

## ***God's Calling Requirements Part 18***

### ***How to Fight Idols From Inside the Church***

The Lord in His word taught his people and teaching us today how to avoid living in idolatry. The threat of idol worship can be coming from outside the church, but In ***Deuteronomy 13*** there are good outline of how to avoid idolatry rising from inside the church. Devil can use influences to introduce idol worship and false teaching and wrong practices to inject its demons inside the church. Devil can use the influence of false prophets and prophecies, the influence of friendships and relationships, and the influence of numbers. But in all these circumstances the temptations should be resisted, dealt with and cut off.

***1- The influence of false prophets and false prophecies: “1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. 5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.” (Deuteronomy 13:1-5 KJV)***

In this situation God will allow a false prophet or a false teacher who say or prophecy or teach certain thing and what he says or teach God will allow it to pass and come true, but after it is come to pass, the same person will lead you to go and do something that contradict the Word of God and the will of God. Then here the Lord wants you not to go and agree with what this person is saying to you. The false prophets can their work and teaching accompanied by miracles in order to deceive you, ***“9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie.” (2Thessalonians 2:9)*** You may ask and say, *‘Then why God allow what that person says to come true?’* God allow it to happen and to come true and that you will receive material blessing, and in this way God is testing you to see whether you are going to follow God's word that opposes the false prophets or you will follow the false prophets whom their teaching gives you material blessings. Many they preach prosperity and will lead you to certain ways of life to get material things and God allow it to happen in order to see your obedience; if you are after his Word or after the material blessing only. ***3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.*** The false teachers God allowing to come across your life and uses them as a test for you to reprove you. The word of God teaches against worldliness and might be leading you into suffering for Christ in obedience to His will and in conformity to His word and you should accept. Therefore, ***4 It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.*** The false teachers who promise you worldly prosperity will ultimately pull you away from God, and you find yourself moving away from serving the Lord. Therefore God wants you to resist and reject those false teachers because their teaching is directing you to

rebel against the Lord. Paul said to the Galatians, ***“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8)***

Jesus Christ when he declared that He will suffer and die in Jerusalem, ***“22Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Newer, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” (Matthew 16:22)*** Peter here spoke something sympathizing with Christ, but what he said is false teaching and Satanic in nature and influence, and that is rebelliousness toward God, therefore, ***“23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” (Matthew 16:23)*** False teachers are liars and wolves and they say to you certain things that will take you away from the will of God by leading you away from suffering and enticing you with material things. With such kind of teaching you will be ending in rebelliousness toward God.

The false prophet or the dreamer should be put to death as punishment for his sin and also that his teaching will not be spread to others. You need to reject the false teachers and the false prophets and you need to cut your communication with them. I don't advice you to listen to sermons and preaching to people that you don't know their lives and their commitment to the Lord. Many who teach so nice and beautiful and appear on TV or the satellite channels, but you don't know their lives therefore you cannot rely on what they are saying. False teachers are also good in hiding their shortcomings and disobedience to the Lord. The true prophets and teachers are those who care for you spiritually and declare to you the whole will of God.

***2- The influence of friendships and relationships: “6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; 7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; 8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: 9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.” (Deuteronomy 13:6-11 KJV)***

***“6 If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, 7 gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), 8 do not yield to them or listen to them. Show them no pity. Do not spare them or shield them. 9 You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people. 10 Stone them to death, because they tried to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 11 Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no one among you will do such an evil thing again.” (Deuteronomy 13:6-11 NIV)***

In this setting the infection of idolatry will come from those that are near and dear to us; those whom we are less suspect. The enticement here is supposed to come from a brother or child

that are near by nature, from a wife or friend that are near by choice, and are to us as our own souls, **6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying , Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known , thou, nor thy fathers;** You are therefore accountable to stand firm against a bad proposal. Satan tempted Adam by Eve and Christ by Peter. The temptation or the sin is supposed to be private: he will *entice thee secretly*. The devil will entice you to do the things that we do not teach or against of what we taught you.

**“11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Ephesians 5:11)** It is our duty to prefer God and His word before friend or best friends, relationship and blood relatives. Whoever they are let them be cursed because they intended to thrust you away from God, **10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die ; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.** You should still be faithful to God and not to them. **8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare , neither shalt thou conceal him:** You should not consent with them, nor respond to them. You should not protect them or conceal them. You should not pity them nor spare them the judgment or the justice of God. **9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death , and afterwards the hand of all the people.** You should be the first one to rebuke your friend or your wife, son or daughter. Do not expect someone else to do it. According to the word of God, you should be the first one to apply this principle of God’s Word on those who are your friends or relatives, whether you need to correct, rebuke or expel. There is good effect of this necessary execution, **11 And all Israel shall hear , and fear , and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.** Others will hear the good work that you did and will take warning. Others will hear about your good work in not consenting or compromise with your very close relationship and they will take courage to do the same.

**3- The influence of number:** **“12 If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying , 13 Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying , Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known ; 14 Then shalt thou enquire , and make search , and ask diligently ; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain , that such abomination is wrought among you; 15 Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly , and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword. 16 And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the LORD thy God: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again . 17 And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers; 18 When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.” (Deuteronomy 13:12-18 KJV)**

**“12 If you hear it said about one of the towns the LORD your God is giving you to live in 13 that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods you have not known), 14 then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this**

**detestable thing has been done among you, 15 you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. You must destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock. 16 You are to gather all the plunder of the town into the middle of the public square and completely burn the town and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. That town is to remain a ruin forever, never to be rebuilt, 17 and none of the condemned things are to be found in your hands. Then the LORD will turn from his fierce anger, will show you mercy, and will have compassion on you. He will increase your numbers, as he promised on oath to your ancestors— 18 because you obey the LORD your God by keeping all his commands that I am giving you today and doing what is right in his eyes.” (Deuteronomy 13: 12-18 NIV)**

Here is speak about cities who are part of Israel, but they got corrupted and went away from Israel under the influence of certain troublemakers of the sons of Belial, **“15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial ? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (2Corinthians 6:15-16)** The application for that today in the life of the church that there might be some congregations of the church get infected and influenced by certain people who introduced strange teaching or evil practices that are demonic and against God’s word. The enticement that the church is facing today, that when this happen, if the church would take an action, then there is a good number of people that might be got separated from the church. But if the church will keep silent, the infection and the corruption will extend further to others and beside that, the truth will be hidden and will not be seen if the church kept calm about it. Therefore the Whole church should get involved to judge these congregations, who are part of the church, **“What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?” (1Corinthians 5:12)** We need to examine well and probe and investigate what is going on, **14 Then shalt thou enquire , and make search , and ask diligently ; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain , that such abomination is wrought among you; 14 then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you,** before we take any action. The Lord before He judged Sodom and Gomorrah He investigate before He will take action, **“20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” (Genesis 18:20-21)**

Once we are sure, then we need to take certain actions. First we will try to take out those who are influencing and causing corruption and infecting that particular congregation with demons, **“A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” (Galatians 5:9)** Like what the Israelites did in asking the tribe of Benjamin to hand over to them those sons of Belial who rape the Levites concubines, **“12 And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness is this that is done among you? 13 Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel.” (Judges 20:12-13)** If that is not possible then we need to find out how to save as much as we can the righteous people who are still among them, and if that not possible then we should be ready to put out that congregation out of the church and cut all relationship with them. **15 you must certainly put to the sword all**

***who live in that town. You must destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock.*** Such kind of action is standing with God against the wickedness that is infecting His church and His people. The influence of number should not entice us to compromise with sin and wrong doing. Neither we should be enticed that we might be losing certain income, finances, talents or people. ***16 You are to gather all the plunder of the town into the middle of the public square and completely burn the town and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. That town is to remain a ruin forever, never to be rebuilt.*** Church should not act like Achan who got the accursed things from the field, ***17 and none of the condemned things are to be found in your hands. Then the LORD will turn from his fierce anger, will show you mercy, and will have compassion on you. He will increase your numbers, as he promised on oath to your ancestors—*** The church who obey God in such a way will turn away the Lord from his fierce anger, and will receive mercy and shown compassion from Him, and God Himself will increase the church population number, ***18 because you obey the LORD your God by keeping all his commands that I am giving you today and doing what is right in his eyes.”***

But when the church come across wickedness and idolatry and do nothing about it, then the Lord himself will deal with it and destroy it using non-believers. The Lord destroyed idolatrous Samaria using the Assyrians and He destroyed the Idolatrous Jerusalem using the Babylonians. ***“21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. 22 Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? Are we stronger than he?” (1Corinthians 10:21-22)***

***My dear and beloved:*** Serving the Lord is a journey and not a trip, is a battle and not a picnic, ***“12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.” (2Timothy 1:12)*** Therefore, ***“13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” (2Timothy 1:13-14)*** As you agree to pray.

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