking a hotel with money just to quarrel in there...it is satan. Marriages have been destroyed by strife. Fighting for nothing. Be careful each time you are the one who wants to win an argument...

Look at this scripture, **Revelation 12:7 (KJV)** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

A place as good as heaven, there was a fight there... Michael had to fight down the dragon. The dragon here is the devil/satan. Devils will not even respect the good place they are in, they just fight. Some people, even if you put them in a good leadership position, they do not even care, they can still fight in there....You put them in groups to work with others on a certain project, you will hear there was a big fight and they quit....such people follow after the dragon, which had the audacity fight even in the presence of God. If the devil fought in heaven, why not in a cell group? I have seen people wanting to fight even during a church service.... that is typical of the devil, he fights even in heaven....

Revelation 16:14 (KJV) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

The scripture above shows that at the end of times the spirit of devils will go gather people to come and battle. Let us use this scripture to just explain the characteristics of evil spirits, they like to gather people to battle. Demons can mobilize people to fight. Any brother or sister who always initiates fights has a wrong spirit.

Always check, if your family is at war against itself. It is a clear sign that the demons are mobilizing you against each other... Hallelujah!

We are continuing tomorrow...

Pastor C & S

HOW TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WITH A WRONG SPIRIT (PART 2)

It is very imperative in leadership and life in general to know and identify people with both good and bad spirits. Knowing them will help you make informed decisions on how to relate with them. Many people who are crying and regretting today is because they allowed wrong people in their lives. Some even married such people.

We continue from where we left off yesterday.

2. Independent people

People with an independent spirit are dangerous. Never deal with a person who cannot submit to anyone. There are people who have a problem with every authority. Those people have a wrong spirit and should always be avoided. Some people do partial submission where they only submit to the highest authority of the organisation and despise departmental authorities....

The Bible teaches us to always be subject to authorities, **Romans 13:1-2 (KJV)** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Authority can be that of parents, pastors, bosses and civic leaders, all those authorities were put over you by God. Some authorities may come across as very harsh to you but remember, God has put them over you in that way to get the best out of you. In the above scripture, **vs 2** speaks of the consequences of resisting authority...you receive damnation for yourself.

With authorities, it is you who should put yourself under them. Some authorities may not impose themselves on you but it is you to make a decision to go to them and submit yourself to them. Submission is a choice. Those who do not choose to submit to anyone have an independent spirit and therefore very dangerous to work with.

In **1 Chronicles 12:14-18**, We meet the sons of Gad. These were captains and mighty men of war. They went to David and submitted themselves to him. Their leader Amasai said to David, "We are under you O David son of Jesse..." with all their might and skill, with all the gifts, they took themselves to go and be under an authority or a cover. Many people with gifts do not submit to anyone. Many great gospel singers start well by singing in church until the gift blooms, then you will hear them saying "am now independent" or I am now a freelancer, then you know the devil has now entered. People with special gifts are very susceptible to misleading spirits. If you want to protect your gift submit it to someone.

The difference between Queen Vashti and Queen Esther (**book of Esther 1-8**) was just one. Queen Vashti had an independent spirit. She listened to no one, she submitted to no one that is why she was replaced as queen. No one can continue with a person with an independent spirit. The king called her and she refused. The king was so embarrassed and angry (**Esther 1:12**). You marry someone like that, he/she will embarrass you tomorrow.

Queen Esther was different, her secret was her continuous submission to her uncle Mordecai, she submitted even after she was made Queen in place of Vashti. She did not cut her relationship with Mordecai. Most people only submit when they have problems, when they became "queens" they cut all ties with authority. The day they make it in life is the last day they will listen to anyone, such people are dangerous and their destruction is only by the corner.

Never follow a person with an independent spirit. In fact, never get married to a person who does not listen to anyone. It will be like playing a football match without a referee.....unochema chete! Independent people are like snakes. A snake moves alone, it does not follow anyone or submit to anyone. It does not belong to any flock or any leader. If is a lone ranger. In the case of a king cobra, it actually feeds on the other snakes such that if you put it in a group of snakes, it will finish them one after the other. Such is a person with an independent spirit, he/she cannot be put in a group and work well with others.

Do not miss tomorrow's episode.

Pastor C & S*

HOW TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WITH A WRONG SPIRIT (PART 3)

We continue with our series picking up from where we left off yesterday. Today we look at another pointer that a wrong a spirit is at work around you....

3. Anything that weakens you.

Isaiah 14:12 (KJV) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst **WEAKEN** the nations!

The above scripture speaks of Lucifer, who is called satan or the devil today... One point the writer highlighted in this passage is that Lucifer is responsible for weakening the nations...Which means anything that weakens you is from lucifer or from the devil therefore it is a wrong spirit. The Holy Spirit does not weaken but strengthens, encourages and comforts (**1 Corinthians 14:3**).

There are people who are good at weakening others. Such people have the spirit of lucifer. You can see how they weaken people even in church, they do not encourage anyone but they move around trying to weaken those who are doing good things. Anyone trying to weaken you from doing good has a wrong spirit in him/her. Be careful of such people. You could have been very far had you separated yourself from those who consistently weaken you. They do not fan your zeal but they pour cold water on it, such people are obviously working with the spirit of lucifer.

Galatians 3:1 (KJV) O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth" Paul is asking the Galatians why they had been weakened in their faith, he asked them, "who hath bewitched you?" because a person who has a weakening spirit is a witch. You do not have to play around such people, they bewitch you in the same way the Galatians were. I have a question to someone who has been doing good and has now suddenly stopped, who has bewitched you? You used to attend prayer meeting, you used to help the needy, you used to go for come and see and you have suddenly stopped, who has bewitched you? **Ndiani akupedza simba?**

Check around you if there is anyone trying to weaken you, rebuke that devil in them. Jesus had to say to Peter, "get behind me, satan" **Mathew 16:23**. Jesus knew that a wrong spirit has gotten into Peter and the spirit is of satan, Jesus rebuked the spirit right there. Be ruthless with anything that comes to weaken you. The devil can easily enter into a brethren and use that brethren to weaken you, people you trust can be used to weaken you, be careful. No one thought that the devil can come through Peter to weaken Jesus.

Some guys will say "this girl makes me weak, so there is chemistry between us". If she makes you weak then she is not right for you. You do not marry anyone based on chemistry but on destiny. A person brought to you by God will strengthen you and not weaken you. Never entertain things that draw energy away from you.

Many people could have been far in life had it not been the spirit of a weakener. Someone could be having a business, a marriage, a ministry had it not been that along the way, they met a weakening spirit and they lost interest in the project..... Hallelujah!

Pastor C & S

HOW TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WITH A WRONG SPIRIT (PART 4)

Knowing people is very important because we live in a world where people play an important role in your lifting up or in your going down, so you need to know which people to work with and where...

Ok let us discuss today's point.

4. Those who are always absent.

Never trust anyone who is always absent. It is normal for a person to miss a meeting or two but not to always make excuses for being absent. Such people are communicating something to you that you are not picking up. Absent people are suspects... Judas Iscariot was just absent for few hours and the next time he appeared; he had brought the police to arrest Jesus. Watch out for a spouse who is always absent.

Absence is communication. Every absence is saying something. Some people use absence to express their anger or disapproval for what is happening. Some are genuinely tied up but most absenteeism is caused by lack of enough love and care to make a sacrifice required to be present. Absence is saying that your event is bottom at the bottom in the stacking of my priorities.

Let us examine Queen Vashti in the book of Esther. She was absent when the king wanted her because she had a splinter function that she was holding (**Esther 1:9**). Be very careful about people who organise parallel events to yours or to the main event, those people are like Vashti. It looked very innocent for Queen Vashti to also throw a party for the women when her husband, the king had an event. Instead of her being there and ready to help her husband, she decided to do her own function. Many people will organise their events just as an excuse of not attending the meeting.

I remember very well my pastor and I came late for a leadership conference because we had a guest in our city whom we thought should speak to our branch before we leave for the leadership conference. Our Apostle was furious with us. He could not understand why we had a splinter

event. Anything you do in competition to the main event is unacceptable. If there is a wedding in the family, why do a birthday bash that day? If there is a conference at church why go for a holiday? If there is a church service on, why go to the mountain for prayer? These excuses are not as innocent as they look. They are coming from a wrong spirit inside that person and such people cannot be trusted.

Some absence cannot be forgiven. After Vashti refused to be present when the king called her, the whole council of the palace advised the king to punish Vashti by replacing her with another queen. I advise you to replace in your heart, in your team or in your life those who cannot be present for you. It does not matter how good or gifted they are but if they are always absent, let them go. Vashti was very beautiful but absent and the king had to replace her with Queen Esther. Many teams and church departments suffer because of talented people who cannot be present, very talented but absent.

If anyone cannot sacrifice to be present, then that person is not committed to the cause. I remember about five years back when I woke up to find all roads to church closed because there was a cycling event taking place in the city. It was a good excuse for me to be absent from church but my spirit did not feel good about it. I walked five km to a place where I got transport to church. People with a wrong spirit will never sacrifice to be present for anything. Absenteeism is a spirit. If it was not a spirit, how do you explain someone who misses a virtual prayer meeting? How do you miss an online service? We understand you had transport challenges but now it is online.

I like the mighty men who came to David from the tribe of Gad. The Bible says they were so mighty such that one of them was equivalent to 100 people but for them to get to where David was, they had to cross the flooded Jordan River and David made the captains (**1 Chronicles 12:15-18**). You cannot be my captain without crossing a Jordan River for me. What sacrifice have you made to come to my meeting? That will determine whether you can be a captain under me.

When Jesus was being crucified only John was there.... all the other disciples were absent. Jesus had to commit his own mother to John (**John 19:25-27**) probably not because John was the best, but because John was always present. At one-point John was sleeping at the chest of Jesus to

make his presence felt. That is why the Bible referred to John as the disciple whom Jesus loved.... he was ever present. Such people like John are the people you must reward in your life.

I have seen many people who gave important roles at functions to people who are always absent, you will hear that so and so was supposed to give a speech but could not come. I always say to myself, why commit important roles to people who are always absent? They maybe the best people but can they make a sacrifice to be there for you? Even if they have cars, they cannot drive to come. They can fly but they will not but you have those who have walked on foot for 30 km to come to you and you ignore them just to entertain the fantasy of those you wish were there.... shame! Chero vane mari,siya ushandise vanhu varipo vanokuda.....Hallelujah.

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