

BOOTCAMP

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EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY

Recognizing Your Enemy

By Their Fruits We Will Know Them - Part One

Where spirits are there is a variety of sensations that can be experienced by our flesh. In other words, the flesh hears and reacts to the spirit beings that are in our environment. For instance, when the Holy Spirit comes into our atmosphere we may feel a warmth, unusual peace, weepiness, or even goose bumps of excitement. In the presence of evil spirits however, we may feel nauseousness, pain or depression. When an unnatural tiredness is felt or a feeling of total weakness, it is a good indication a principality is very near. This is a gifting found in I Corinthians 12 called discerning of spirits and if used properly has much to do with the success of our daily walk. The fruit of these spirits can also be observed in the actions of the people around us, the animals and even the weather. Our very atmosphere changes when spirits, good or bad, enter our space.

USING OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES

We must therefore be able to hear with our flesh and see the fruit of them through the eye of discernment to know who or what is around us. These spiritual fruits have an odor by the way, and just as natural fruits can be identified by their smell, these may also be discerned by their individual scent. The manifestation of God as the Holy Spirit smells like orange blossoms for example, or when a heavy presence of the Lord is near, there is an aroma much like roses. The spirit of addiction, on the other hand, smells like cigarettes, beer, etc. an unclean spirit of lust smells to the spiritual nose like dirty socks no matter how much aftershave or perfume their vessel uses. When the Holy Spirit fills the room, people feel soft towards one another, love is predominant, but when the spirit of anger, resentment, envy etc are prevalent, a hardness is felt.

FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (There is total freedom

from the law of sin and death if we eat of these fruits because they are fruits from the tree of Life.)

As we raise our spiritual antennae and encounter tranquility, a sense of joy and peace, an atmosphere of love and order we are experiencing the Kingdom of God. Even the air smells clean and fresh. This means the angels, the Holy Spirit, the people and creation surrounding us are all in harmony. This is where we always want to be. It is a place of rest where God invites His children to live and have happy, successful lives. Unfortunately, there is an enemy that comes to kill, steal and destroy this perfection.

HIS NAME IS SATAN OR LUCIFER

How does he get in? He may enter the garden of our heart as an angel of light through a seemingly wonderful person, or better yet, craftily slip in through the T.V., videos or movies. He knows what it takes to entice us and how to appear harmless while doing it.

II Corinthians 11:14

14 And no wonder! For Satan Himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Satan can taint or enter us in so many seemingly harmless ways. Through books for instance, worldly art, intellect, and above all music to carry out his mission to destroy mankind and gain dominion over our planet. His evil anointing is on all he touches and it breaks down our resistance to ignore worldly things and makes it much harder to maintain a Godly nature. Why? Because if we eat from his fruit we become like him.

Let us look at the description of Lucifer or Satan as he was operating through the body of the King of Tyre in Ezekiel 28, verses 12-17.

Ezekiel 28:12-17

12 "Son of man, take up lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God (God was talking to Satan living through the king): "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering (the King of Tyre was not in the garden, but Satan was): the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created, (Satan was created as heaven's praise and worship leader)

14 You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the

holy mountain of God (Satan was to be the arch-angel that covered and protected God's government); you walked back and forth in the midst of the fiery stones.

(God's ministers are living stones and those that teach truth ministers of fire)

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, **till iniquity was found in you.**

16 By the abundance of your trading (he bargained with the angels and man for supremacy) you became filled with violence within, and you sinned. Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God (he was no longer government covering, but Sion's worst enemy); and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. (Ps. 104:4)

17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings (those of highest authority), that they might gaze at you. (discern you would be a better translation)

Revelation 12: 7-9 explains verse 17.

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon and the dragon and his angels fought,

8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

9 So the dragon was cast out, that **serpent of old**, called **the Devil and Satan**, who

deceives the whole world he was cast out to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan led one third of heaven's angels astray. They left their home in heaven to have relationships with the daughters of man, married them and had children. Because of their atrocity God was sorry He had even made man and in fact He regretted creating all of creation on earth.

Genesis 6:1-7 explains:

1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

2 that the sons of God (angels) saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." (God shortened man's lifespan so he wouldn't be able to exercise his sinful nature long enough to cause irreparable damage)

4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them (the cross between mankind and angels produced giants). Those were the mighty men who

were of old, men of renown (people looked up to and respected these evil men).

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

The angels that left heaven, followed Satan and committed these sins are today bound in chains awaiting judgment.

Jude 6 explains this:

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (the heavens were created for them to dwell in as earth was created for us.)

As for mankind that participated in these acts, God caused a flood that destroyed all but eight people off the face of the earth. The offspring of the evil cross between

man and angels forfeited their fleshly bodies and turned their spirits to the supernatural to survive. Those evil spirits are what plague mankind today. They need and are always looking for fleshly bodies to satisfy their desires through. This is why God counsels us to walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit as these spirits can only enter us through fleshly thinking and actions. See Galatians 5:16-17.

Galatians 5:16-17

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh and **these are contrary to one another**, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Ephesians 6:12 explains:

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, **against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places** (these are the offspring of man and angelic crosses).

If we have given these evil spirits opportunity to enter through cracks of sin, an understanding of their fruit becomes necessary to discern, recognize and cast out what is in operation through us or perhaps through those around us.

BY THEIR FRUITS WE WILL RECOGNIZE THEM

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

These actions are the fruit of evil spirits at work through man today. Jude goes on in verses 16-19 discussing these fruits a little further and explains that those possessing them are sensual, or in other words soulish and worldly, and not filled or possessed by the Holy Spirit.

Jude 16-19

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage,

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

18 how they told you that **there would be mockers in the last time** (those who laugh at purity, holiness and truth) who would **walk according to their own ungodly lusts**.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, **not having the Spirit**.

There are many of these hypocrites that Jude speaks of in the church today ministering and tainting God's people and causing havoc to the Kingdom of God. When the Lord's Kingdom is being established there is calmness, Godly wisdom, order and gentleness. The opposite is apparent when Satan is in our midst. Look always at the fruit in people's lives and the things they are involved in. James 3:13-18 is a help in this matter.

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy (wanting to be like someone else or have what they have) and self-seeking in your hearts (think more about you and your needs), **do not boast and lie against the truth**. (Twist the scripture to get your own way)

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (This is the result of sharing in the rotten fruit of the world and its master)

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (Is this the fruit of those you call your friends?)

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

It's easy for us to spot fruit from the Tree of Life, love, joy, peace, etc, but the fruit from the tree of good and evil is evilly deceptive if you are not a very discerning person. Part of the fruit we are inspecting may appear as good, yet a worm may happily live in it! What does the worm represent? What spirit appears as a worm? We should know these things!

CLOSING REMARKS

In our next lecture we will discuss a variety of visions that represent different spirits, their personalities and the effects they have on people, so you will be able to discern why people react as they do and not be fooled. If you know who these spirits are, you can properly war against them. We will also discuss what these

spirits hope to accomplish. A worm, by the way, represents Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. If the worm is shown in a negative setting, it would represent someone that was born again as Israel, but turned away or refused to change. Because we had the vision of the worm however, and perhaps even experience sensations of warfare against our bodies when this person was around, we would not be fooled and would recognize the evil condition immediately, no matter how nice or friendly they appeared to be.