

# Secret Place Part 7: Hindrances to the flow of the truth...The Controlling Power of Jezebel

Pastor Don Nicely's Newsletter for July 2008

*1 Kings 16:31-32 (NKJV)*<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

*1 Kings 19:1-2 (NKJV)*<sup>1</sup> And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

This spirit can be found operating in both men and women. It works through primarily three different avenues. Manipulation, domination, intimidation are those avenues. Jezebel was a tyrant queen who corrupted her husband the king, her family and the whole nation of Israel. This spirit insists on controlling every relationship that it comes in contact with. It is interesting to note that the name Jezebel translates out to mean "to live without habitation," "or without cohabitation." She simply refuses to live together in unity with another. She must control the relationship. She only seems submissive or servant-like to gain an advantage over the leader.

In the Old Testament she was the power behind the throne. She led the entire nation into worship of Baal. She is always hindering the role of delegated authority. Today Jezebel is running rampant in our families and is running many of the churches in America. She's destroying thousands of marriages and cunningly infiltrating every aspect of our lives. The reason many of us don't fight back is because we don't recognize it at work. It's that cunning.

Manipulation is very covert: it tricks people into doing what the controller wants.

Domination is the opposite of manipulation. It declares boldly, you will do what I want you to do. dominating people rely on the strength of their physique or their personality to control others.

But intimidation is both covert and overt. People who use intimidation to control others attempt to frighten or pressure their subjects into doing what they want them to do.

Intimidation relies on the deception of fear to control the actions of others.

God uses neither of these strategies to lead us, instead he uses love.

*1 John 4:18 (NKJV)*<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Society operates just the opposite. It has learned to control and in a very real sense more people are bewitched. Control is nothing more than rebellion and is the same as witchcraft.

*1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

Witchcraft is not the act of using potions made from alligator tails and bats wings, but instead it is the desire to control another person's life by manipulation, domination, or intimidation.

### **Recognizing Jezebel in the family**

Let's look at a few examples of how Jezebel can infiltrate into the family and begin to use its control.

1. **It operates through temper tantrums.** If your child pitches a fit in public in order to get what they want this is Jezebel at work through them. A parent cannot reason or negotiate with the child. But instead they must lovingly take authority and instruct the child to straighten up. Parent you must enforce discipline with a loving hand.
2. **The controlling spirit can operate through bad moods.** When a family member pouts or invokes the "silent treatment" against other family members they are being used by Jezebel. We must realize that marriage is not a chess game to see which partner can out master the other. But instead a loving agreement made between a husband and wife.
3. **It uses threats to manipulate others.** When a mate threatens to leave with the kids or uses some other type of fear to dominate the other spouse Jezebel is at work.
4. **The spirit also uses the threat of abandonment to manipulate others.** When grown children threaten to manipulate their parents authority by warning of leaving or selling drugs or whatever they are allowing Jezebel to control them.
5. **The spirit of control operates when a parent uses guilt to keep grown children from leaving home when they should.** Many grown children are 26 years old and still living with their parents. They've never been taught work ethics or what it means to contribute to the family. When a grown child finds someone who loves them then the parents should bless them and release them.
6. **This spirit also operates through physical, verbal and mental abuse.** Countless lives have been torn apart by some form of abuse. This spirit causes men to beat their wives and wives to sue their tongue to verbally destroy the confidence of their husbands. They also use the poor little old me pitiful mind games with other to get their way.
7. **When one spouse seeks to dominate another.** Husbands and wives need to learn to embrace one another and encourage each other to use their gifts to cause the family to flourish. Both should consider the household.  
Now that is how this spirit operates in the everyday life of the family, let's now see how he operates in the church.

### **Recognizing the spirit of Jezebel in the church.**

She has made her way into our churches as well. She doesn't want to be the leader. She wants to control the leader. This spirit operates through individuals who try to use their own way by manipulating the pastor or other church leaders. It uses the member like a puppet on a string. This spirit comes against any spiritual authority to hinder them unless they do what they want.

Most are only concerned with their own selfish interests and don't care for the interests of the church. They have no idea what the big picture is. They love to discover secrets about the leader. They particularly attack weak leaders. You know leaders that are more interested in pleasing people than God. Many times this spirit will operate with body language during our services or during our worship times. This spirit will go after anyone who carries the anointing. During a service it tries to distract the leader from leading the service to not fully experiencing god's presence as God wants.

### **Releasing the flow of power**

Many times we may be tempted to fight fire with fire. But we must realize that we can't fight control. Instead we must resist this spirit with Godly authority. We must not be timid or else we will be defeated. Just stand firm on the principles of God. Stand firm and examine your own life. Make sure that you are not being used by any of her tactics to control others. If we see this spirit operating in others we must pray that God will reveal this sin to them and deliver them from the hindering spirit.

When we yield to the Spirit of God we release into our lives the Spirit of wisdom and understanding and put on the fear of the Lord.

If you find that you have been used by this spirit please pray and repent of attempting to control others.

Continued Next Month