

# Beware of Controlling Spirits

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The Bible commands us to **STAND FAST IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE, AND NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO AGAIN BE ENTANGLED IN THE YOKE OF BONDAGE** (Galatians 5:1). **GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF BONDAGE** (Romans 8:15). Demons are always challenging God's control and are constantly trying to usurp God's direct and delegated authority in order to manipulate and exploit people. **THE CONFLICT OF THE UNIVERSE IS SIMPLY THIS: "WHO IS TO BE IN CONTROL?"** Every conflict and every human problem is merely a **CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY**.

Our goal should be that in every situation and every relationship God is in control, not man's flesh or demons. Demons constantly play upon the weaknesses of the flesh and lack of revelation knowledge in order to gain control of individuals and groups. There are spirits called **"SPIRITS OF BONDAGE"** or **"CONTROLLING SPIRITS"** assigned against individuals, organizations, and even churches from the headquarters of evil. Overcoming a controlling spirit is two-fold: First, the spirit must be rebuked, resisted, and bound in Jesus name through prayer. But then, deliverance is not complete until **LIGHT IS SHONE ON THE CONTROLLING SPIRIT, EXPOSING IT TO BE WHAT IT REALLY IS**. In the church, controlling spirits mask themselves behind a disguise of something that appears to be scriptural and spiritual. Controlling spirits often manifest themselves through:

## 1. PRAYERS IN THE FLESH

## 2. PROPHECIES IN THE FLESH

## 3. PRAYER REQUESTS IN THE FLESH

## 4. PHILANTHROPY IN THE FLESH

Even Peter, the Apostle came under the temporary influence of a controlling spirit due to lack of knowledge. In Matthew 16:21-23, when Jesus announced that he was to be crucified, "Then Peter **TOOK** him and began to **REBUKE** him, saying Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." "**TOOK**" and "**REBUKE**" are strong words implying that Peter was trying to control Jesus. But Jesus immediately discerned the "controlling spirit" behind Peter's comments. Satan was using Peter's ignorance and unbridled desires, attempting to manipulate Jesus. Peter's behavior was definitely demonic because Jesus instantly spoke to the controlling spirit commanding Satan to depart from Peter and exit the premises. From this Bible example, we must conclude that the demon named **"MR. CONTROL"** is no respecter of persons and will even try to use believers with good intentions. Lets look at four typical areas of **MR. CONTROL**.

### 1. PHILANTHROPY

According to Romans 12:6-8, I Timothy 5:17-19, and Acts 4:36 & 37, God has gifted some believers to make large amounts of money or to inherit large amounts of money **AND THEN TO GIVE LARGE AMOUNTS TO THE LOCAL CHURCH**. These believers have a genuine ministry, which is crucial to fulfillment of the end-time harvest. They are **PHILANTHROPISTS, PAYMASTERS, and GIFTED GIVERS**. But all too often, if a paymaster is not careful to stay within the limits of his gift, he or she can intrude into another person's spiritual office. A controlling spirit influences the **GIFTED GIVER** to attempt to control the **PASTOR OR CHURCH** by trying to assert authority as to the money's distribution after it has been given. But it is not the **PHILANTHROPIST'S** job to influence distribution of the money one it is given. See Acts 4:34-37. Paymaster Joses laid the money at the apostles feet for distribution. It is the **PAYMASTER'S** job to give, recognizing he or she is giving to God, not man. It is the pastor's or minister's job to decide as to its distribution. **PHILANTHROPISTS OFTEN FORGET THAT "ONE HAS NOT REALLY GIVEN UNTIL ONE RELINQUISHES CONTROL OF THE GIFT."** Thus by yielding to a controlling spirit, the **PHILANTHROPIST** misses God's blessing, the church misses the blessing, and God's Spirit is grieved. I know of a church, which has been reduced to a small congregation and has lost its glory because of a woman who is blessed by God as a philanthropist, but is cursed by a controlling spirit.

### 2. PROPHECIES

Often a believer under the influence of a controlling spirit will try to control a church service or the direction of a local church by repeatedly forcing prophecies out of their flesh with a certain emphasis. Sometimes, overzealous staff members or inexperienced resident prophets within a local church will try to control a pastor by giving him words of correction or heavy-duty direction. As a prophet, I believe I can speak to young prophets on this matter: **DON'T TRY TO CONTROL YOUR PASTOR. YOU HAVE SUBMITTED TO HIS LEADERSHIP. IF YOUR PASTOR NEEDS A "WORD" OF CORRECTION OR HEAVY DUTY DIRECTION, GOD WILL GIVE IT TO HIM THROUGH SOMEONE OVER HIM IN THE LORD. IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT PROPHET, TAKE ON THE ROLE OF HELPS MINISTRY AND A PROPHETIC INTERCESSOR (watchman upon the wall) IN YOUR HOME CHURCH. WHEN IN OTHER CHURCHES AS A GUEST SPEAKER, FLOW AS A PROPHET. BUT IN YOUR**

OWN LOCAL CHURCH, FLOW AS A HELPS MINISTER. THIS WILL SAVE YOU TONS OF HEARTACHE AND YEARS OF MINISTRY SETBACK.

### **3. PRAYER REQUESTS**

Ring, Ring! "Hello" "Hi, this is sister So'n'So (actually this is Mr. Control). I've got a prayer request for you. Please agree with me in prayer about Pastor Praysalot's decision to do such'n'such. Let's believe God together that the Lord will keep this from happening." ENOUGH SAID!

### **4. PRAYER**

I have personally seen the devastation a controlling spirit can have in an intercessory prayer group. We all must be on guard concerning our prayers. I remember a person in a group who, week after week, began to subtly pray aloud before the rest of the group all her frustrations about the pastor (me) and the direction of the church: all under the cloak of fervent intercessory prayer. WE NEED TO PRAY THE WORD OF GOD INSTEAD OF OUR FRUSTRATIONS AND OUR EVERY OPINION! Before long this precious but controlled believer had exerted CONTROL over quite a handful of others in the church, including her husband who was an important, valuable, and influential person in our church. Within a period of weeks the couple went from "pillars" to "discontents". They left the church, leaving behind them the radiation fallout of the CONTROL BOMB.

I have also seen wives of unsaved or carnal husband's yield to a controlling spirit by praying manipulative prayers over their husbands. Without realizing it, they were exercising a degree of witchcraft, which the husbands can feel. This only drives the wedge deeper between them as a couple, and also between the unspiritual husband and the Lord. If wives will learn to pray in tongues for their husbands, and pray the scriptures over their husbands, then God can take charge and GOD CAN CHANGE THE MAN. Wives please don't play God, by yielding to a controlling spirit. I've also seen men manifest manipulative prayers over their pastors and employers.

### **CONCLUSION**

Philanthropy and prophecy are beautiful gifts from God. To request prayer support from a brother or sister is a wonderful blessing indeed.

However we must not abuse our gifts and privileges. We must not use our "liberty for an occasion to the flesh." (Gal 5:13). We must not cover the deeds of the flesh with a cloak of false spirituality. In the Spirit, we use our privileges. In the flesh, we misuse our privileges and yield ourselves to a controlling spirit.

The good news is we can choose to walk in the Spirit and refuse to yield to the flesh. God's commandment to be Spirit-filled is essentially a commandment to be Spirit-controlled (Eph 5:18). When we are Spirit-controlled we never attempt to change or control people; we let God do the changing and controlling. The natura