

## The Spirit of Offense

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One of the great problems in the Church today is the inability of God's people to see with the "Eye of the Eagle" – the lack of being able to see and know what is going on spiritually. They may be mature physically but spiritually most Christians remain babies. I stated in *Mysterious Secrets* how I learned that the spirit realm *dominates* the physical realm. This truth is borne out in many of the Scriptures and is precisely why a spiritual substance such as faith can dominate physical things such as sickness, disease and poverty and change them.

The great apostle Paul, the revelator, makes a very important statement in I Corinthians 4 in regard to *afflictions*. How many of you enjoy afflictions? I know I don't! Where do they come from? Notice what Paul says:

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh  
For us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;  
While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the  
Things which are not seen: for the things which are seen  
Are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Now let me ask you an important question – how do you, you personally, obey that verse of Scripture in verse 18? Specifically, how do you “look at the things which are not seen?” Where do these “things which are not seen” reside? How do you “look” at them? Can they be perceived with the five senses?

The Lord told me back in 1980, “Son, the devil is going to put cancer on more and more Christians.” How is the devil doing this because we've certainly seen this come to pass? What can you do about it? Well, the Bible says, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal” doesn't it? Now what is cancer? Is it physical or spiritual?

In 2000 we were preparing to go to Portland, Oregon, in response to a phone call from a man who the doctors gave 5 days to live; he had a rare form of blood cancer. We were living in Helena, Montana, at the time and we stopped at the local supermarket to purchase soft drinks for the long drive to Portland. While Evie went into the store I sat in the car and was praying when the Spirit said, “The Church is ashamed of the gospel.” I thought about our upcoming battle with the evil spirit of cancer that we have battled many times. It's one of the spirits I can smell it when it comes out!

I thought about how spiritually ignorant the Church is about cancer, especially not recognizing that it is an evil spirit. We had ministered at a church in Fernie, Alberta, a few years before and the pastor's wife attempted to argue with me when I brought forth the revelation that cancer is an evil spirit. She said, "Aw, I don't believe that."

I replied, "Well, that's one of the problems in the Church. We're always trying to reinvent the wheel. I learned about this in Nigeria, West Africa, that cancer is a servient spirit sent by the devil to kill people."

"Have you ever heard of William Branham?" I asked her. She responded that she had. I said, "Well, the Lord's had me studying his life for the past few years because he was one of God's generals. William Branham understood that cancer was an evil spirit. If you listen to his messages during ministry when he ministered to people through the Word of Knowledge you will learn that he could see a black spirit go from a person he had just told had cancer to another person or sometimes more than one sitting in the congregation. Branham had learned about his gifting and he would know that the spirit was reaching out to another spirit of cancer in another person for reinforcement. Brother Branham would turn to the person(s) in the congregation and say, 'You've got cancer, too!'"

"Don't take my word for it; if Brother Branham knew back in 1960 that cancer was an evil spirit why don't you believe it today?"

Now listen closely and as Brandi, our four-year-old daughter, likes to say, "Get it! Get it!" You see, our problem is because we don't *recognize* spiritual things, e.g., that cancer is an evil spirit, we end up doing the *opposite* of what Paul by the Spirit of God recommends in 2 Cor. 4:18 – we begin to *look at the things which are seen!* Do you see it! The devil has confused and bamboozled us into not obeying the Scriptures; we are not doers of the Word! We look at the things – the cancer tumors – which are natural and ignore the things which are "unseen" as we are supposed to do if we are to "rightly divide the word of truth" and "renew our minds with the Word of God."

Sure a person with cancer has a physical manifestation in the form of tumors but there is a root cause in the spirit realm for that manifestation my brother and sister and it's the spirit of cancer! The more you *look* at the things which are seen – the physical tumors – the greater they will impact the "things which are not seen"; particularly your faith. The devil will use this tactic to defeat you in spiritual warfare.

The Lord gave me a revelation in Libby, Montana, about the spirit of cancer in 2005. It's a counterfeit of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is trying to build

the Body of Christ through each individual member whereas the evil spirit of cancer is trying to build a body *within* the body of a person in order to kill the real body!

When the Lord first moved us to Helena, Montana, in June, 1997, and shut us up for 10 years with Him to speak to us about the condition of the Church and the false church, He told my wife, “Don’t let the devil cause you to lose your focus.” This is good counsel for you as well. Why? Because that is precisely *why* the devil sends afflictions your way. He wants to get your attention off the things which are unseen, the things of the Kingdom of God and onto the “things which are seen.”

When the Spirit of God told me that the “Church is ashamed of the gospel” I knew what He meant. One of the main areas where the Church is ashamed of the gospel is in the area of deliverance. When was the last time you cast the devil out of somebody?

Yet the most shocking thing the Lord ever said to me, 16 years ago this month in October, 1991, was the following:

“You say, when ministering in churches, that the number one problem in the church is that ‘they don’t believe the Bible’ and that’s true. But another problem equally as bad is the church is not being led by the Holy Spirit; it’s being led by religious spirits. There are more people in America today (now remember this was 16 years ago; you can imagine how much worse it is now) in need of deliverance ministry than there are in need of healing.”

Well, what are we going to do about it? Did Jesus come to set the captives free or was that just for His time on the earth and, like healing, deliverance ministry “passed away with the last apostle?”

Let me tell you something in love this month because the Spirit of the Lord is strongly upon me as I’m sitting at the computer writing this. If you, you personally, aren’t casting out devils as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ in Mark 16:17 then you should take out your Bible and just cross out these verses from your Bible ‘cause you don’t believe the Bible. It’s as simple as that!

Now I want to teach you something that has taken Evie and I many years to learn and we learned it by seeing with the Eye of the Eagle. There is a spirit, an evil spirit, of offense. We see its operation in the ministry of Jesus and we’ve come to learn that it operates in our ministry as well. People become easily offended at us! And they become offended simply because we preach the truth!

While I was preparing a message years ago to minister to our church in Libby, Montana, the Spirit of the Lord showed me from the Scriptures the operation of this spirit in Jesus' ministry. The Pharisees and other religious leaders – scribes, lawyers and Sadducees – were kept out of Heaven because they became offended at what Jesus was preaching and teaching. This spirit of offense works with the religious spirit.

Jesus said, “Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” Yet we learn from many, over a dozen, of the Scriptures that they were offended because of Him. And what was the net result? They were unable to receive! The spirit of offense works to keep people from receiving salvation, healing and miracles from the Spirit of God.

It's recorded in Mark 6:2-3 that “they were offended at Him.” When did they become offended? When Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. They rejected Him as the Messiah *because* they became offended at Him!

In a message the Lord gave me titled *The Message and the Sign*, I relate how I learned a principle of God from the Scriptures that is illustrated in Mark 6 – God often will send a physical sign that contradicts the spiritual sign. Which are you going to believe? Can you see with the Eye of the Eagle or are you going to “look at the things which are seen?”

With most of God's prophets including Jesus, who was the last prophet to operate under the Old Covenant, the Spirit of God performed signs, wonders and miracles. God does this to draw attention to His anointed but the purpose is not just to heal people or see cripples walk off out of wheel chairs. God's purpose is so people will hear the words that His prophet is speaking. Yet, the Pharisees were kept out of the Kingdom of God because they became offended at what Jesus taught.

We were at a small conference several years ago and the second day of the conference a woman came up to me and said the following: “I need to repent to you and ask you to forgive me. When you began speaking yesterday I began thinking, ‘How arrogant this man is.’ And she related how she had instantly become offended at me. But then she said the Spirit of the Lord spoke up and said, “Who do you think you are?”

She related other things the Spirit said to her about me and herself but the point I want to make is that this was an operation of the spirit of offense. This is the only time a Christian or minister has approached one of us with such a testimony but we know that the spirit of offense works against our ministry of truth because even our best friends have eventually become offended.

Learn to recognize evil spirits when they are operating and be especially careful to obey the Lord and “take heed in how you hear” ( Mk. 4:24, *et. al*) that you

don't become offended just because a teaching does not line up with your thinking or the doctrine of your church. The important part of any teaching is not whether it's new but whether it's true. Search the Scriptures and talk to the Spirit; He will never lead you in the wrong direction but God may be wanting to teach you something that you've been unable to hear.

This spirit of offense is in operation much more today than ever before. How do I know? Jesus said so; it's one of the signs of the Last Days,

“And then shall many (not just a few, but many) be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”

■ Matthew 24:10

We've never lived in a day when more people are offended by the truth of the Gospel, especially in America. Just yesterday there was some flak and many people became offended simply because Senator McCain characterized America as “a Christian nation” in response to being asked if he could support a Muslim running for President.

We know that many people become offended at us because we are revealing the truth about God's judgment, the false church and the daughters of the Harlot. They characterize us as “not walking in love” and “having a critical spirit.” Well, as my pastor John Osteen used to say all the time when preaching, “If I'm rubbing the cat's fur the wrong way, let the cat turnaround!”

Be aware of the spirit of offense trying to operate in your life and resist it.  
Learn to recognize evil spirits