

**September 11, 2009**

## **Soulsh Dominion is the Root of Communal Unrighteousness**

The next Lifebyte in our series on spiritual power is available. One of the main topics we discuss is that of Soulsh Dominion. We first heard the phrase from our friend Exie the night we arrived in Jerusalem in 1993, but recently the Holy Spirit has opened up some new understanding about it for us to share with you.

The enemy's battleground against followers of Jesus is *our soul* — our mind, will and emotions. When we habitually entertain unChristlike thoughts in our mind, or consistently pursue our own will or agenda rather than God's will, or tenaciously cling to feelings that block our availability for our Lord's use of us, we're under the control of soulsh dominion. Our soul rather than the Spirit of Christ in us becomes the determining focus of our lives.

And, consider this:

**ALL demonic strongholds, and the sinful attitudes and behaviors they habitually arouse, hold us captive under the dominion of our sin nature-controlled soul. Even after we've demolished the strongholds, soulsh dominion reigns until the old ruts of behavior and attitude have been filled in by the truth and commands of God's Word as He works righteous responsiveness in us through His Spirit.**

In fact, unless this last step is taken, as we warn in our book *Demolishing Strongholds*, people's lives tend to get much worse. Jesus warned what might happen after a demonic spirit has departed, leaving a vacancy which the Holy Spirit has not filled:

***"Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first"*** (Luke 11:26).

How do you know when you're no longer captive to soulsh dominion? A key indicator that we've seen over the years is that you develop a **merciful** and **forgiving heart** toward those who once hurt you or let you down. This is especially true as you are empowered by the indwelling Spirit to change your attitude toward your family members and relatives. Whereas you were previously critical of them, irritated by them, or quick to pass judgment on them, when you're free of soulsh dominion you're able to realize that they're in reality captives to the same strongholds that you've now been freed from.

Your heart becomes burdened to see your relatives become free from the soulsh dominion that keeps them vulnerable to Satan's relationship-destroying lies. This change of perception on the part of the freed has proven to be THE major sign that soulsh dominion is gone.

## Soulish Dominion is the Root of Communal *Un*righteousness

If you've read any of our writings or seen any of our videos on communal righteousness, then you realize that this parameter is our Father's preeminent feature for fellowship with others. Just being around others who take part in religious practices with you is not biblical fellowship! There's the *obedience factor* in the life of those who claim to love Jesus as Lord of their lives. Jesus so often connected belonging to God with *hearing* Him — and hearing means *obeying* (John 8:42-47).

Even an uneducated blind man was able to confront the self-righteous Pharisees with the well-ingrained truth that ***“God does not listen to sinful men!”*** This man then continued with the obedience factor: ***“He listens to the godly man who does His will”*** (John 9:31). To love Jesus, then, as Father God calls us to (John 8:42), we must remain free from unrepented sin and obey our Lord's commands.

If we claim fellowship with those who choose to continue in sin, then God will not listen to our prayers. While many modern doctrines rampantly disregard sin as they promote a perversion of grace that excuses it, God never separates “belief” from “obedience”. In fact, it is this distinction between “practicing righteousness” or “not practicing righteousness” in our daily lives that indicates whether we are children of God or children of the devil (1 John 3:7-10).

So, are you welcoming the unrepentant — those who excuse or rationalize or try to hide their sin — into your times of worship before our holy God? Have you considered that from His perspective, this compromise with the world's ways labels you an enemy of God? (James 4:4) He has called you and set you apart for righteousness, not for toleration of sin!

In essence, out of love for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, we must remain free from unconfessed sin so that the prayers of others in our faith family can be heard by our Father (1 Peter 3:12; James 5:16). That's the kind of relationship Jesus was referring to when He reiterated that ***“My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it”*** (Luke 8:21).

People within religious systems who have been freed from soulish dominion often find they can no longer stay within the denomination or faith community which is still held captive. But is their freedom welcome news to those still in bondage? No way! Rather, many find themselves driven out by demonic ostracism through coldness or deceitful slander by those clinging to the chains of soulish dominion within them (2 Timothy 2:26).

The demons will make sure that agitation rules so that those who are free of soulish dominion are excluded from influencing others. And, some who are now walking in freedom find they have to leave before they're seduced back into their old sinful

patterns of attitude, thought and action.

Please, there's much more to read on soulish dominion in this Lifebyte, as well as a discussion of the heart soil in authentic followers of Jesus which produces lasting fruit. If you haven't become totally free, then you have limited your ability to be about fruitfully advancing the Kingdom of our Lord.

Remember: Spiritual freedom is our Lord's way of binding His followers together in love. This is our hope for each of you!

*Mike & Sue*