

Prophetic Insight  
May 11, 2017

Seemingly *Disconnected* Ways  
By Which **Habitual Mental Deceits**  
Were Infused Into Christianity

(part 1)

*“The Spirit then lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the LORD upon me”* (Ezekiel 3:14).

### Introduction

A woman with whom Sue’s been corresponding sent us an e-mail recently in which she asked us to respond to four questions. No sooner had Mike read the four questions then the Holy Spirit began to remind him of many disheartening events he’d experienced or witnessed within Christendom for 40+ years of following Jesus as Lord.

At the time these events occurred they seemed unrelated to each other. But now the Spirit was revealing how *demonic principalities*, including Jezebel, had used each of these events to infuse themselves into Christendom. And now the combined influence of these demons permeates a vast number of faith communities in this nation.

This Prophetic Insight is being written because the Holy Spirit commanded us to reveal these diverse strategies and how they rely on **habitual mental deceits** to gain so much control within Christianity. Since some of these insidious strategies prepared the way for others to enter westernized Christianity, we’ll organize them in a timeline. Other strategies occurred almost concurrently.

**PLEASE REALIZE THAT EACH INFUSION IS AN INTERCONNECTED PART OF A SINGLE GREATER DEMONIC STRATEGY—TO INJECT LIES.**

## 1. Habitual Mental Deceit *The Spiritually Powerless*

Today, because of centuries of **habitual mental deceit**, members of a large number of denominations and sects are *spiritually powerless*. Without the power and presence of the Spirit to equip them to stand firm in the face of demonic assaults on their congregations and mission efforts around the world, they stay confined to their particular “holy huddles”, ineffective and unable to break through the surrounding darkness to reach the lost.

Centuries ago demons seduced “intellectual” scholarly theologians and religious leaders into “playing church” almost like a little girl playing house. Neither the reality of demonic opposition against Christianity nor the need for spiritual power was ever considered!

The **scholarly theologians** used a Hellenistic academic approach to God’s Word to train clergy, and eradicated the need for the spiritual power which Christ gave to all who would become His followers. Today these spiritually powerless, scholarly trained, lecture-dependent denominations and sects represent the largest slice of Christianity worldwide.

*Spiritual powerlessness* is no threat to Satan’s minions, so those who have been taught from only an academic model don’t know what you’re talking about when you bring up “**spiritual warfare.**” However, that battle in the unseen realm is a reality, as Paul makes clear in Ephesians 6:10-18. He also warned the Christians of his time to *stay away* from religious practitioners who go through religious motions but have no life within:

*“[They have] a form of godliness but deny its power. **Have nothing to do with them**”*  
(2Timothy 3:5). **Reliance on just the schol-**

**arly, lecture-format approach to presenting God's Word, as well as the proliferation of divisive creeds and religious practices this academic focus has spawned, has produced the 38,000+ divisions that have made so much of westernized Christendom impotent.**

Those who trust the Holy Spirit and are guided by Him have no such divisiveness. Paul addresses the way in which differences are settled by those who are focused on rightly representing Jesus in spiritual union rather than sectarian division:

*"All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained"* (Philippians 3:15,16). If you've been using the halakhic, *discussion-to-application* method of establishing your faith walk with your family and/or with your faith family, you've experienced how it supports peaceful resolution as you wait on God to reveal His perspective.

***"If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned"***  
(John 15:6).

In recent decades many of the faith communities and mission outreach organizations which have been trained to "play church" have come under violent attack in nations around the world.

If you've seen the news recently, the Pope has been flying to Muslim countries to try to "make peace" with their leaders in order to stop the assault on Christians. Protestants, on the other hand, have no such human "peacemakers." The sad reality is that centuries ago the Christians in these nations violated God's Word by ignoring the injunction to stand firm in heavenly armor and

stand firm against the enemy's onslaught. Instead, too many accepted the devil's offer of compromise for "peace": **"If you don't evangelize, we won't bother you."**

For centuries, whether in Egypt, Syria, Iran or anywhere else in the Middle East, evangelism has been basically non-existent by "Christian" denominations and sects. (A courageous, relatively few Spirit-led laborers have indeed stalwartly toiled in the frontlines and been martyred or persecuted over the centuries for their work of love.) But if the majority of sects and denominations haven't been serving our Lord Jesus and fighting the spiritual warfare that's essential to extend His Kingdom, who have they been serving through generations of passivity?

Today some of these Christian groups overseas have relied on military arms and outside intervention to find a measure of safety rather than calling upon and trusting in the power of the Spirit of Christ to keep them secure in Father's care (see Luke 10:17).

But Christianity in the US has been equally se-duced to distrust the sovereign God Who has sent His Spirit to empower and transform His own. Since 1977, the same year we first followed Jesus as Lord of our lives, missiologists have stated that Christianity in this country hasn't grown in new followers of Jesus. There has been far more "church slosh"—people going from one faith community to another and yet another—than there have been authentic conversions. And no one seems to feel Father's sorrow and anger over self-serving, spiritually void gatherings. As with Israel of old who compromised with self-satisfying religious practices, He cries out: ***"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies"*** (Amos 5:21).

To these groups within Christendom who have embraced spiritual powerlessness

through their **habitual mental deceit** in order to serve their own interests, forms and practices, we pose some questions:

•**WHERE IS THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME WHICH HE HAS GIVEN HIS OWN TO WAR AGAINST THE DEMONIC FORCES?**

•**WHERE IS THE GUIDANCE OF PROPHETS IN THEIR GIFTING TO IDENTIFY SIN AND WARN THE DISOBEDIENT TO REPENT?**

•**WHERE IS THE UNIFIED COOPERATION BATTLING THE DEMONIC FORCES BY THE POWER GIVEN COLLECTIVELY THROUGH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

## 2. Habitual Mental Deceit *Succumbing To The Spiritually Powerless "Social Gospel"*

With centuries of just "playing church" the spiritually powerless denominations and sects devolved into what has been termed the "**social gospel.**" Limiting themselves to observing just the biblical command to be *charitable*, these various groups made the social gospel their main thrust in society and missions. Their outreach wasn't the evangelism/disciple making which Jesus exhorted in Matthew 28:18-20 to transform the lost by spiritual rebirth to become His own. Rather the focus was on solving social problems: poverty, illness, alcoholism, racial tensions, slums, abortion, unwed mothers, child labor, and more. Because of their *spiritual* ineffectiveness, they sought to make themselves acceptable in each society by their social kindness.

When it came to missions, the *social gospel* produced little more than what became known as "**rice Christians.**" The term describes someone who declares himself/her-

self a Christian in order to gain material benefits rather than for religious reasons. This shallow commitment has resulted in countless numbers forsaking Christianity when food, health care, and other assistance ceased.

## 3. Habitual Mental Deceit *Nicolaitan Religious Systems And Male Irresponsibility*

Through various "church" programs the *Nicolaitan religious system* (the establishment of religious practices and beliefs by a human authority figure on behalf of many other people) made it easy for husbands and fathers to **outsource** their wives and children for spiritual training. Many of these men were seduced by Nicolaitanism into *irresponsibility*—neglecting the spiritual care and guidance of their family because they knew someone else would do it. But this ducking is **sin from our Father's perspective!** A truth we've noted often as the core responsibility for ALL family men was modeled by Abraham:

**The patriarch was chosen by God because He knew that this man wouldn't "out-source" his children to others: "*For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what He has promised him*" (Genesis 18:19).**

One of the major spiritual battles which has been lost by many throughout Christendom centers on who will train the children to walk in righteousness and love. The Bible calls for *parents* to do this *with the support of their faith community.* Home is where the guidelines for Bible-based personal interaction, relationships, attitudes, behavior, work, and deference to authority are modeled by parents and

molded into a child. You can't outsource this responsibility to others without sinning against God. (See for example Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; Ephesians 6:4.)

Through the widespread establishment of Nicolaitanism among denominations and sects, the home has been eliminated as **the basic building block** for spiritual development. The enemy infiltrated congregations by convincing clergy and congregants alike that organized programs were superior to training in the home. Some of the common strategies that compete with parental (and marital) learning in the home? Sunday schools, youth groups, women's conferences, and men's rah-rah gatherings are popular means by which lax husbands and fathers can complacently ignore God's commands to them in their home leadership role in Christ.

When we arrived back from Israel with the Hebraic foundations in 1994, Mike went to talk with several clergymen he knew. When he asked about the purposes for their various programs, their Sunday school, their youth groups, their women's Bible study, **they all admitted these existed to compensate for irresponsible husbands and fathers.**

(See our article, *Hebraic Home Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generations*, for more on this.)

The role of many clergy in these substitutions for male responsibility in the home can't be overstressed. Not only did congregation leaders allow husbands and fathers to disregard their God-given responsibilities to their families. They also unwittingly served the goal of a "Jezebellic" principality to undermine the authority of men in their homes. How? In the 1970s and 80s as women's lib was entering its stride in this nation, women's groups of all sorts began to flourish within Christendom.

A certain key factor was not immediately recognized but was clearly understood as more and more women began to divorce their husbands. A controlling, self-serving, independent "Jezebel" demonic entity (so-named because of the nature of its namesake in Scripture) was using women's groups to create an **independent spirit** in wives, along with an air of **spiritual superiority**. Men who had been outsourcing their wives and children to their faith communities didn't even see what was happening because these women's groups seemed so "Christian."

#### **4. Habitual Mental Deceit** *The Rise Of "Women's Liberation"* *Within Christianity*

Again, you can trace the growth of this demonic strategy to the Nicolaitan system and the outsourcing of wives and children for others to instruct and disciple. Through various women's organizations, wives began to become the sole confirmers of biblical truths for each other—without any need for input from their husbands.

An organization that stands out to us, one which certainly didn't intend to disrupt God's order for marriage and family but did, was Women's Aglow. The ministry began in 1967 with four women who expressed a desire to meet together as Christians without denominational boundaries. Its original purpose seemed innocent. We became acquainted with Aglow shortly after our arrival at the retreat center in 1983. An Aglow group was just beginning in our area of Connecticut and Mike was asked to be an advisor.

Although the group wanted male authority in their ministry, their method of confirming biblical truth was why we didn't involve ourselves. The women participants were the sole confirmers of biblical truth. Mike could see that without

their husbands' involvement and confirmation, the married women would become more and more spiritually and emotionally independent from these men.

In the years that followed, women who were part of Women's Aglow would attend retreats at our center with the other women in their faith community. These women were easily recognizable because their attitudes and choice of words revealed their self-confident view of themselves as *spiritually superior* to their husbands.

To support the rise of women's groups within Christianity, a number of liberal women began to teach that the role of women in the Bible had been culturally entrapped by the male writers. This means that the commands which pertain particularly to women were *not* God's commands for all time but rather dictated by the "sexist men" who wrote the Bible, especially the Newer Testament.

It was during this period that missionary and writer Elisabeth Elliot arose to try to stem the tide of women's lib in Christianity. Her scripturally conservative approach about marriage and the authority of men got her in trouble with many liberal denominations and women's groups. (Mike viewed a letter written by a liberal denomination to the institution where Elisabeth was employed—they demanded she be fired for her stance!)

Decades later in her best selling book, *Lies Women Believe: And the Truth that Sets Them Free* (published 2001; forward by Elisabeth Elliot), Nancy Leigh DeMoss exposed those areas of deception most commonly believed by Christian women — lies about God, sin, priorities, marriage and family, emotions, and more.

Satan is the master deceiver and his tactics and techniques are boundless. DeMoss notes

that the lies that Christian women believe are at the root of most of their struggles. "Many women live under a cloud of personal guilt and condemnation," she writes. "Many are in bondage to their past. Others are gripped by fear of rejection and a longing for approval. Still others are emotional prisoners."

***"For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie" (2Thessalonians 2:11).***

Two passages which "liberated" independent women in Christendom considered most offensive and culturally entrapped were these:

***"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything" (Ephesians 5:22-24).***

***"Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear" (1Peter 3:1-6).***

Certainly the commands in Peter's writing here are counter-cultural to today's perspective, to say the least! And

to independent-minded women who failed to grasp that Sarah had *complete trust* in the God Whom her husband obeyed, this passage was over the top in its perceived sexism. But because of her trust in God she could live without fear doing what was right in relation to her husband. The “liberated women”, however, viewed this passage as well as Paul’s commands in Ephesians 5 as supporting male domination. (It seems they missed the great degree of difficulty that faces men—to *love their wives sacrificially* as Christ loves His own called-out ones!)

Sue: The “beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit” which so pleases God especially riled many women who chose to rebel against perceived male rule. During the 1980s many Christian female TV personalities strongly influenced women viewers through their appearance. Sexy, stylish outfits worn by Tammy Faye Bakker of the popular PTL Club and other Christian celebrities prompted lady viewers to dress sensually too.

Mimicking worldly styles and behavior began first to take root in the Charismatic movement, becoming more widely accepted through popular women vocalists on the Christian music scene. Within congregations we saw this trend especially among women on worship teams, many of whom seductively crooned into the microphone with definitely unholy sultriness! While modesty became viewed as a throwback to male domination, fornication, adultery, and divorce increased rapidly in many congregations.

*“I do not permit a woman [or wife, specifically] to teach or to exercise authority over a man [or husband]; she must be quiet [in tranquillity, not in a disturbing way]” (1Timothy 2:12, literal alternate translation).*

In the early days of the “liberated Christian women” movement, female teachers began to proliferate. The preceding verse initially compelled some to put themselves under male authority. Through Divine design we met several of these women teachers during our years of doing seminars around the country. At times Sue engaged some about their relationship with their husbands. What emerged from a number of these conversations was the impression that the husband was little more than a eunuch the gal was married to while she fulfilled her desire to teach. Sue warned a number about how clearly they were violating Scripture. But the women had become so popular and addicted to their fame that they didn’t have ears to hear.

Hoping to serve as a “conservative” voice to counteract the liberal Christian women’s movement as well as the feminist movement at large, Concerned Women For America was founded in San Diego, California in 1979 by Beverly LaHaye, wife of Timothy LaHaye, a popular and well-known evangelical minister. Headquartered in Washington D.C. the group heavily involved itself with numerous social and political issues.

In the early 1980s Concerned Women For America was considering forming a chapter in Connecticut. A number of pastors in our region asked Mike to investigate the group to determine if they could recommend it to the women in their respective congregations. Mike found that undergirding the biblical basis for the group was **“Dominion Theology.”** In its simplest form, this teaching represented a belief that Christians should restore God’s commands to governments and to other nations — in other words, establish the Kingdom now, before the return of the King!

This position emphasized both governments and citizens keeping God's commands *without any dependence on Jesus*. It was really "**legalism**" in disguise. This meant that God's laws could be restored as the rule of the land, to be followed even by unbelievers—a compliance which even followers of Jesus indwelt by His Spirit don't perfectly keep!

After a thorough investigation Mike reported back to the pastors who met at the retreat center. After he briefed them and showed them the facts he'd compiled, they all discouraged the women in their faith communities from joining Concerned Women. (In later years Women's Aglow also adopted **Dominion Theology** as a core tenet.)

In the years to follow, "liberated women's movements" continued to introduce new, unscriptural deceptions and objectives. Their pursuit of independence from men ultimately led many to serve the interests of Jezebel in destroying marriages and families. In the 1990s, influential women from several corners of Christendom were claiming that God told them to divorce their husbands so they could serve Him without hindrance. Later that decade a corollary was added to this: "If your husband doesn't make you happy, God says you may divorce him."

At that time a book published by a prominent divorced Christian became popular and contributed to a rapid growth of divorce within faith communities. In order to avoid bearing any guilt on their part, a number of divorcees began to use the catch-phrase, "My husband was *abusive*"—and that ended all further inquiry into her divorce. Even Focus on the Family got caught up in supporting divorce back then when they published an article commending the happiness found in second marriages.

## A repercussion of divorced women

1. During this same period we began to notice the rise of anti-Arab materials sent out by certain ministries in Israel. These organizations changed from telling their supporters what they were doing to help the Jewish people and became hate-mongers against the Arab population. Mike was disturbed that Christians would label and defame people for whom Jesus died. One day the Holy Spirit prompted him to call a leader in one of Israel's more well-known ministries.

The Spirit gave Mike one question to ask him: "Are you using anti-Arab rhetoric to attract donations from divorced women in the US?" Replying "Yes", the man went on to explain that the largest group supporting their ministry was *divorced Christian women*. Mike then chastised him for using animosity as a means to solicit donations, a strategy our Lord Jesus would never use.

2. The biblical value and purpose of motherhood also became maligned by "liberated women" both within and outside Christendom. Multitudes of mothers started to rely more and more on **outsourcing** their children to daycare. The harmful nature of this demonically-inspired trend of outsourcing children was made all the more evident by policies taken by the former USSR and Scandinavian countries which had previously led the world in **daycare**—they were now discouraging it. These nations had determined from years of painful experience that daycare stifles motivation and creativity. Some even began to pay mothers to *stay home and raise their children!*

**For decades we've sadly observed the widespread infusion of demonic lies into Christianity.**

We want to close this discussion by reiterating that the *root cause* of the rise of independent women in Christendom can be directly traced to husbands and fathers outsourcing their families for spiritual development. This practice was fostered by Nicolaitan clergy who viewed their church premises and programs as the essential component in **controlling** and **indoctrinating** their congregation.

While the need for men to take the spiritual lead may at times have been preached from the pulpit, actually having *older, wiser men come alongside* these fathers and husbands to help them fulfill their biblical responsibilities to their family in their own home was nonexistent.

In 1986 we first began to distribute copies of Carle Zimmerman’s insightful book, *Family and Civilization*, to pastors and other people on retreats. After reading it there was unanimous consensus even then that the United States had already entered the final stage of societal downfall—the *Atomistic Stage*. Many of us began to seek ways in which we who follow Jesus could be “salt” and “light” no matter what took place in our nation.

We were naive. Not only was the Atomistic Stage already well-entrenched in society, but within Christendom as well. It flourished because of points we have already mentioned. Consider key characteristics of an *atomistic society* as documented by Zimmerman over 30 years ago; certainly these have escalated in the decades since.

- Marriage loses its sanctity as a stable, committed institution. The inviolability of *marriage as a covenant* is lost, and the relationship is often broken by relatively easy, “no-fault” divorce. (An alarming trend: Christians have a greater divorce rate than those who are unbelievers.)

- Feminist movements abound as women lose inclination for childbearing and child nurturing. The birth rate decreases. Daycare facilities replace intimate parenting as mothers are no longer motivated or encouraged to raise their own children in the security of the home.
- Public disrespect for parents, parenthood, and authority in general rises. Parenthood becomes more difficult for those still trying to rear children with biblical values. The media mock and denigrate time-honored moral values and traditions.
- Young people are increasingly disrespectful of their parents and others in authority. Juvenile delinquency escalates, as do promiscuity and rebellion. Neither the legal system nor educational institutions are able to deter this defiance and self-rule.
- Adultery is accepted and even promoted in many circles, as is living together outside of marriage.
- Sexual perversion of all kinds (homosexuality, rape, incest, pedophilia) moves from toleration to proliferation.

(For a more complete understanding of the Atomistic Age, see Teaching E-mail 46. *Developing Spiritual Maturity in an Atomistic Age*.)

### Other Forms of Demonic Infusion Into Christianity

In our next Prophetic Insight we’ll discuss other areas by which demonic forces have made inroads into Christianity. It’s vitally important in your own desire to effectively and lovingly walk in truth and grace that you’re aware that our Lord Jesus has given you His own safeguard against being deceived:

*“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be***

*done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:18-20).*

This kind of agreement and confirmation by those who are purposing to enact Father’s will is essential! When it comes to marriage and family He made a couple a natural twosome to bind and loose how they would live out His commands for their household. He also intended that within the extended spiritual family of a home fellowship at least two or three could agree in asking Father’s will to be done, since Jesus would be in their midst. (See also 1John 5:14.)



Think of the wonder of that promise by Jesus! If you are earnestly seeking Father’s will on what He permits (your freedoms) and what He forbids (your limits) for your family or the extended spiritual family of your home fellowship, Jesus pledges to be there with you. **Your confidence in His promise is your first line of defense against being deceived by demons and by any false creeds and religious practices they may try to infuse into your spiritual lives.** And being assured that Jesus is among you enables you to exclude demonic deception in your discussions as well.