

SET FREE MINISTRIES

# FREEDOM *according to* JESUS



Session 3

## The Religious Spirit

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# 3 The Religious Spirit

## **Grab a Pen and Paper**

There's a lot to the religious spirit. It has many arms and it is nasty. You need a pen and paper to write down all those points that will jump out at you during this session. Very important ! Nobody needs to know what you're writing. At the end it's just you and the Lord that are going to deal with it. We are going to leave that whole list at the Cross and get totally freed up. When it comes to this religious spirit, you are either affected by it in some way, or you have taken on some of its characteristics. Most, have found themselves somewhere in the middle. So whatever the Holy Spirit shows you, write it down and lets trash this thing.

**To Start Session Read:** Ephesians 6:11-16 and 1 Peter 5:8

## Religious Fact Check

### **Fact 1 - The Kingdom of Heaven vs. The Religious Spirit**

Either we are exploring and expanding the Kingdom of Heaven, experiencing all kinds of kingdom benefits, or we are square dancing with that invisible force called the religious spirit. A distractive disruptive divisive and deceptive force created by the adversary, manipulated through our fears, our phobias, and our insecurities, where our reactions create a reality that is nothing close to the real deal.

His plan has always been to imprison us into who we think we are, or into who we have envision ourselves to be, — verses who we have been designed to be according to Jesus. What Jesus modeled to His disciples is something that we need to be going after. It's amazing how that Jesus model has sifted through our hands.

The adversary's plan is that we dwell in the crises and become none effective, when God designed us to be highly effective. The last thing he wants is for us to come to grips of who we really are according to Jesus.

When we tap into who we need to be, he knows that the Kingdom of God will follow in a big way, — just like it followed Jesus. And when the Father's Kingdom expands, — Satan's religious kingdom starts to fall apart.

The whole drive behind the religious spirit is to steer us into the false so that we end up walking in the counterfeit. His whole game is that he renders us powerless as he turns us into spectators with a gospel that he has seriously toned down.

## **Fact 2 - Deception, Distortion and Destruction**

It's amazing how vast, deep and ugly this thing is. Deception, distortion and destruction is what this religious spirit is all about as it parades itself as an instrument of light, — as it lures us into entertaining something that looks so close to the real deal.

The religious spirit always shows up when the great commandment to love one another is playing second fiddle to the great commission. It's when the commissioning to expand and build, has priority over love, — that is when you see the 'performance based religious spirit' starts to take root.

As it now protects, defends and fights for its cause, — the strongman now comes in with its mindsets as it now carves out one agenda after another. The Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus came with, — now has been cleverly tarp over it!

This spirit has been around for a few thousand years. It is sharp, it is intelligent, and it always knows what to say, what to do, and how to skirt around as it has perfected the art of manipulation, along with the ability to self-preserve.

For those that are caught up in this spirit, they usually find themselves playing checkers on the adversary's chessboard where the religious spirit is already 3 moves ahead. When you play by his rules you will always lose.

Playing by his rules are all the signs that you are completely off your game! Completely off, because you are totally unaware of the one behind the curtain who is pulling the strings in both your personal life, and in your corporate life.

### **Fact 3 - We Need to Enter into Our Freedoms**

We cannot allow the adversary to council and direct us anymore through our fears, our phobias and our stresses. We cannot allow him to direct us where he is able to continually misdirect us to where we always find ourselves back to where it all started. That whole cycle needs to be broken.

We need to saddle up with the freedoms that Jesus has for us, freedoms that are backed by the Holy Spirit and the angelic. Freedoms that rightfully belong to both you and I. According to Jesus, and according to our heavenly Fathers original design and His original intent, we were always meant to walk in freedom.

### **Fact 4 - Great Deception**

In a world full of deception, we don't have to go far to find that deception. But for most of us, what we don't see is the great deception. Deception on its own is when one party attempts to deceive the other party. It's like the left coming against the right. Great deception is on a whole different level, — it's when the one pulling the strings is using both the left and the right to create an even greater deception.

And that is exactly what is happening in Christendom and all around us globally. It's when both camps are involved in the deception, — leaving a middle ground that very few can discern out of.

So the running mates creating this 'great deception' are the demonic influences who cover the one side, while the religious spirit, who appear with their religious strongholds and mindsets cover the other side. This religious spirit is fueled by a witchcraft that counterfeits the Holy Spirit. A big reason for the massive falling away we had last season.

## **Fact 5 - Misplaced Authority**

The reasoning for the great deception is obviously to have ultimate control, but most importantly, hinder those who are destined to walk in a powerful gospel. Render them and misdirect them to engage with a misplaced authority, a misplaced identity and a misplaced ministry.

I say misplaced, — because we take a ministry into a place where the Fathers business was never there for us. Misplaced, because the true character for that ministry still needs to be carved out.

This whole redirect is to send us in a battlefield that we were never called into, or to send us into the battlefield prematurely.

Again, the religious spirit wants to direct us into the false and engage with the counterfeit. It's all about placement and timing. Being at the right place at the right time can only happen if we are led by the Holy Spirit. Not being led by the Holy Spirit will get us into all kinds of problems.

## **Fact 6 - Denominations and Religion**

Today, — religiousness in its ugly deceptive form, is a massive problem in our present world. We have thousands of denominations and hundreds of religions where a dozen of those religions actually control the world.

On top of all that, are the many watered down translations of the bible where some are actually missing chunks of biblical content while others have sections totally misinterpreting the actual word.

Many today have no clue of the religiousness that they may be entertaining. Many have no understanding on how deep and wide this thing really goes. Nor how destructive it can be.

## **Fact 7 - The False, The Counterfeit**

If you have been duped by the false. You are now entertaining the false. As you entertain the false you will now act like the false. And when the false hurts you, you will react like the false. Now reacting like the false, you have become part of the false.

When you engage with the counterfeit you will eventually walk and talk like the counterfeit. And when the counterfeit hurts you, you will react like the counterfeit. Now that you've reacted like the counterfeit, you are contributing to the counterfeit.

What most people don't know is that this religious spirit has been fine tuning its skills for over 2000 years and in the present times that we presently walk in, this spirit has an amazing success ratio as it continues to move forward with its destructive cycle going from one covert operation to the next. The one behind this spirit is very skillful in the art of war.

## **Fact 8 - The Demonic and The Religious Working Together**

It's amazing how the demonic and religious spirit work together. Make no mistake about it, — it is the demonic influences that send the religious spirit in motion. The demonic works in the shadows, and it's the demonic that moves all those powerful dark pieces in the background while the religious spirit, fueled by witchcraft, powerfully works in the forefront, creating all kinds of drama, as it brings those hidden pieces strategically to the forefront, — like in a chess game.

The two working together create massive distractions that have the ability to absolutely overwhelm anyone. And how destructive those distractions are in our personal walk depends on how much distortion we have allowed in our walk with the Lord, — and that distortion comes because we have somehow misplaced true discernment.

That distortion opens us up to all kinds of disruptions, not only for us personally, — but for those around us. It affects everyone, both personally and corporately.

Having been manipulated into the middle ground, the demonic and the religious now have all the intentions to squeeze us from all sides. These pressures are strategically designed to alter our identities, our character, and the way we function.

To distort us personally, and corporately, and to distort the Holy Spirit operating system within us. Distorting our callings and to fragmenting us as a people as he sends us off entertaining the false.

### **Fact 9 - The Religious Spirit Fragments, Separates and Isolates**

Like I said before the whole reasoning behind the religious spirit is to send us into the false so that we walk in a powerless counterfeit gospel as it tears us apart mentally, physically and spiritually. Then he uses us to go against our own! This thing has death all over it!

We make concessions as we now walk in our double mindedness because the answers we are looking for aren't showing up. Now we find ourselves engaging with stuff we thought we conquered long ago.

The demonic sets up the religious and the religiousness that comes out of that, — fragments and separates us sending us into some form of isolation, which is completely different than that quiet intimate place the Lord has for us. This isolation that the adversary has strategically designed, has become a personal prison for many. When duking it out, you think you are heading towards freedom when in reality, because of the religious grip; you are actually caught up in a endless spin cycle.

To break this cycle, — we need to look at the one who is pulling at all the strings behind the curtain, this same one who has activating his minions to create that demonic swirl that hovers around us. Minions that are specifically equipped for those targeted assignments.

### **Fact 10 - Demonically Weaponized**

This religious spirit has been demonically weaponized, and it plans to win its share of battles. And it plans to preserve the very ground it conquers, — at whatever cost.

The ultimate end game for the religious spirit is to have ultimate control and supreme authority over a gathering. It wants to steer the bride of Christ into such a dysfunctional mess, and give it a distorted government that is nothing close to what Jesus exemplified to His disciples.

This religious spirit loves a top down government where having influential authority, if not absolute authority; it can now perform with agendas, loaded with the academics. It loves to build, and then it loves to control. It loves its titles and loves attention, and when sitting somewhere in a leadership role it has little accountability, in some cases it has none. This snake is always working its way up some ladder to control as it builds a leadership wolf pack with those like-minded.

Jesus came with a model of government where we all serve each other, where we are truly taking care of the Fathers Business. Jesus came with a powerful kingdom, His Fathers kingdom. He came with a finished product. He even said, “ It is finished!” According to Jesus, it’s a done deal! But the religious spirit is always steering us to build something! It always wants to build something, no matter how big or small it may be!

## **So What Do We Need to Know Today!**

Whatever you are going through, — it’s not your fault. Most of us have been played, we have been squeezed, and we have been manipulated on so many levels.

The plan for this session is to expose the demonic behind the religious curtain that is pulling all those strings. The very influences that are pulling strings from both sides as he attempts to squeeze out the abundant life that God has intended for us. To expose the strongman, his strongholds, and his minions. To bring all that drama to an end so that by the end of this session, — we walk with greater clarity and greater freedom.



**So Here We Go!**

# The Religious Spirit

## **Pen and Paper**

That religious spirit that has been extremely busy for the past 500 years, disguising itself with a false humility and religious piety. And in most cases it's generational.

This religious spirit is very controlling, independent, and rebellious. It has learned the art of square dancing and blame shifting. This spirit comes with a cluster of characteristics that include self-exaltation, haughtiness, twisting of words, it comes with a level of arrogance, and it's argumentative, always creating some level of strife.

It is unyielding and unteachable. This spirit brings much destruction and like I said before, it is all tucked under a false humility as it tries to come across as a light convincing all, that what it is doing is all on the up and up. It is very self-righteous.

This religious spirit is sent to destroy you and to destroy me. To make us fall out of place on what God has truly called us into, and to hinder our prayer life and the reading of the word.

It has a problem with authority. It may look submissive but inside it is always criticizing. It is prideful, stubborn and harsh. But again it hides itself well, and when it bites, — you will know!

In many marriages, you see the religious spirit causing all kinds of separation and divorce as it tries to usurp and steer the marriage in a direction that was never meant to be.

When a couple is arguing, it will constantly twist words to make sure it has the advantage, — and it will always cover up that thing that needs to stay hidden.

Many times this spirit will mock as it divides, — the goal is to ultimately assume control.

The pride behind the religious spirit will leave a trail of hurts and pain everywhere it goes. It causes broken marriages, a drifting away from the faith, and a continuous stream of destruction, all in the name of religion.

It has a way of distorting the true Prophetic and the Spirit of Prophecy. In charismatic circles, it has ponied up with the leviathan spirit and the jezebel spirit. These two drama queens twist everything as it attempts to emasculate everyone.

Their strength comes when they weaken those around them. And that usually surfaces bigtime during those key life-changing discussions. Those ‘around the table discussions’ where it strategically weakens the core, be it in family, business, work place, or any other gathering.

The religious spirit continually dodges the presence of God and will always attempt to redirect us from entering into the Lords presence into something more performance based. It loves to be front and center and it loves to be right all the time. Again, all under the banner of false humility, and religious piety as it gently, and wickedly manipulates.

The characteristics of this religious spirit are divisive, as it tries to get many to take ownership of its characteristics as it attempts to blend its character with the true character that the Holy Spirit has given us, — those being love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## Hindrances from Walking Away

The hindrances that would stop a person from walking away from the spirit of religiousness are usually those ungodly soul ties, the blending of occultism, the blending of different belief systems, blending of generational beliefs, walking in fears and phobias, walking in unbelief, walking with familiar spirits, Walking in unforgiveness, in jealousy, with rejection and shame. These need to be identified and brought to the cross.

The spirit of religiousness fuels itself and shields itself with intellectualism, with manipulation and positioning, with perfection, with a self centeredness, with being tough-hearted, with an arrogance that's covered up as indignation, with a disobedience through self righteousness, through strife and friction saying its all part of the process, through boasting calling it wisdom and understanding, through dominating as a form of leadership, through the twisting of words as a form of negotiating, through stubbornness as a form of being grounded, never willing to apologize because its always trying to make a point, and lacking tolerance as it presses forward self righteously.

This thing is vicious and it twists everything, but it's all tucked under a false humility and a distorted religiousness. It either comes across very convincing or it comes out as a bully. In most cases it'll start out piously, and when things aren't going its way, — the bully comes out.

## **The Effects of the Religious Spirit**

1. Feelings of BEING ACCUSED or THREATENED, specifically in regards to your IDENTITY.
2. PANIC ATTACKS or ANXIETY caused by feeling trapped.
3. Desire to RUN FROM THE BATTLE.
4. Feelings of QUITTING - DEPRESSION – FATIGUE and WEARINESS, CONFUSION, DOUBT
5. SICKNESS or INFIRMITIES that distract us and wear us down.
6. Desire to ISOLATE.
7. PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL heaviness.
8. DEMONIC dreams
9. Feeling OUT OF CONTROL or CONTROLLED having loss of choice.

# Lay that List at the Cross

In a moment, I'm going to ask you to stand and pray to Jesus. If you want to be set free and walk in the freedoms that have been rightfully given to you, then you need to go to the one who sets people free! Now when you have said the prayer, the last thing you say is "Amen".

No more prayer, and no speaking in tongues. I just want you to exhale, but take a deep breath first, and then just breathe out. Again, if you speak in tongues, just hold back from speaking in tongues and just wait upon on the Holy Spirit.

Wait upon the Lord after you breathe out. Let Holy Spirit come upon you and when He does, just let Him minister to you, and then go for it! Again, after the prayer, take a deep breath and just exhale!

After the group prayer, I will pray a prayer over you. Continue to engage with the Holy Spirit. Let Him come upon you!

## **Group Prayer, — Repeat After Me**

Jesus,

I renounce every opening, known or unknown, that I have given to the spirit of religion.

I renounce every spirit of religion or religious spirit, and every work of darkness connected with it.

I renounce every act of rebellion that reinforced the spirit of religion.

I renounce all legalism, traditions and religious formulas, and any hardness of heart to the things of God that I have walked in.

I renounce all deception and self-deception, hypocrisy, pride, compromises of attitude, arrogance and self-righteousness, and the twisting of words.

I renounce all comparisons, judgments, and criticisms that I have engaged in. I renounce all fears that allowed the religious spirit into my life.

Lord, — I repent, for walking in the counterfeit, and walking in the spirit of manipulation. I repent for being double minded.

Lord, — break off any strongholds in my mind. Break off any mindsets that may have locked themselves in my mind. I pray for clarity of mind and clarity of heart.

Lord, — I pray for restoration and healing in all those areas where the religious spirit has wounded me.

And where I have attended to mans agenda, — Lord I pray that from this day forward, that I will attend to the Fathers business only. Holy Spirit guide me, that from this day forward, I will tend to the Fathers business only!

In the name of Jesus, — I now pray that every legal right, known or unknown, of the spirit of religion that has gripped my life be broken off me now.

Forgive me Jesus, where I have engaged, with the religious spirit!

Note: *Now just take a deep breath and just exhale!  
Nothing else! Just exhale and let the Holy Spirit  
come upon you.*

## **Instructors Prayer Over the Group**

Holy Spirit come and fill these ones here now! May the breath of the Lord come upon them now. Forgive them where they have walked in the false, where they have walked in the counterfeit.

Break off those religious strongholds and mindsets that have plagued them. I pray that all religious arms that have attached themselves to these ones here would be severed.

All those religious arms and all those religious tentacles that have attached themselves to their minds, to their hearts and to their physical beings be severed now! Sever them now in Jesus name!

Where a soul tie was generated through the religious spirit, Jesus I pray that that would be severed now.

Where that generational religious spirit was transferred through the bloodline, Jesus I pray that that would be severed now.

Restore to them all that the religious spirit has stolen.

Lord I ask right now that you would breath on them now

I ask for the fresh breath of the Lord to come upon these ones here now in Jesus name!

Let every cell and molecule of his or her bodies be filled with your presence Holy Spirit.

May they from this day forward walk in tremendous freedom.

May they from this day forward truly tend to the Fathers business only!

*Once again breathe and exhale!*