

Demonic Strategy Regarding Spirit-Filled Church Leaders and Members

When a denomination or Church make choices not to accept the will of God in exalting the Lord Jesus through cooperating with the Holy Spirit in a Biblical way (gifts and fruit) – two powerful forces are set in motion.

1. The Holy Spirit is grieved and must (due to the free will principle) withdraw from the area where He is refused admission and control – weakness results.
2. The door is opened to the enemy. Ground and permission is thereby given to oppress those “out of step” with the denomination and Church.

The enemy will gradually encroach into other areas of Church life. There will be a weakening of effectiveness in prayer, preaching and teaching. People will become lax in their daily life. The world will become increasingly attractive. Attempts to stop such weakness will be ineffective. There may be an occasional “powerful sermon” or conference – but true spiritual issues will not be touched.

Level Three Strategy – the most powerful

The targeted group: those who teach and preach for renewal.

The goal: to stop all attempts to enter into the will of God regarding exalting the Lord Jesus through cooperating with the Holy Spirit (gifts and fruit) in a Biblical manner.

The methods of attack:

To humiliate, devalue, entice, tempt, embarrass, dishonor, render ineffective, incapacitate in thinking and speaking, create physical – mental – social - emotional and spiritual problems, cause unusual hindrances, confuse, hinder and destroy relationships and cause marriage, family and social problems.

To cause and exaggerate problems between husband and wife that opens the door to confusion, frustration, irritation, dissatisfaction, enticement and temptation.

To trap leaders into working excessively with certain “needy people.”

To carefully restrict the oppression only to particular leaders – no one else “feels” the oppression and thereby bring leaders under suspicion.

As a result denominational leaders, Church staff, Church members, unbelievers, and even marriage and prayer partners are caused to be suspicious and ask – “If he/she are really being honest, living a godly life, and called of God – why are they having such problems?”

To push leaders into pressing too hard in preaching, demanding issues with the board and staff, fostering extreme measures in fasting, warfare, personal and Church discipline, etc., in the attempt to break free of the oppression.

Level Two Strategy

The targeted group: individuals and groups in the Church that work for renewal.

The goal: to stop all attempts to enter into the will of God regarding exalting the Lord Jesus by cooperating with the Holy Spirit (gifts and fruit) in a Biblical manner.

The methods of attack:

Hindering individuals and groups by creating suspicion and fear.

Individuals are restricted in teaching and holding office. Groups are limited in using Church facilities and promoting meetings. Rules are established by the board, and pastors to hinder individual and groups in their outreach for renewal.

When a group does succeed in promoting meetings – the enemy will often entice speakers to emphasize issues – fasting – healing – tongues – prophecy – etc., in such a way that it bring disrepute to the group. Individuals are made to feel that they are second rate Christians or perhaps not even Christians if they do not have a certain gift.

As a result members of the group become discouraged and the Church will increasingly become suspicious, establish more rules to regulate the group or initiate discipline.

Level One Strategy

The targeted group: the entire denomination and local Church

The goal: to keep from considering the Biblical basis for renewal as an option.

The methods of attack:

To foster opposition to renewal by drawing attention to renewal leaders who have fallen, Churches who have divided on renewal issues, and the exaggerated methods of some, as on television, who promote renewal.

To develop a sense of pride and self-righteousness in the Church – a “we have it all,” attitude, a “spirit of slumber” Laodicean outlook.

To deceive leaders in the Church to accept a non-Biblical interpretation of Scripture so that renewal is looked upon as nearly heretical. To put into leadership and control those who do not meet the Biblical requirements.

To promote suspicion and fear among leaders and Church members regarding renewal.

Victor Matthews

