

Reading: I Corinthians 9:27; I Timothy 4:16

Topic: 4 Spiritual Cancers That Destroy People

INTRODUCTION: We receive a new _____ after the new _____ but just as with our natural body we must take great care to prevent destructive spiritual disease from destroying our spiritual _____.

I. BITTERNESS:

A. *What Happens To Us:*

1. All of us at some point in our lives will be _____ by someone or something and the internal pain that is caused by the wound is _____. Pr. 18:14
2. We have no control over certain things that other _____ may do to us, or over certain circumstances that may _____ to us, so we must be aware that "hurts will happen." Jn. 16:33

B. *What Happens In Us:*

1. The internal wounds that we receive are _____ and painful, but we must use the power of _____ that He has given to us to allow the circumstances to make us _____ and not _____. Rom. 8:28
2. We must choose to allow the _____ of God's Spirit to flow in us to heal us of the hurt, and to help us to overcome any _____ that would try to take root in us. Rom. 15:13

C. *The Results:*

1. If bitterness is allowed to _____ in our lives, it produces a number of undesirable effects – turning our _____ on God, unforgiveness towards other _____, turning our _____ on truth, shutting people out of our _____, and even actual physical _____ in our bodies. Heb. 12:15
2. The best thing to do with bitterness is to _____ through it and let it go, turning the entire situation over to God and moving forward in our _____. Eph. 4:31

II. LACK OF SUBMISSION TO GOD GIVEN AUTHORITY:

A. *The Flow & Protection:*

1. God has divinely designed the system and _____ of authority in His work for the benefit, blessing and _____ of His people. 2 Cor. 10:8
2. Some people view the God given authority system as a _____ to their progress and advancement rather than understanding that it is for their _____ and protection. Heb. 13:17

B. *The Spirit of Unsubmission:*

1. When individuals walk out of the protection of God given authority, they not only _____ their own authority, but put themselves in a _____ of danger and destruction. I Tim. 1:19,20
2. When one becomes independent or has no one else to be accountable to, they become an open _____ for the adversary to devour, and to be deceived by the devil into _____ doctrine and behavior. (Saul)

C. *Safety:*

1. When we are in line with God's order of authority, we have the protection and _____ of the Lord upon our lives and in turn we also gain _____. Mt. 8:9

III. AN UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT:

A. *Good Beginnings:*

1. It is marvelous to watch how some very _____ people come to God and are tremendously changed by the power of the Gospel and the working of God's Spirit in their _____. I Cor. 6:9-11
2. It is exciting to observe the _____ that some individuals have for God and for His Word and they devour everything that is preached and _____ to them.

B. *Becoming A Know-It-All:*

1. It is sad and unfortunate to watch an individual go from being a _____ and teachable person to becoming a know-it-all that will no longer receive _____ or teaching from others. Gal. 5:7
2. The root of this type of behavior is _____, and it will lead an individual to become self-exalted and they will eventually self-destruct spiritually and sometimes be deceived into _____ doctrine. Pr. 16:18
I Tim. 3:6

C. *Keeping The Hunger:*

1. The remedy for avoiding an unteachable spirit is to maintain a _____ for God and for His Word, realizing that you can _____ until the day that you die. Ph. 3:13
2. The only way to keep _____ is to keep _____ and that means that you must keep your desire for more knowledge of God and His Word, which comes from studying it yourself and from hearing it _____ by others. Ph. 3:12

IV. COMPROMISE:

A. *The Foundation Principles:*

1. Once you have come to God, have learned His Word and _____ the truth, you establish a foundation of personal principles in your life that establish your direction and _____ in God. Mt. 7:24
2. Those fundamental principles will guide you in doctrine and the lifestyle that you will _____ daily in this world – at home, in school, on the _____, etc. Mt. 5:16

B. *The Desire To Please:*

1. Compromise is necessary in certain aspects of our lives such as in _____ and in family life, in the neighborhood, etc. but when it comes to the Word of God, we _____ not compromise on truth.
2. Compromise comes about out of a desire to _____ others and the desire to be _____ by others, but the Word of God and truth must not be compromised for the _____ of pleasing others.
3. Once one begins to compromise on Scriptural truths in order to _____ people, there is no stopping place as to what will happen to an individual in their _____ with God. Mark 15:15

C. *Stand Firm:*

1. The cure for compromise is to be full of the _____ of God, and to have the _____ to please God above the desire to be liked by people. Acts 5:29
2. When you stand for what is _____ and Scriptural, you will be blessed by God, even though some people may not like your stand, but truth never has to look behind to see who is following it. Acts 19:20

CONCLUSION: May we be wise and aware of the spiritual cancers that our adversary will _____ to put in us, so that we will not fall prey to his evil _____ to destroy us.