

Let's make sure that we always have the right spirit when leading others and that we value those whom the Lord has placed in our care.

I love y'all. MYESE!

Pastor Heard

Part 12: Elevate Your Life!

Text:

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) - *"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."*

Luke 9:1 (NIV) - "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases."

1 Kings 16:30-31 (NKJV) - "Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him."

Revelation 2:18, 20-23, 29 (NIV) - "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. [20] 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. [21] I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but

she is unwilling. [22] So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. [23] I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. [29] Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

“The Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority”

A. Authority within a Ministry Structure – Part 2

1. As we continue our study, let's look deeper into the fourth dimension of spiritual authority.
2. A believer's prayer and worship were meant to move heaven—and bring fear to the enemy.
3. The synergistic effect of united prayer within a ministry structure is awesome! When believers join together to pursue Kingdom purposes, the impact is much greater than that of a single person who serves God alone.
 - a. **Deuteronomy 32:30** tells us that one can put to flight a thousand, but two can put to flight ***ten thousand***.
 - b. Taking this comparison a step farther, three could put to flight one hundred thousand, and four—one million!
4. If a church does not exercise genuine spiritual authority, the enemy can implement substitutes that appear to be the same, but can never match true authority.
 - a. Satan's substitutes remind us of Rehoboam's replacement of his father Solomon's shields. When the enemy stole the golden shields, Rehoboam replaced them with brass.

b. Gold and brass may both be shiny and bright, but the inferior metal can never replace the costly. Likewise, our enemy's substitutes can never replace the blessing, favor and deliverance of true spiritual authority.

5. In Revelation, Chapter 2, one of the enemy's substitutes for genuine spiritual authority—the “Jezebel spirit”—was identified in the church at Thyatira.
6. Have you ever experienced being controlled by a “religious” person?” I have, and it's not a pretty picture. Their complete focus is to have others measure up to their standards—rather than God's.
7. **Joke:** “Control Freak”

A guy went to a garage to have his car repaired. But he couldn't restrain himself from telling the mechanic what he thought the problem was and how to fix it. "You're not doing that right," he would say. "This is what the problem is. I would do that differently," and on and on it went.

Repeatedly, the mechanic asked him to please return to the customer waiting area and that insurance regulations prevented customers from coming to the work area.

Over and over again, the man would return to the work area, lean over the mechanic's shoulder and then have to be led away.

Finally, the mechanic had all he could take. This time when he marched the customer to the waiting area, he took a piece of chalk from his pocket, drew a large circle on the floor and said, “Don't you dare step a foot outside this circle!” Then he went straight to his tool box, removed a sledge hammer and began to angrily smash the man's car to pieces.

When the mechanic had finally relieved his frustration, he laid aside the hammer and looked toward the customer waiting area. He couldn't believe what he saw! The customer was roaring with laughter.

Approaching the man, the mechanic questioned, "I don't get it. How can you stand there and laugh? Don't you see what I just did to your car?" "Yes, I did," the man replied. "But while you were destroying my car, I got out of the circle seven times—and you didn't even notice!"

B. The "Jezebel spirit" is usually accompanied by an "Ahab spirit."

1. Ahab was one of the most wicked kings to rule over Israel, primarily for allowing his wife Jezebel to rebel against Jehovah God by practicing idolatry in Israel and encouraging him to do evil.
2. She is best known for having Naboth killed for refusing to sell his vineyard to Ahab and her attempts to kill all the prophets of God—including the prophet Elijah.
3. As a pair, Ahab and Jezebel brought the nation of Israel to the brink of disaster.

C. What are "Jezebel" and "Ahab" spirits?

1. "Jezebel," a controlling spirit of manipulation, seeks to control others through a "word" from God, a prophecy, dream, giving gifts, and even tears.
2. This is not to imply that all prophecies and messages from God are false and did not come from Him. I strongly believe in prophecy. A true "word" from God is edifying, but a false word is meant to control.
3. Those who have a Jezebel spirit use fear, intimidation, manipulation, silence, and threats of rejection—either implied or explicit—to force others to submit to them. They may also give the "cold shoulder" to those who refuse to agree with their demands.
4. **Revelation 2:20 (NIV)** - "Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet."

- a. Notice that Jezebel calls **herself** a prophetess. This spirit will label its victim as “one who is **spiritual** and **hears from God.**” But being spiritual is just a pretense to help control what others do.
5. Queen Jezebel, a priestess of Baal, a demonic god, was very religious. Notice how the devout worshipers of Baal cut themselves on Mt. Carmel while attempting to entice Baal to answer with fire.
6. Not everything that appears to be religious and devout is of God. Baal, who was also called Molech, was a hideous deity that demanded worshipers to sacrifice their children. Any church that is controlled by a Jezebel spirit will also suffer the loss of their children.
7. Since evil spirits are actually fallen angels, they are neither male nor female. Likewise, a Jezebel spirit has no link to gender and can operate in a man or woman. Jim Jones and David Koresh are both examples of a Jezebel spirit operating in a man.
8. I know of one local pastor who requires couples who were not married in his church to separate and remarry; their marriage is not valid before God if he did not perform it. That is illegitimate control.

D. What causes people to be dominated by a Jezebel spirit?

1. Most are reacting to inner wounds. Both the person who functions in the power of this spirit and those they dominate are wounded people who are searching for acceptance and significance.
 - a. Some who have been wounded become bitter. Others find healing.
 - b. A Jezebel spirit attempts to address inner wounds by proclaiming that you can gain identity, self-worth, recognition and value—if you **will** measure up to **my** requirements.
2. They focus on SELF rather than God for love and self-worth, and fail to accept who He says they are.

3. Some are seeking for an identity by "doing" rather than just "being." Like Adam and Eve, they seek—by works—to become who God has already said they are—by grace!
4. While this spirit calls itself prophetic, in reality, it despises the truth. A true prophetic word will edify, build up, and speak life into you.
5. This spirit may appear to speak life, but in the end, **its** followers will realize they were hearing words of death that produced rebellion and isolation.
6. If a person with this spirit cannot manipulate you, they will then judge, speak harshly, and attempt to destroy your name and credibility.
7. Finally, this spirit afflicts its followers with depression and self-doubt. Though Elijah was a powerful prophet of God, he became so depressed after encountering Jezebel, he wanted to die!

E. The reason God hates this spirit is because the desire to control is a form of witchcraft, which totally contradicts His own nature.

1. God's irrevocable gift to all mankind is the power of a free will. He will never violate this ability to choose. While His Spirit will draw and attempt to lead us, whether we choose to follow His way is always left to us.
2. **Joshua 24:15 (NIV)** - "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve."
3. **Deuteronomy 30:19 (NKJV)** - "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."
4. God will love people all the way to the grave and seek to attract them to Himself, but never will He force eternal life, Heaven, or His purposes upon an individual. He always honors our "right" to choose.

5. Consequently, when people try to manipulate or dominate another person's will, they are in direct violation of God's laws and operating in Satan's domain, which is witchcraft.
6. God wants our repentance to be based upon our free will and love for Him. Approaching God must never be connected with coercion or fear. Unlike Jezebel, He is not a control freak or dictator!
7. **I John 4:18 (NIV)** - "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is NOT made perfect in love."
8. A ministry must not deal with "stuff" that intimidates a person to comply. That only forces you to take it underground—or be judged.

F. Those who harbor a Jezebel spirit serve no higher purpose than **themselves**.

1. They seek to control those around them and to make sure their followers only glorify and serve the ego of their Jezebel master,...while assuring them that they are really serving God!
2. In the eyes of a Jezebel, everything in life must—or should—revolve around them. Their entire moral code and work ethic revolves around selfishness and self-indulgence.
3. Jezebels cater to no one but themselves. Should they ever choose to help someone else, their real motive is to serve their own interests.

G. On the other hand, an Ahab spirit always has an agenda of its own. This person has no sense of loyalty. Integrity is a foreign word. Their angle is to operate through another person—preferably someone with a Jezebel spirit.

1. So, a Jezebel goes after what Ahab wants, as in the story of Naboth refusing to sell his inherited vineyard to Ahab. Of course, Ahab wouldn't personally attack Naboth. Instead, he sulked and acted as if he'd been mistreated.

2. It was Jezebel who comforted, "Oh, you poor darling. You aren't being treated right." And she immediately conspired to have false witnesses swear in court that Naboth had blasphemed God. He was quickly convicted and executed by stoning. A smiling Ahab went to claim the vineyard next door.
3. An Ahab spirit is so self-focused, it will not confront wrongdoing—even if the wrongdoing serves their purpose. Instead, it pretends to encourage, without being involved. They may have a look of "innocence"--but are very "guilty."
4. Most often, the Ahab spirit visibly does no wrong. They give the impression of having a right attitude, but are actually the force that **enables** Jezebel.

H. A few words of caution before we expose the true characteristics of these spirits.

It's important to understand the matter of "degrees."

1. Right now, you're probably glancing around at those seated nearby wondering who may be infected by one of these spirits. Don't do that!
2. You must remember that most people desire to do things in the right way. That means they will take intelligent steps to make that happen. **THIS IS NOT CONTROL!** It's just **good sense**—not a Jezebel spirit!
3. The problem stems from those who are so insecure, they **MUST** be in control. They fear that allowing others to determine outcomes will damage their image. So, they use control to intimidate others into jumping through their personal "hoops."
4. Many people have issues with self-esteem. Because we live in a fallen world, it's impossible to live here without being wounded. But that does not indicate you have a Jezebel spirit.

5. The problem arises when someone makes their self-esteem issue the most important thing in life. That's when they become so self-focused, life becomes all about them—instead of God and others.
6. Neither does it mean that a person has an Ahab spirit who doesn't seek confrontations. If at all possible, confrontations **should be** avoided.
7. The problem of confrontation occurs when wrongs are committed that you **could** resolve, but you choose not to because it serves your own agenda.
8. This is why we should be very cautious not to judge others who desire a spirit of excellence or who struggle with self-esteem issues.
9. If you ever encounter or you're forced to deal with the real Jezebel or Ahab spirit, **trust me**, you will recognize who they are!
10. You must also be aware that having one or two of these characteristics we shall discuss does not indicate a person is controlled by or is operating through either of these spirits.
11. Remember: we are talking about **degrees**. If a majority of these characteristics are evident, **beware!** But if you notice only one or two, you are probably dealing with a basic insecurity issue from a past emotional trauma.
12. For those who have been wounded **in the church**, God wants you to be healed so you can *trust* again.