

## **THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF STRIFE & DIVISION!!**

I. One of the best descriptions of this spirit in the scripture is found in James 3:13-18. (Amp.)

**"Who is there among you who is wise and intelligent? Then let him by his noble living show forth his [good] works with the [unobtrusive] humility [which is the proper attribute] of true wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the Truth. This [superficial] wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual (animal), even devilish (demoniacal). For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity). And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts]."**

**(James 3:13-18 AMP)**

**\*\*\*\*\* (NOTICE: IT MASQUERADES AS WISDOM!!!!)**

**A. This is what that divisive, strife spirit does.**

**1. It will settle on 1-2 families at a time, and it will manifest in usually one of 2 ways:**

**#1 - They become dissatisfied, increasingly critical, self-defensive, lose sight of communication with the pastor and leadership, very self-absorbed, the goal of maintaining unity is forgotten, things don't measure up to their standards anymore, (they're very spiritual - elevated**

above what is happening.... - it's usually tied to their knowledge > because they're puffing themselves, and knowledge puffs up - I Cor. 8:1) gossiping, factious spirit, divisiveness, etc., etc.

Or, #2 - They become discouraged in their own personal life, things they haven't dealt with begin getting big, things they've been believing for, for a long time don't seem to be coming, lose hope, they become over-sensitive, etc., etc.

You may have trouble or problems stir up in your marriage, family, household, job, etc. > that will some how be the church's fault.

Since they're looking for answers, some how the church becomes part of the problem. Not enough friends, not meeting their needs, no body seems to really care, not spiritual enough, they're not finding their answers, etc., etc.

#3 - In both cases, exactly what Mary was teaching in her last class - the 4 horse men of relationship apocalypse have ridden into the person's life.

- Criticism (Critical, Picky with things)
- Contempt (Now it's become an attitude)
- Defensiveness (Protecting what they believe.....)
- Stonewalling (Can no longer hear & communicate)

#4 - No Matter What the church leadership says  
> THESE PEOPLE CAN'T HEAR IT!!!!

(They have become emotionally & spiritually,  
demonically blocked)

Once they leave, it gets on another family, and it starts all over again.

\*\*\*\*\* THAT IS THE ONLY TOOL THE DEMONIC REALM HAS!!

**\*\*\*\*\* THE CHURCH ALWAYS HAS TO BE ON GUARD TO IT.**

**\*\*\*\*\* IT PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED TO SHOW UP DURING TIMES OF  
VULNERABILITY!!!**

**B. This spirit uses all the normal tools of division.....**

- 1. Questioning and wondering without functional communication.
  - a. They don't talk to the people that really matter in the situation. But they'll talk to and poison other people.****
- 2. They claim they have talked to the leadership with no avail, or it doesn't pay to talk to the leadership because they won't listen, etc.**
- 3. Discontent without scriptural communication.**
- 4. Murmuring to those closest to you begins.**
- 5. Gossip.  
(Rule of Thumb)
  - If you aren't part of the problem.**
  - If you aren't part of the solution. (Mt. 18:16)**
    - > They shouldn't be talking to you!!!!**
    - (You shouldn't be listening to them!!!!)****
- 6. Disunion, disunity grows behind the scenes, again without Godly communication.**
- 7. Factions try to take hold. (Rally support...)**
- 8. At some point along they way > the person is so under the influence of the demon > THEY NO LONGER ARE ABLE TO HEAR YOU. THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN A SPIRITUAL OR INTELLIGENT MANNER!!!**
- 9. All the things listed in James 3:13-18.**

**10. They are so focused on what they now believe is the truth and correct > Until that spirit comes off of them > it's hopeless.**

**I think one of the main reasons God is saying we are not ready to move yet, is because we need to become aware that this spirit is working on us, looking for a way into this church, a person who will yield to it, and it needs to be shut out of everyone of our lives before we physically make the move to the new building!**

**The devil is prowling around, seeking whom he can devour. (I Pet. 5:8)**

**- WE MUST BE ON GUARD!!!**

**> I Pet. 5:8 says it this way:**

**"Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset--rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace [Who imparts all blessing and favor], Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the dominion (power, authority, rule) forever and ever. Amen (so be it)."**

**(1 Peter 5:8-11 AMP)**