

Secret Place Part 3: Hindrances against the flow of holiness...The spirit of Korah

Pastor Don Nicely's Newsletter for March 2008

*Numbers 16:1-3*¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; ² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. ³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

*Numbers 16:8-12*⁸ The Moses said to Korah, "Here now, you sons of Levi: ⁹ Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them; ¹⁰ and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also? ¹¹ Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?" ¹² And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up!"

There is a natural tendency in each of us as humans to resist authority and ignore boundaries. No parent ever sets out to teach their kids to rebel. Kids just pick it up though their sin nature. David said it this way;

*Psalms 5:5*⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

In other words sin was deposited in me at my conception, so I will rebel. If a child's rebellion is not dealt with it will reach the point where the mother and father will not be able to control them. Some call them "strong willed" children when the truth is, it is because rebellion has raised up its ugly head and it needs dealt with properly and promptly. If you don't discipline them the fruit will be disrespect for authority that will produce a bitter harvest of tears in your life mom and dad.

In this teaching today we will examine the spirit of rebellion that was demonstrated in Korah of Numbers 16. Korah was a man of great influence and was able to lead 250 men in a civil rebellion against Moses and God's perfect plan. We will also witness how rebellion quickly creeps into our lives through an open door as it desires recognition and the power to rule. Most rebellion that takes place in the church comes from people who are not anointed for the position they are trying to fill.

In the third chapter of the book of Numbers the bible reveals the initial opening of a door to rebellion in Korah's life. He was not chosen to lead his own tribe. A younger man was chosen for the leadership position so he tried to usurp his way into the role. It is so easy to feel overlooked when someone less gifted than us gets a position we want. If we aren't careful we will

begin to despise authority. We must never forget that people who are in authority are there because God has put them there.

Romans 13:1 (NKJV) 1Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

So when we question the authority of others we question the authority of God. So if we don't respect the authority that God sets in place we will be subject to the detrimental effects of the spirit of rebellion.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV) 11And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ— 16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

We promote unity by stepping in the position that God has called us to fulfill, and not wanting someone else's position. That is exactly what happened to Korah. He stepped into an un-appointed leadership position and called a meeting. Not only did he call an unofficial meeting, but he also brought a list of complaints to the meeting.

- You have too much authority***
- You think you're the only holy one***
- You lift yourself up above the congregation.***
- You think you brought us out of Egypt***
- You're trying to make yourself into a prince***
- You have given us no inheritance.***

One time at a church where I pastored- before I came here a woman called an unofficial meeting with me and her husband and a friend of theirs. At the meeting she handed me a list of 22 things that she didn't like about me. Things like I didn't rule my house good enough. In other words I let my wife have her own mind. I allowed a wobbly shelf to be in a classroom in the basement so I must not be concerned about the kid's safety. The one that really got to me was that I was too nice to poor people. I read through the list of 22 petty complaints by someone who had no authority in the church whatsoever. Well she rebelled and took more than 12 people with her from the church. As the years went by she called and asked if we could come over to her house so she

could apologize to us face to face. The problem was that the damage had already been done. Her husband pretty much quit serving God with all his heart; he was just like a lifeless vessel. Her niece became an alcoholic and lost her children, a woman who was a friend of theirs had a massive heart attack and blew a hole in her heart and she was only 30 years old. Another friend of theirs that left with them went to prison. And she herself lives with chronic panic attacks and lupus. I believe that is was all because they rose up against God's delegated authority.

God will change leadership when it is necessary. If a man or woman of God in authority is not seeking God that doesn't give us the right to turn on them, but instead to cover them with our prayers and pray a prayer covering over them. We can't rebel against authority leaders because they are flawed in their personal life, but we don't have to sit under their authority either. All we have to do is quietly leave and keep the reason why between them and us.

God has placed authority in our life to protect us and to help us draw closer to him through submission to his authority. Resisting authority can kill others around you. Almost 15,000 people ultimately died because of Korah's rebellion against Moses.

Resisting the spirit of Rebellion

We close the door to rebellion (which by the way has its roots in witchcraft) by submitting and loving one another.

Ephesians 5:21 (NKJV)²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God.

If rebellion can so ignite God's wrath that he would open up the earth and swallow the rebellious down into hell and then close the earth after them- then authority will invite the blessings of God to pour into our lives.

Numbers 16:23 - 33 (NKJV)²³So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴"Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.'"

²⁵Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. ²⁶And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." ²⁷So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children. ²⁸And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. ²⁹If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. ³⁰But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD." ³¹Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, ³²and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. ³³So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

If we bless those over us in the Lord it brings blessings into our lives. If church members bless their pastor God will bless them as well.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 - 13 (NKJV) ¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

We must release the spirit of life by repenting of our sin of wrong speech. Friends seek God and draw near to Him. When we see Him as he really is then we will see ourselves as we really are. Let God renew your mind through His word by not only reading the word but by applying the word to your everyday life. And flow in the spirit of life by actually thinking about what you are going to say to someone before you say it. Think about how the words that you are releasing from your lips are going to affect them. This is my word for you; "consider yourself warned."

Continued Next Month