

# Recognizing & Overcoming Ungodly Spirits Operating Through Covid-19



A TEACHING TOOL OF BETHESDA HOUSE

## INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why conversations around Covid-19 seem so intense? There almost seems to be a violent undercurrent that can easily sweep us away when talking and thinking about all the aspects of Covid-19, the vaccines, government policies, and so on. This is because there are large spiritual dynamics that are operating through this virus, and the enemy is not just bringing sickness and death but many other destructive things as well. Spirits of fear, confusion, chaos, paranoia, suspicion, rebellion, individualism, self-preservation, religion, accusation and more are all riding this wave of the virus, provoking believers and unbelievers alike.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10

Since this virus swept through the world, there are so many things that have been destroyed. Jobs have been lost. Economies have struggled. Trust has been broken. Churches have lost members. Relationships have ended. Judgement, criticism, hatred, and accusation are growing more prevalent.

The Lord allows destruction of worldly things to advance His Kingdom (Deuteronomy 9:3, James 4:12). However, if we look at what has been destroyed in our world today, is it making the way to build God's Kingdom or is it just destruction? Are the Covid dynamics producing abundant life or death?

## THERE IS A PLAN OF THE ENEMY

There is a plan of the enemy to draw us as God's people into false, worldly loyalties (Jonah 2:8). If the enemy can distract us to build into things of less relevance, then we will no longer be building the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:24). Demonic political spirits want to divide us into many different camps of belief and conviction until we are so divided we are of no use (Matthew 12:25). The enemy wants to impoverish the Kingdom of God by stealing our attention, our gifts, our resources, our time, and put it towards things that are not where He is (Psalm 127:1-2, 1 Samuel 8:10-18).

So how can we make sure we are not being drawn into these false, worldly loyalties and therefore build the wrong kingdom?

There are three ways that believers are currently interacting with the spirits operating through this virus and its aspects;

- 1.They are submitting to them (unaware)
- 2.They are wrestling with them (Eph 6:12)
- 3.They are overcoming them

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM SUBMITTING TO THESE UNGODLY SPIRITS?

All the spirits operating through the Covid dynamics combine with both a political principality and a religious principality. These are the same 2 entities that combined to try to trap Jesus in His ministry (Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 3:6, Mark 12:13).

The political principality says, "You must be on my side and make the other side your enemy." If we have submitted to this, we will demonize the side we don't agree with. We will make people our enemy, forgetting that our true enemy is whispering in our ears lies of accusation (Ephesians 6:12, Revelation 12:10). We will set up our camp, lining our boundaries with passionate arguments in case someone would try to dissuade us otherwise.

The religious principality says, "You must act this way in order to be in right standing." If we have submitted to this, we will place deep trust in what we do and make that our saving solution (Matthew 23:25-28, Romans 7:10-11, 2 Corinthians 3:6). To vaccinate or not. To social distance or not. Whatever we decide is right, we feel it so strongly that we struggle with anyone who does not believe the same. We will preach and proselytise our beliefs towards others, hoping to make "converts" to what we feel is right.

Having an opinion and making choices in this time does not mean we have submitted to the enemy. But if we are so set in our choices that even God Himself might not be able to dissuade us, then we have gone further than just normal decision making. We have aligned ourselves to build another kingdom besides God's.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM WRESTLING WITH THESE UNGODLY SPIRITS?

There are spirits of confusion and chaos inciting us to wrestle with them. They draw you in with debates, facts and stories, but they also purposely contradict themselves to send you spinning. They call to you to come receive your answers from them instead of God, and as soon as you think you have something figured out, a report or story appears to completely contradict it.

It is like the childhood story of the gingerbread man when he chants, "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the Gingerbread Man." We want to grab this spirit by the neck and force it to give us the answers. We shake it and shake it while it just laughs at us, knowing this is the exact game it wants us to play. In the end, we have no real answers. We often say things like, "I just don't know what is right."

There is a plan of the enemy to decrease Biblical wisdom among God's people and replace it with worldly wisdom (2 Timothy 2:16-17). We wrestle with these stories and facts to understand more but soon the reasoning in worldly reports seem more familiar and natural to us than what God tells us in His Word. Prophetic words become just worldly wisdom dressed up with a "I feel God is saying..." (Jeremiah 23:16-17)

It is not a sin to read the news or hear different stories and reports. But if we are looking to these for our answers instead of God, we are now wrestling with these spirits and will end up in confusion or on a pathway towards submitting to and propagating a demonic agenda.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM OVERCOMING THESE UNGODLY SPIRITS?

Typically, if we are not submitting or wrestling with these spirits, we are overcoming or in the process of overcoming. We see through the temptations to take a side or find the perfect answers. We keep our eyes on God, our focus on building His Kingdom.

Some keys to overcoming are; Stay in His Word. Be more familiar with His ways than the world's ways. Prioritise the things He prioritises: love, the Gospel, healing, humility, compassion, forgiveness. Strive to produce the fruit of the spirit. Measure your thoughts and words through Philippians 4:8.

Be open to what God would ask you to do. Lay your rights down at His feet and trust He will take care of you. Be aware of the schemes of the enemy in this day to confuse, divide, spread accusation and judgement. Submit to God and follow His ways, and submit to the authorities in your land with a heart of peace (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Corinthians 14:33). Be prayerful how you submit to others or disagree with others. Follow the pathway of God's truth in His Word. If you don't know what the Word says about your situation, then read His Word.

When it is time to make a decision such as, "Will I take the vaccine or not?", "Will I wear a mask or not?", "Will I social distance or not?", lay down your thoughts, opinions, understanding, and rights before Him. Take as much time as needed to truly surrender to Him. If there is an area that you are struggling to surrender, talk to Him honestly about that and listen to what He has to say about your concerns.

Once you are surrendered, listen to Him and move forward with what He tells you to do. Remember, what He tells you will not contradict scripture or be in line with the fruit of these ungodly spirits. If there is any contradiction to the fullness of Scripture, you've not fully surrendered your own thoughts, will and emotions.

Know that God's directive is specific to each person. He will show you how you steward your own personal body and life. Only He knows what is right and good for each one of us. Allow others to find their own answers and personal directives with God (Colossians 2:8, 16-23, 1 Corinthians 10 23-33, 1 Corinthians 8).

## SCRIPTURES YOU CAN STUDY TO ALIGN WITH GOD AND OVERCOME

Isaiah 55:8-9- For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Proverbs 3:5-7- Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and shun evil.

Jeremiah 17:5-8- Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a

tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Colossians 3:2-3- Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:12-17- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Philippians 4:4-7- Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Matthew 5:5-10- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Ephesians 4:1-3- I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2 Timothy 4:5- But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 2:15-16- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

1 Corinthians 1:19- For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Titus 3:1-2- Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility to all men.

1 Peter 2:11-17- Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend

those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Romans 13:1-8- Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

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