

Defeating Jezebel

Week 1 Jezebel..... The Deception

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (*Revelation 2:7*)

We have all heard at one time or another about this crafty villain, maybe in sermons, perhaps in scripture. You might even be confident you have seen it in your church. Who is Jezebel? She is a spiritual seductress. Her countless victims she lures into destruction. Many are ignorant to who Jezebel really is, and how she manifests. The Jezebel spirit grows strong and powerful. Most people are clueless, and do not recognize the subtle work and the hidden motives of this spiritual being. We have at times failed to expose her demonic roots and her agenda. In exposing her, we will hate the sin, and love the sinner. Jesus loves the sinner that might succumb to a Jezebel spirit, and offers them repentance, *Revelation 2:21*.

In *2 Corin 11:3*, Paul warns of the dangers of being deceived. He said, “*But now I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled (charmed, bewitched in a deceptive way) Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere, and pure devotion to Christ.*” (Amplified).

Deception first took place in the Garden of Eden, when “the serpent said to the woman, “*You surely shall not die*”. She took and ate of the forbidden fruit. And when the Lord said, “*What have you done?*” she said, “*The serpent deceived me, and I ate.*”(Gen 3:4-13). The spirit of Jezebel existed way before the person of Jezebel came into play. We can find manifestations of this spirit working in the lives of Samson, David, Solomon and others. This spirit has succeeded in distracting the church from its broader purpose by disguising what it really is....A spirit of seduction that leads people into sexual immorality and idolatry.

In *Revelation 2:20* Jesus spoke clearly to the church of Thyatire “*Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols*”. When we tolerate the manifestations of **control, manipulation, idolatry and sexual immorality**, we tolerate this spirit, and we violate Scripture. When there is no repentance, immorality eventually causes our conscience to be insensitive to the Holy Spirit. Our thinking becomes compromised. This breach upon our spirit often leads into greater deception. An example of this, I was just reading in Charisma Magazine about a Christian rapper named Jahaziel, who had after 20 years of proclaiming the goodness of who Jesus is, through music, publically renounced his faith. He said he had been deceived for all these years to believe that Jesus is a loving Savior, when now he sees him to be the opposite. I truly believe that if Satan can get us to question the character of Jesus, we will start to question His very existence....deception.

Are you armed for Battle? Read 1 Kings 18:1-21

We cannot be oblivious to the fact that we are in a spiritual war. Elijah challenged the people to take a stand – to follow whoever was the true God. Why did so many people waver between the two choices? Perhaps some were not sure. Many, however, knew that the Lord was God, but they enjoyed the sinful pleasures and other benefits that came with following Ahab and his idolatrous worship. It is important to take a stand for the Lord. If we just drift along with whatever is pleasant and easy, we will someday discover that we have been worshipping a false god.....ourselves.

Reflect – Why do you think so many people waver between being fully committed to the Lord, and living for self? Our modern world view says “follow your heart”. But the Word of God says, “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it*” (*Jeremiah 17:9*). You are either committed to God in every area of your life, or – you are not. Paul advises us in *Romans 6:4* that when

we accept Jesus Christ into our life, we die to self, and are raised a new creature, “*we also should live an entirely new life.*” How does this scripture speak to you?

Confess in prayer, and ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. There is more to it than being seductive, controlling and manipulative. Jezebel had a personal agenda, and that was to get her way. It came from being prideful and rebellious towards authority, towards God. Has your thinking been compromised to call what is evil good, and what is good evil?

My prayer for you is this, “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ...” (Ephesians 1:17-19), in Jesus Name, amen!