

## Seducing Spirits

Several days ago I heard the words "Luciferian spirit", which is a type of seducing spirit. That means the Lord is calling my attention to it for our benefit. Let's take a look at what a seducing spirit does.

(1 Tim 4:1 KJV) Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (NIV) "follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

To be attacked by a seducing spirit is to be targeted as a potential victim. When under attack, insane choices can seem logical, even spiritually sound.

We understand that enemy spirits prefer to work under cover of darkness, hidden from view, much as termites working to destroy the foundation of a house. They do not want to be identified and will try to keep our attention drawn to the natural and visible realm. We can give all our attention and energy to the natural, visible surface and not see the hidden, spiritual root.

In the midst of so much distraction, pressure, change, and challenge of the current times, we need to discern the motivating forces in the spirit realm. Whereas God is moving us towards maturity and Christlikeness and building the kingdom, the enemy is working to sidetrack and deceive, and abort God's purposes. The good news is the Spirit of truth is speaking to the Church, and we are learning from Wisdom.

(1 John 4:1 NIV) ... do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God... Spirits can masquerade as our own thoughts, or even as an angel of light. We don't need to live in fear or suspicion, but we need to be alert and discern the true origin of thoughts, ideas, feelings, voices, etc. The fact that the Scripture warns us to pay attention to these things means that even believers can be led astray.

A seducing spirit deceives, pulls the wool over one's eyes. The person is led astray from the principles of faith as he has been taught (or maybe even as he has taught others) and may not even realize it. He is gradually pulled through compromise and justification, until he is trapped and deactivated-- no longer a threat to the darkness, but perhaps even an ally. In this way, the believer is effectively neutralized from making any difference in the Kingdom, and may actually find himself opposing it. There are several examples in the Word of this type of behavior-- Balaam or Judas Iscariot, for example.

The operation of a seducing spirit:

- Pulls one away from God, even if it promises to bring him closer
- Makes wrong seem right
- Makes excuses
- Feeds personal pride
- Encourages a hidden life -- dishonesty
- Separates one from God-ordained relationships

A Luciferian spirit attacks one who has enjoyed a place of being close to influential people. It causes the person to feel he no longer needs input. His own opinions are held without question and he judges everything through the filter of his own preferences. This spirit also works through commerce and business, substituting the love of money for the love of God. This is the spirit that entered Judas Iscariot.

Seducing spirits will attract those under their power to one another to further pull one astray and to reinforce their work. They will twist teaching and prophecy in the ears of the deceived to fit their seduction. Miriam and Korah fell prey to this, in addition to the Pharisees of Jesus' day. If we will stay alert, and begin to look beneath the surface during these times of spiritual attack, we will see the hidden work of evil.

(Acts 20:28-31 NIV) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. {29} I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. {30} Even from your own

number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. {31} So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Sometimes the attacks are blatant -- with people who are spiritual wolves -- rising up to separate individuals from the flock. At other times, the attack is much more subtle, just as the story of Ulysses and the sirens' song: it was so sweet, it lured sailors away from their charted course to destruction on the rocks.

If there is no character flaw or wound, these spirits cannot gain an entrance into a heart. They may harass and war from the outside, but will not be able to undermine the work of God in a person's life.

Determine not to become a victim, but instead, a powerful voice of truth, and force of love. Keep your forgiveness up to date and allow the Holy Spirit to work on your character. Love one another with a holy devotion.

(2 Tim 2:25-26 KJV) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; {26} And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.