

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

6/7/2019 “Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

Deception Is A Pandemic Spiritual Cancer (Part 3)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

We wrote previously about certain relational malignancies which our **Jezebel-dominated society** has promoted: **insolence** (disdain, derision, disrespectful behavior); **insubordination** (defiance of authority; willful noncompliance); and **rebellion** (open resistance, refusal to obey). In this third part of our series we'll focus on the mushrooming effect of **self-exaltation** (giving yourself credit for something you didn't accomplish; an obsessive need to exercise power and gain personal prestige [see Psalms 36:2]). Self-exaltation isn't confined to the political arena or celebrity talk shows or social media platforms. That need to be noticed and acclaimed has spread throughout Christianity too via “Christian” media, “worship” concerts, and self-promoting speaking engagements. Reliance on publicity ploys and marketing schemes is as entrenched within “Christian” circles as it is in the unbelieving world!

Background info into the national obsession with self-exaltation:

In Practice 5 of our website series, *Coaching Fathers To Serve Lord Jesus*, we expose the ungodly obsession with **self-esteem** (self-exaltation) in this nation. The individuals who are filled with this “cancer” view themselves to be the center of their world. Therefore their self-absorption drives them to engage in even perilous activities (captured of course on social media). Being recognized by others adds another brick to their wall of self-esteem which is holding them captive. An entire generation is convinced that their every desire ought to be met — and because of that self-obsession, few have any sense of responsibility either to their family or to others around them.

Since so many “Christian” parents have ignored the wise parenting counsel that's found in God's Word, their children's motives and desires are framed solely by the world's standards (especially by the media and by humanist-saturated public education). Many of these children have been trained to manipulate their folks through tantrums, whining, or negotiations to get what they want. And the parents, too busy or too preoccupied or too distracted to train and disciple their child(ren), give in. SELF-esteem and its spawn, SELF-gratification, are now perceived as the inalienable rights of both young and old. Even within much of westernized Christendom, homes are hotbeds for *narcissism* (excessive vanity and self-centeredness) and *entitlement* (“I have the right to whatever I want!”). Here's a tidbit to chew on if you've given in to the decades-long psychology deceits that discipline harms a child and that no child should ever “lose” or “fail” in any endeavor: long-standing studies have shown that those with the highest level of self-esteem are in prisons on death row. So please read Practice 5 for more on this insidious obsession. <<http://www.restorationministries.org/download/05.fathers.pdf>>

***Do not think of [exalt] yourself more highly than you ought,
but rather think of yourself with sober judgment,
in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you”***
(Romans 12:3).

SELF-exaltation (self-esteem) is heralded in most contemporary arenas of psychology, parenting and public education. Through social media this obsession has proliferated as young and old alike publicize an image of success and popularity — but are in fact deceiving them-

1 “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways’” (Haggai 1:7).

selves and deceiving others with their fabricated portrayal. Even at the highest levels of our government, self-exaltation has replaced **servant-leadership** as well as most vestiges of a representative form of government. It's a present-day travesty that too many public officials now serve themselves and those with the money to keep them in office.

This is an important issue for followers of Jesus today since for decades "Christian" leaders have supported this ungodly transition to self-service and self-promotion. Many who identify themselves as spokesmen for Christ have been deceived by the lie of **"separation of church and state."** In effect they've put a dividing line between upholding our God's righteous standards and allowing lawlessness to permeate legislative decisions. Through this separation, these religious leaders have relegated the sovereign God of the universe to irrelevance, telling Him that He has no role in what happens in this nation. In other words, both God and His children in Christ should stay in the box of their steeped buildings and keep their faith to themselves!

But even if our "culture of tolerance" is denying the Judeo-Christian heritage of our forefathers, our God is still in charge over every person who is elected. He knows beginning from end and everything in between (see Isaiah 46:9,10), including who rules each nation. Foreseeing that His chosen people Israel would reject His theocracy and choose to have a king govern them, our righteous God gave precise commands to each ruler to come:

"Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel"
(Deuteronomy 17:18,20).

God understands the pressure and temptations that any human ruler faces. And when Satan announced his own authority over all the governments on earth, Jesus didn't contradict him (see Luke 4:5-7). The devil had been thrown to the earth with all his followers (Revelation 12:9), and readily exercises his deceitful influence over its rulers as well as its people. But our God gives His blessings when the people of any land uphold His righteous commands (Deuteronomy 28). **The degree to which you don't believe His hand of blessing can be a reality in this nation is the degree to which you've accepted Satan's deception.** Our gracious Father has been disciplining (*disciplining*) this nation since its founding. Economic depressions, disastrous weather events, an almost endless involvement in war — these are just a few of His ways to bring people to repentance. This nation *doesn't have* to be reviled and hated by other nations! He has promised, *"When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way, HE causes their enemies to make peace with them"* (Proverbs 16:7).

So, why haven't we collectively repented so this land could continue to be blessed? Many of the prophetic voices that God sent to warn us have been silenced by self-exalting religious leaders who enjoy their notoriety in the public eye.

A number of past presidents called for national days of repentance, that is, until this last century. During the "Great Depression" the president failed to call for repentance. Instead, the government made itself 'god' through the New Deal. Government has grown to such an extent that we've now accumulated a national debt that can't be repaid. This impossible burden is now being thrust onto our next generation! God has much to say about international finance in

terms of His promise of blessing for keeping His commandments, and the curse for sinning.

Blessing: “*You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none*” (Deuteronomy 28:12).

Curse: “*The alien who resides among you will rise above you higher and higher; but you will sink lower and lower. He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:43,44).*

You may find it hard to agree with this observation: We are in the throes of becoming a dictatorship. The widespread greed, hatred, racism and bigotry which hallmark this Administration are only the beginning. God is allowing the demonic **spirit of Jezebel**, whose name means “*I have no co-equal*” and which thrives on **self-exaltation**, to readily deceive this society. The deceptive spirits which propelled Joseph Stalin and others to power are now at work in this country. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to what’s presently taking place.

The Demonic, Sinister Scheming Process Of A Dictator

•Mockery & Ridicule •Ostracism •Explicit Prejudice •Escalating Violence •Elimination

What is the current climate of the United States in this evil sequence of hostility?

The powerful influence of ruthless Russian dictator, Joseph Stalin (who ruled from 1922–1953) can’t be understated, especially as you see his vicious **self-exaltation** at work through the autocratic Kim dynasty in North Korea (Kim Il-Sung, his son Kim Jong-Il, and his grandson Kim Jong-Un). Stalin’s goals and methodology continue in worldwide attraction of those who aspire to dominate, having neither respect for human dignity nor regard for the value of human life. Have you ever wondered how merciless despots like Adolf Hitler could even come to power, and in so short a time deceive so many people? The following revelation came to us from the Holy Spirit about the demonic powers behind such leaders, and Satan’s ability to deceive.

Within the city of Pyongyang, North Korea were some 2000 church buildings in the early 1900s. But within just a few decades these churches were eradicated by Communism. The Christians were spiritually conquered as they allowed themselves to let go of the **absolute truth of God’s Word and stand up for it**. Fast forward to Hellenist Humanism’s domination of public education in this nation: “*There are no absolute truths!”* And, in this current Administration, “*There are alternate truths!”* God’s Truth is a life or death conviction, not an opinion or a private personal matter. The Lordship of Jesus and the absolute veracity of the Bible must be stood up for as the dearest heartfelt certainty you can have.

Three progressive tactics underlie the uncontested power that’s exercised by the demonic principalities behind Joseph Stalin’s self-exaltation and the others who’ve sought, and still seek, autocratic rule. **First**, these rulers rely on *deception* by convincing a particular segment of the population that their leadership would benefit them. **Second**, these rulers gain *control over influential media* so they can openly disseminate their propaganda and achieve complete control over *all* media outlets. The Founders of this nation understood how critically important the media is to a free society, so on September 25, 1789 Congress passed, then ratified on December 15, 1791, Amendment 1 to the Bill of Rights:

Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.”

Third, to ensure the unquestioned supremacy of their rule over the population, dictators rely on *coercive control*: You must create disdain for certain groups within society and de-humanize any that you suspect: those •who will oppose your unjust rule, or •whose values you cannot control, or •who can be made easy scapegoats for society's problems. When the self-exalting despots believe they have achieved sufficient control over society, their verbiage turns to these:

- **Spite**: vengeful ill will aimed at hurting, annoying, or offending someone (see Psalms 28:3).
- **Besmirching**: damaging the reputation of someone or something in the eyes of others. This is usually an immediate response *to discredit* those who interfere with their desire for absolute rule or who they fear will expose their illegal or immoral activities (see Proverbs 26:26).
- **Ostracism**: avoiding, rejecting or disparaging a particular person or group while actively courting and flattering another (see Daniel 11:32; Romans 16:18).

When complete autocratic rule is achieved, he then eliminates even those who initially supported him—those who embraced the lie that the aspiring dictator would benefit them. (Habakkuk 1:4)

We've seen this pattern within Christianity: Too often we've encountered men in church leadership who exalt themselves through being a **sacerdotal**, an intermediary between our Lord Jesus and His followers. Seeking nothing less than personal pre-eminence, they will try to exert such dominance that they minimize any dependence on the Spirit of our Lord by His people. (For further insight into the self-exalting sacerdotal, see *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church*, Lesson 49: "Silence the Sacerdotal." <<http://www.restorationministries.org/download/49.lesson49.pdf>>).

The Epitome Of Arrogance By The "Haves" Against The "Have Nots" "Let them eat cake!"

First attributed to French Queen Marie Antoinette in 1843, this quotation was supposedly uttered in a famine during the reign of her husband, Louis XVI. Her words have been used to demonstrate the oblivion and selfishness of the upper classes to the plight of the less fortunate. And like Marie Antoinette, those who bask in self-exaltation begin to tell everyone else what they must think or do.

Arrogance is progressive. When individuals are sufficiently confident of their power and ability to intimidate, whether within religion or government, they tell others over whom they have no authority or power what they must do. Think of how many in this nation express their approval for the domination taking place in our nation's highest office. They've been flattered and deceived by the slogan, **"Make America Great Again"**, used similarly by Ronald Reagan (**"Let's make America great again"**) in his successful 1980 presidential campaign.

Societies who applaud arrogant attitudes in their leaders fail to recognize the real motives for their **self-exaltation**—not until they ultimately find themselves the ones turned against! "Make America Great Again" is far more sinister and malevolent than the deceived can comprehend: •the quest of the wealthy for unbridled domination; •the limitation of environmental laws on corporations; •the removal of worker safety and protection; •the reduction of the middle class and its influence. The deceived are getting what they blindly deserve — and have absolutely no idea of what this Administration, and the rich are really seeking.

And so-called, wealthy themselves, "Christian" leaders have lost all commitment to the **"absolute truth"** of God's Word. In their personal quest for recognition they support politically **"conservative" self-exaltation**, rather than stand up for God's commands regarding a nation and His requirement for humble, servant leadership.

Be careful when someone profusely compliments you. God's Word pierces deceit: "*Those who flatter their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet*" (Proverbs 29:5). Some public servants with admirable character qualities, who were at one time effusively flattered by this Administration, have since been forced to flee. In the aftermath each one has faced spite, be-smirching of their reputation, and ostracism by the same mouth that flattered them.

Many in this society who are rebellious themselves have no comprehension of the strategy of this Administration to try to intimidate people with strong character, especially those who served in the Armed Forces. In the military you're trained from the beginning that when a senior speaks, your response is, "**Your wish is my command.**" This deferential attitude is often used against them by those who seek self-exaltation, falsely accusing those who refuse to do wrong of, "**Disloyalty!** That's the strategy used by those who want to rule and dominate at all cost to try to trap people who have noble character.

(You may have encountered a similar type of arrogance: When other people imply motives for why you do what you do, *and never bother to ask you*. Imparting their own motives onto you clearly reveals their personal desire to dominate through intimidation).

In this Administration, the individuals who fled it were being compelled to either commit an impeachable offense or help cover up one. When the malice-driven weapons of spite, be-smirching or ostracism don't work, "**plausible deniability**" is employed.

Through plausible deniability, people especially in senior positions deny knowledge of or responsibility for any damnable actions that were committed by others in an organizational hierarchy. They excuse themselves through a lack of evidence that can confirm their participation, even if they were personally involved in the actions or chose to stay ignorant of them. **But rest assured, the truth will be revealed when our God brings judgment on the wicked.**

A Society Obsessed With Deceit And Being Deceived

"But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2Timothy 3:13).

Once a person, family, fellowship or nation allows themselves to be deceived, they don't recognize that they're deceived, because they've been deceived!"

It's a condemnation of our society that we've become so accustomed to being deceit. There are other sources which are also freely available for Satan to spread deceit throughout this nation. For instance, **public relations** is right up there next to marketing and advertising. The role of public relations is to **spread propaganda** — information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, that's used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view. Propaganda can also cover up wrongdoing in the public eye, or deflect blame to someone else. Social media has become one of the best means for widespread propaganda. Many blindly believe whatever is shared, while those who are still seeking truth find it difficult to verify the promoted details.

Advertising is a form of public relations that's used to induce you to buy something you may not want or need. The past several generations have been raised to be deceived by advertising. We've become a society of self-esteem: "meet all my wants" no matter how much debt is incurred. Advertising has added to society's obsession with self-exaltation. Before media made advertising so easy to distribute on a wide scale, this was a society of "what do I need?" (And, you could say that Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms are a form of "personal advertising"— advertising one's self to exalt self).

These forms of deceit ensure that you can't ask questions to get to the core of what the truth is. Many years ago *Consumer Reports* began to compare products, and there was some pressure to have all products tested so the population wouldn't be deceived. But corporations beat that idea down as fast as it was proposed. Deceit in one form or another enters everyone's life, everyday, through advertising. It's sad we've become so accustomed to being lied to.

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were once foreigners [from other lands]. I am the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 19:33,34).

The evil quest for **self-exaltation** often filters down throughout an entire society. It breeds bigotry, racism, hatred and violence, especially toward those maligned by the self-exalting at the top of society. **WE FOLLOWERS OF OUR LORD JESUS MUST KEEP OURSELVES FREE OF THIS DECEIT!** Those who want to rule and dominate along the line of Joseph Stalin and other despots is as far from a biblical form of government as hell is from heaven. God's standard is to lead justly with equal concern for everyone. Those who pursue self-exaltation at any cost are spurred on by demonic powers coming to their aid, led by **Deceit**. We who love and obey our Lord Jesus can't let ourselves be hoodwinked by the deceit that politics changes things, or that our God isn't involved in what is happening in this nation. There's a divine judgment that will come:

“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear Me,” says the LORD Almighty” (Malachi 3:5).

Consider God's basis for leadership which has guided us for many years

God honors a person who is serving as a leader when their motives and actions are marked by these qualities:

- **Their life is resolutely committed to serving our Lord and bringing glory to our Father.**
- **Their loving compassion for both the family of Jesus as well as those who have yet to trust Him is evident.**
- **Their life hangs on the *rhema* of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct their path.**
- **Their way of life is established on the stepping stones of biblical applications.**

(Satan will use those who lack these *Scripturally-mandated* qualities for leadership to deceive and tempt those who follow our Lord Jesus to weaken their resolve in upholding the absolute truth and authority of God's Word. Please don't let this happen to you!).