

Church of the Promise

350 Hwy 165
Iowa, La. 70847
337-582-2090

Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

1 The Bait of Satan

By: John Bevere

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

will stumble upon it, and it must be baited to lure the animal into the trap's deadly jaws. Satan, the enemy of our souls, incorporates both of these strategies as he lays out his most deceptive and deadly traps. They are both hidden and baited.

Ch. 1 - Me Offended?

Pg 15. "Selfishness reigns in our society. Men and women today look out for themselves to the neglect and hurt of those around them. This should not surprise us. The Bible is very clear that in the last days men will be lovers of themselves'. (2 Tim 3:2) We expect this in unbelievers, but Paul was not referring to those outside the church. He was talking about those within it. Many are wounded, hurt and bitter. They are offended! But they do not realize that they have fallen into Satan's trap.

Is it our fault? Jesus made it very clear that it is impossible to live in this world and not have the opportunity to become offended. Yet most believers are shocked, bewildered, and amazed when it happens. We believe we are the only ones who have been wronged. The response leaves us vulnerable to a root of bitterness. Therefore we must be prepared and armed for offenses, because our response determines our future."

A. Coming to their senses.

Offense left un-dealt with creates resentment. It is evidence of SELF preservation. It is the first tool in the enemy's arsenal to enslave you. Deception has begun to take hold.

2 Tim 2:24-26

24. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God WILL GRANT them REPENTANCE leading them to a knowledge of the TRUTH, 26. and that they will COME TO THIER SENSES and ESCAPE from the TRAP of the DEVIL who has TAKEN THEM CAPTIVE to do his WILL.

Like the Prodigal they must 'come to their senses' and find repentance by awaking to their true condition. They do not realize they are spewing out bitter waters rather than pure. Deception tells them they are right.

No matter what the cause is there are two types of offended people:

1. Those who have truly been treated wrong.
2. Those who *believe* they have been treated wrong.

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

B. See Your True Condition

You will only repent when you STOP blaming other people.

Rev 3:18

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

This passage creates a picture of your own condition. Jesus connects our ability to 'see'. It is a key to being freed from deception.

When we blame others and defend our own position, we are blind. We struggle to remove the speck from our brother's eye while there is a log in ours. When the Holy Spirit shows us our sin, He brings conviction, not condemnation. Only selfish pride could keep you from the truth and freedom.

III. Ch. 2 - MASSIVE OFFENSE

1. An offended Christian is one who takes in life but because of fear, cannot release it.

a. Devastation, overwhelming rejection, abandonment, & betrayal create pain that is difficult to absorb and release.

b. Many believe they have forgiven but experience great discomfort when face to face with the person they feel is responsible.

c. Asking for forgiveness from them for harboring the resentment and pain can heal & free you.

d. God's love grows cold in a lawless atmosphere. Rampant wickedness is a sign of the end times.

Matt 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

e. Without God we can only love with a selfish love. One, that cannot be given, unless it is received & returned. "I give, if I get"

f. Develop faith in the Love of God

"Sow to the flesh reap corruption, sow to the Spirit reap everlasting life"

Gal 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

IV. Ch. 8 - All that can be shaken will be shaken

A. Jesus knew that Simon Peter was about to succumb to a huge battle with unforgiveness and respond in betrayal. So he encouraged him with this word.

Luke 22:32

"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

What power! Facing the cross his heart was on the great need of world. He prayed FOR his friend who would deny and abandon Him.

JOHN 17 you can read what He asked for YOU during His hour of trial. Jesus didn't pray that Peter escape the SHAKING but that his faith not fail to bring him through it. He knew the trial would deliver Peter from some bondage. Peter needed to be freed so he could fulfill his destiny and strengthen his brethren.

Satan asked to 'sift' Peter because he wanted to shake him loose from his faith! God being way ahead of the devil allowed the test so it would shake off the things that would hinder Peter. His "SELF" confidence would be replaced with confidence in the grace of God.

Peter's strength before this was in his own personality not in God's humility. The same man who wielding a sword attacked a soldier became intimidated when a little girl who asked him to identify with Christ.

B. The only Crisis we really experience is a LOVE crisis

Many pray the "sinner's prayer" but when they hit difficulty in who they perceive Christ to be, they bail out with excuses that blame anyone but themselves. "God never did anything for me" mentality reveals they never really found repentance but simply tried out Christianity to see if it would help them in some way.

- They tried to align themselves with him for their own benefit.
- They served him for what he could give them.
- They are easily offended.

Matt 4: 16-17

16. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

B. In what are we 'rooted'?

Eph 3:16-18

*16. I pray that out of his glorious riches **he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being**, 17. so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love**, 18. may have power, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, 19. and to **know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you **may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God**.*

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.

Matt 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

D. Depending on God's Character

Pg. 81 One way the enemy attempts to draw us away from trusting God is by perverting our perception of God's character. He did this in the garden with Eve when He asked her, "has God indeed said, 'you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" He twisted God's commandment in order to attack and distort His character. God had said, "of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" Gen 2:16-17

The Serpent was insinuating to the woman, that God did not really care for her. He insinuated that God was keeping something back from her that was desirable. She was deceived into believing a lie about God's character.

The enemy has masterfully distorted the character of the Father by perverting our view of our earthly fathers. God says that, before Jesus returns, the hearts of the fathers will be returned to the children (Mal 4:6) His character or nature will be seen in his leaders, and it will be a catalyst for healing.

When you know God would never do anything to harm or destroy you, and whatever He does or does not do in your life is in your best interest, then you will give yourself freely to Him. You will gladly lay down your life for the master.

If you have given yourself totally to Jesus and are committed to His care, you cannot be offended because you are not your own.

If we walk in selfish love – expecting others to meet our expectations for love – then we will be offended when they don't respond to us as we desire. I set myself up for offense when I require certain behaviors and attitudes from those whom I love. The more I expect, the greater the potential for offense.

On a scale of 1 (very little) to 5 (very much, how would you rate each of the following statements in your own life. (Circle your answers)

1 2 3 4 5 I expect much of others.

1 2 3 4 5 I am easily disappointed.

1 2 3 4 5 I love conditionally.

1 2 3 4 5 I bless to be blessed.

Add together all the numbers you circles. If you scored over 10, you are positioning yourself for potential offenses in your life.

E. Ask God to replace your expectations with unconditional love for them

2 Cor. 10:4,5

4. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ

We must come to the place where we trust God, not our flesh, to protect us.

Check attitudes that indicate walls built

- Selective about relationships
- Less open and vulnerable to others
- Closed to those we fear will hurt us
- Restrained to admit those who owe us something
- Open only to those who we believe are on our side.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

Being rooted in God's Word and being illuminated by His Spirit will enable us to hear truth from God and from others without becoming offended.

1 Peter 2:4,5

4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy

priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

1 Peter 5:5

Be clothed with humility, for God resist the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”.

Love is the bottom line in our relationship with the Lord – not love of principles and teachings but love for the Person of Jesus Christ.

It’s not difficult to obey when you know the character and love of the one to whom you are submitting.

When you live in obedience to the will of God you will not fulfill the desires of men. As a result, you may suffer in the flesh, but you will prevail in the Spirit. Love always overcomes evil even if victory waits until the final battle is won.

The Bait of Satan can be purchased online or check for availability in the Book Nook in the Lobby area.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Proverbs & Psalms Chapter a Day

Use the Bible Study tool and a Daily Journal as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment: