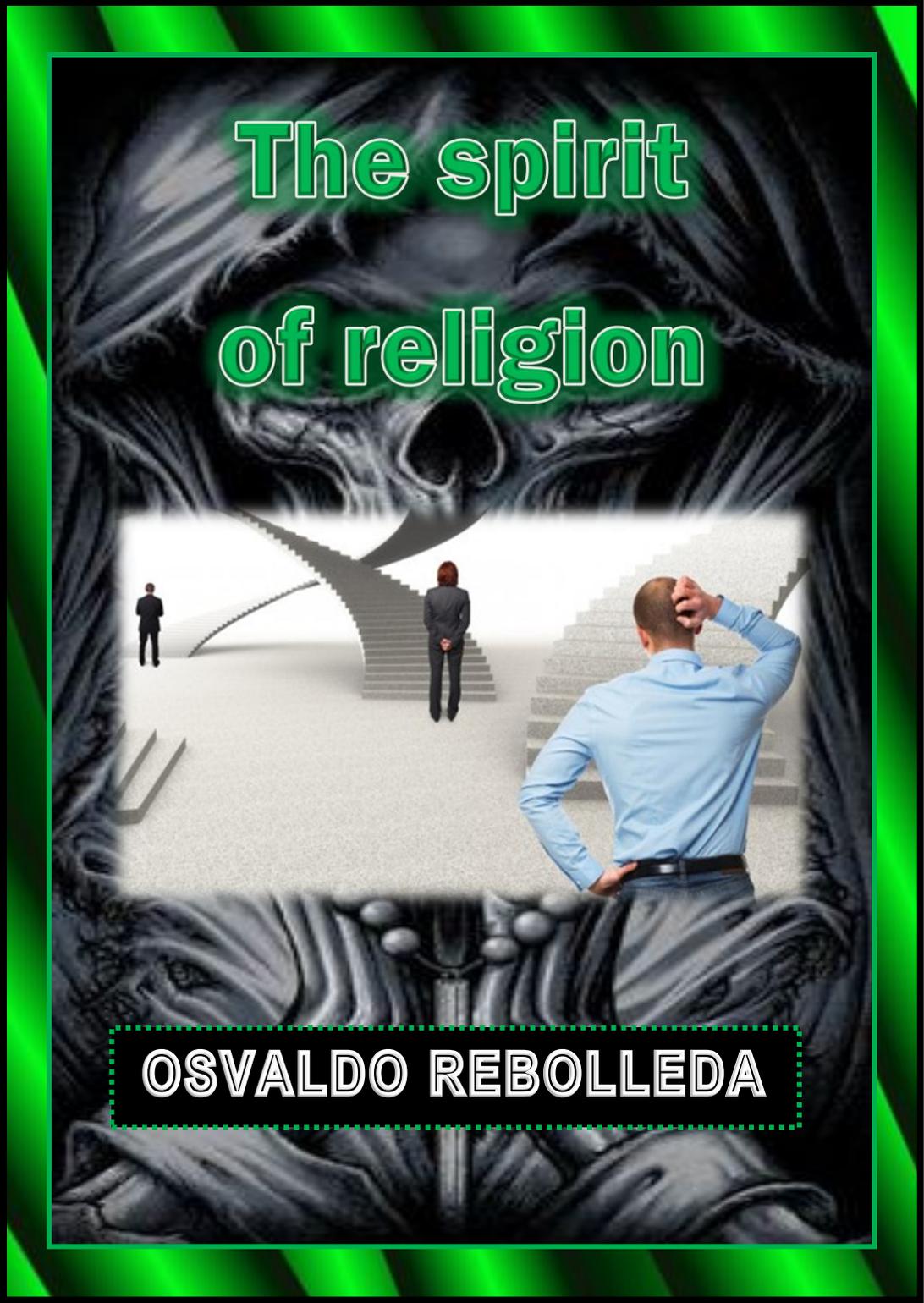


The spirit of religion



OSVALDO REBOLLEDA

The spirit Of religion



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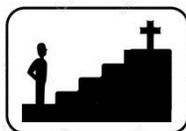
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Introducción

“Religious misery is, at the same time, the expression of real misery and protest against real misery. Religion is the sigh of the tormented creature, the soul of a heartless world, and it is also the spirit of spiritless situations. Religion is people's opium. To renounce religion as the illusory bliss of the people is to demand a true bliss for it. To demand the renunciation of the illusions corresponding to your present state is to demand the renunciation of a situation that needs illusions. Therefore, the critique of religion is in germ, the criticism of this valley of tears, surrounded by a halo of religiosity”

Karl Marx was a German philosopher of Jewish origin born in the Kingdom of Prussia in 1818. His work covered the fields of philosophy, politics, history, economics and sociology. He is considered one of the most influential intellectuals of the last centuries. The famous phrase "Religion is the opium of the people" is found in a part of the writing where Marx exposes his ideas about religion as a practice that manifests not only the real misery of human life, but a form of protest against this , as if religion, in a certain sense, rested precisely on the misery of the world and the reality that torments the human soul.

You may or may not agree with Marx's ideas, in fact I do not, but we cannot help considering that we are facing one of the most influential thinkers of recent times, so I have considered that taking your thought is opening the Heard, just to know what the one who has not been reborn in Christ says of religion.

It is curious that being a pastor, not only take the phrase of a philosopher like Marx, but also can coincide in the point of perversion that religion has in the world. He, like many other thinkers of this century, thinks that societies have a need for spiritual life that gives meaning to the suffering life they lead. They say that people need their steps to be taken, so as not to take responsibility for their condition. They say that people need to be made to believe that suffering in this world is irremediable and temporary, and that they must resist it because their lives of work and shortcomings will be rewarded in the promise of eternal life in Paradise. They consider that people of good, have the internal need to curb their bad desires, before the unlimited proposals of this world, so they prefer a regulation that regulates their instincts, beyond their desires. And let me tell you that what you believe is not so crazy, because that's the religion.

When these thinkers draw these conclusions, they base their analysis on the many religions in the world, as well as their practices and beliefs. Of course, we as Christians would say that all the religions of the world are based on lies and are false beliefs, idolatry and deceptions, but perhaps Christianity is not considered another religion?

Well, that is the first thing we must define, since the Lord Jesus Christ did not come to this world to establish a new religion, but to establish his Kingdom and the new covenant in which we live, it is not based on doing, but on Being with Christ. Curiously, we ourselves have some rather perverse statistics in which we qualify alongside other religions. But nothing is further from the truth, because life with Christ should not be part of a numerical statistic alongside other religions, simply because we are not.

I could only say that there are many religions in the world, but none is true, since the truth is not ideas or beliefs, but a person called Jesus Christ (**St. John 14: 6**) but millions of people in the world live under the influence of unclean spirits of false religion.

By presenting himself as an "angel of light," Satan the devil has lost millions of people to follow his teachings instead of those of God (**2 Corinthians 11:14**). The apostle John pointed out that Satan's influence has extended to the

point that the entire world lies in the power of the evil one (**1 John 5:19**). John knew that the devil was deceiving the whole world (**Revelation 12: 9**).

Satan has promoted religious systems that appear to have solutions for people but instead of contributing to solving the problems of mankind, such religiosity becomes, in reality, the biggest problem.

The essence of the deception is that the victim is not aware of him. The apostle Paul gave an example by saying: that the things that nations or Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God (**1 Corinthians 10:20**). Such people would probably be shocked if they knew that they worship demons, for they believe they worship a good deity, or good gods; however, they have been deceived by spiritual forces of evil that operate from heavenly places and support Satan in his efforts to mislead mankind (**Ephesians 6:12**).

False religions are the cause of humanity's great problems. However, God intends to end all false religion within a very short time (**Revelation 17:16, 17; 18:21**)

*“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying: Come out of it, my people, so that you are not partakers of their sins,
neither receive part of their plagues;
because their sins have reached heaven,*

and God has remembered his evil”

Revelation 18: 4-5

Christians see this world problem very clearly, because we know how the deceit of the evil one works, however, although we have the ability to see the massive poisoning produced by false religions, we do not detect the small drops of the same poison, which seep in our congregations

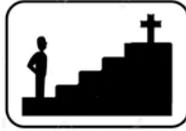
It is easy to detect that people who do not use the Word of God as a lamp for their feet, will walk on death roads and it is easy to express an opinion when we see a person prostrated before an idol, but what happens when religiosity gets into our congregations? What happens when there are supposed unborn children who only practice empty liturgies? What happens when religiosity or legalism leaks into our doctrines? What happens when we do meetings without presence, songs without adoration or repeated prayers of memory? What should we think of those who consider the Bible as a religious regulation and do not contemplate life? Is it not that we also get into the Church the same spirit of the world? Is it not that if religion is the opium of the people, it may be causing the same effect on God's people?

The truth, my beloved reader, is that I wish to invite you to reflect and unmask the spirit of religion that I have

seen operating in the church of our day. I say this with sadness, considering the many congregations I visit every year and evaluating the many brothers who fall under the deception of a supposed life ruled by the Holy Spirit, which however is nothing more than a life ruled by the spirit of religion.

Read each page in prayer, in full communion with the Holy Spirit and allowing the Lord to show you if in any area of your life, you may notice an operation of the spirit of religion.

Remember that it is very subtle and deceiving and of course very dangerous, since it was the same spirit that designed and executed the plan to kill Jesus Christ. It is the same spirit that laid the foundations and developed of Roman Catholicism and is the same spirit that imitates true spiritual life and gets into our congregations to curb the potential of the Church.



Chapter One

Defining the spirit Religious

The spirit of religion is an agent of Satan assigned to infiltrate with the appearance of mercy, seeking to corrupt the principles of the Kingdom by establishing ideas, forms, rituals and human structures, preventing the true changes that the Lord proposes and maintaining the status quo using religious deceptions, manipulation, intimidation and threat.

Statu quo: It is a Latin phrase, which is translated as "*state of the present moment*", which refers to the global state of an issue at a given time.

The spirit of religion disguises itself and infiltrates the church: It is a perverse spirit and one of the most

dangerous when it comes to aborting Divine plans. What makes it so perverse and dangerous is its appearance of piety, its disguise as spiritual, correct, consecrated and even passionate defender of the truth, but in reality, it is quite the opposite. A fundamental characteristic operates in the spirit of religion and is hypocrisy. It is that spirit that Jesus had to face on so many occasions.

Religiosity:

- 1) Set of beliefs or dogmas about divinity or a religion.
- 2) Set of moral norms to direct individual and social behavior and ritual practices, mainly prayer and sacrifice.
- 3) Profession and observance of a religious doctrine.
- 4) Obligation of conscience, fulfillment of a duty.
- 5) Having the appearance of mercy, using tones of voice that give the appearance of "saint", are double-faced.
- 6) Use the Bible to discredit others.

Religion (DRAE): It is a system of human activity composed of beliefs and practices about what is considered as divine or sacred, both personal and collective, existential, moral and spiritual.

Religion: (from Latin *religare* or *re-legere*) has been and is a matter of controversy among specialists.

The first interpretation related to the cult and the word religion is that of **Cicero** which offers the following etymology: «Those who are interested in all things related to worship, take them carefully and as they reread them, they are called« religious »from of rereading ».

The other etymology proposed by **Lactantius** derives the word «religion» from the Latin verb *religare*: «Forced by a bond of mercy to God we are" religious ", from which the same term" religion "has its origin, not - as was proposed by Cicero— from “rereading” ». This second sense highlights the dependency relationship that »relieves« man with powers and that leads him to pay them acts of worship.

The times the word religion is mentioned in the Bible:

Acts 17:22 Paul told the people of Athens, who worshiped many gods, he said: "*Athenian men, in everything I observe that you are very religious ...*"

Acts 25:19 In the Pharisees' complaint about Paul's supposed religion saying "*that they had certain questions about his religion against him ...*"

Acts 26:5-6 Paul before King Agrippa defending himself against his persecutors saying that they *“know that I from the beginning, if they want to testify to it, according to the most rigorous sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee. And now, for the hope of God's promise to our parents, I am called to trial...”* In other words, Paul was saying: “They persecute me because they know I was a religious before, but not now, I only have hope in a promise...”

But: What happens when James talks about religion in his letter? James 1:22-27

In this passage James expresses the importance of putting the Word to work, but this passage is in the middle of the concept of not only being a hearer, but also a maker of the Word and the passage of chapter two, where he expresses that faith without works is dead, that's where James mentions religion, alerting his readers.

I invite you to read this passage from **James 1:22-27** in the simple language version.

“Obey the message of God! If you only listen to it and do not obey it, you deceive yourself and the same thing will happen to you who looks in a mirror: as soon as you leave, you forget how it was. On the contrary, if you pay your full attention to the Word of God and always obey it, you will be happy in everything you do.”

Because the Word of God is perfect and frees you from sin.

Who thinks he is very holy and does not take care of his words, deceives himself? It's no use so much religiosity.

To believe in God the Father is to please him and to do good, to help widows and orphans when they suffer, and not to be overcome by the evil of the world.”

Simple Language version

I think it is very clear that James was not inviting anyone to practice a religion, but telling those who had religious attitudes, that it would be better before their faith, to live what they believe, without appearances, but with facts that manifest true life of Christ.

Jesus reminded a memorable phrase of Hosea to the Pharisees who criticized his visit to publicans and sinners: *"I want mercy and not sacrifices"* (Matthew 9:13). The religious made animal sacrifices but did not know the love of God or practice mercy. That is why we can say that the religious has serious conflicts with his heart and not with his works. But we already know that works without a heart are nothing before God.

Cain was a person who acted under the influence of a religious spirit. Cain prepared an offering for God, but it was worthless, because it was not the kind of offering that

God was willing to accept. His offering was rather a religious rite, than an act of faith and love for God. Instead, Abel was counted as fair, because God accepted his offering. Abel presented an offering to God, moved by faith. Cain's heart was not right before God, so he hated his brother because God had accepted him. That's how he was filled with rage and hate, got up against his brother and ended up killing him. (**Genesis 4**)

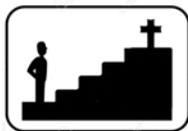
The spirit of Cain is the type of spirit that Satan uses to go against the righteous man. This type of religious spirit is an open door to demonic influence. This religious spirit is full of hate, revenge and thirst for blood. He is resentful, does not forgive, and does not know what mercy is.

The Church is in the world in the role of Christ himself, because the Church is not an institution, it is not a denomination, nor a meeting room, the Church is the body of Christ and the living body of someone, it is the expression of That someone's life.

The Incarnate Christ brought God to men. The crucified Christ fulfilled the condemnation of sinners. The Risen Christ produced a new, holy and eternal man. The ascended Christ, brought the new man to God and left a living and eternal path open to the Father and the God imparted introduced Christ to men and immersed men in Christ.

The new life in Christ received by believers is the new life that expresses love, peace, patience, joy, trust, meekness, gentleness and true faith. It's the life the world needs to be expressed. It is the life that produces and not those that produce life. True Christianity is what we are, not what we do. Then what we do is a result of who we are and never the other way around. The religious, for his part, does, does and never achieves results in his being, that is why he becomes so frustrated and angry.

A religious spirit is a demonic force that influences people to act devoutly, sanctimoniously or super-spiritual. The religious spirit has a clearly established agenda: to hinder the way of the Lord's work.



Chapter two

The beam in the eye

The spirit of religion is a persistent enemy of the Kingdom. Jesus came to establish a Kingdom, not a "religion" (**Luke 4:43**). When we receive Christ, He frees us from the power of darkness and transfers us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son. (**Colossians 1:13**) We don't change religion, we change government. Before we received the life of Christ, we were ruled by the prince of this world (**1 John 5:19**), though we sought to believe that we ruled ourselves, but from Christ we sought to live under the perfect will of the Father by the light of the Spirit and the Word.

Christ came to recover the original design of Genesis, to grow, multiply and lord over all that created. Adam could not fulfill his purpose and Christ came as the second Adam, to reconcile with him all things. (**Colossians 1:20**)

The Gospel of the Kingdom positions us as children of a King who, in addition to His empowering Grace, prepares us to reign in the jurisdiction that He has assigned us, in ourselves, in our family, in our work and business, in our studies and professions, in our neighborhood, our city, and our nation, believing that the whole world, every last thing on earth will be bent upon His power.

The Kingdom is about the people who have understood our position as children of the King, we will be people layers of impacting our environment, for the kind of life we carry.

The word Kingdom is the word "Basileia" meaning government, dominion. The kingdom of heaven is then the Divine government.

 ; **What is the Kingdom in us?**

“For the kingdom of God is not food or drink, but justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”.

Romans 14:17

 Justice

 Peace

 Joy in the Holy Spirit

The spirit of religion does not allow to judge correctly, because its justice is not based on revealed truth. His justice is darkness; therefore, it never produces peace and because it does not produce peace, it never enjoys true joy. I always say it's easy to recognize a religious person, because he/she usually has a bitter face. The person says that they are free and blessed, yet they can never prove it with happiness.

When there is no justice there is no peace and when there is no peace, it is impossible for true joy to manifest. That's why it's so important to be born again, because that's what it allows us to see. Jesus told Nicodemus that if he was not born again, he would not be able to see the Kingdom. **(St. John 3:3)** Nicodemus was a master of the law, supposed to have a mastery in judging righteously, yet Jesus told him that he should be born again, because Nicodemus was only a religious.

“And he said unto them a parable, can a blind man lead another blind man? Won't they both fall into the hole?”

Luke 6:39

In our day we see multitudes of people guided by spiritual blind people, there are multitudes of parents-led families who do not recognize God's government over their lives, nor seek their will, therefore they are guiding their children to a life of darkness and Doom.

Today nations for the most part are ruled by politicians in darkness. In some cases, with good intentions, but still, they are blind and guide the blind far from God's will. I ask: What would become of our nations if their rulers honored God and sought His will? What would become of each family if their parents loved God and honored His commandments? Wouldn't we have a better world?

When we look at today's world, we only see darkness and more darkness. We see a man who is remote from God and lacking judgment, so we are hungry, countless wars, family violence, sexual perversions, and all sorts of sins that demonstrate the need for the Church to realize her task of manifesting the Kingdom of God.

If the Church allows a little darkness in her, she will not be able to rule with good judgment, so the enemy seeks to obscure the understanding of the saints, polluting with the less detectable poison, religiosity.

" Don't judge, so you won't be judged. For by the judgment with which ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with the measure with which you measure, it shall be measured unto you. And why do you look at the straw in your brother's eye, and don't you miss the beam in your own eye? Or how will you say to your brother: Let me take the straw out of your eye, and behold the beam in your eye? Hypocrite! take the beam out of

*your own eye first, and then you'll see well to pull the
straw out of your brother's eye."*

Matthew 7:1-5

Many misuse this text to condemn all forms of judgment; they say that we should never criticize or judge others, they only bring it to the plane of gossip or murmuring, but in reality, this text does not seek to teach such a thing.

The text seeks to warn that no one judges with a beam in the eye, because if they do so, they will be judged in the same way. I mean, bad judgment, it only produces condemnation. Measuring with a false measure, it can get us into trouble, right?

Jesus did not seek to forbid someone to remove the straw in someone's eye from someone who is unable to see properly because of it. That would be cruel! Imagine if a person asks you for help because he/she have a little trash in their eye, which hurts and prevents them from seeing...Would you refuse to take it off? Do you really consider that Jesus was ordering you not to help someone with this?

No, Jesus was not saying that they should not help whom they could not see, but that they should not judge him, because if someone acted wrong it was because he did not see. However, he also taught them that they could not

judge righteously and not help someone to see well. Jesus was confronting them to first recognize and resolve their condition, which He no doubt described as worse to theirs. Since he says they had a straw in his eye and those they thought they saw, they sadly had a beam.

If the church is in charge of removing the straw in the eye of all those who cannot see. You should not judge them as the religious do, but help them with love, judging righteously. For which you should first try to remove the beam from your own eye. Which I think has been religion.

If my beloved reader, I truly believe that the beam or branch we have had in the Church, has been religion, just like the Pharisees who judged Jesus as if he were the son of the devil, when in fact he was the son of God. This ruling is unbelievable, considering they thought they saw.

Saul himself persecuted Christians, believing that he was doing a service to God, yet he was kicking the Lord himself. It is very serious considering that he knew the scriptures. Truth?

Such is the spirit of religion, he thinks he knows, because he believes he sees and that is his greatest sin. When a supposed brother is filled with biblical knowledge and begins to opine and judge other people's behaviors, he is on the verge of falling under the clutches of the spirit of religion. When it begins to be believed just by its liturgical

acts or good deeds of life and not for the righteousness of Christ, something begins to take shape within and is the blinding dominion of this unclean spirit.

I want to make it clear that in today's church, not everything is wrong, nor do I try to imply that it is full of religious. That is not true, the Church is precious and perfect, the Lord is in control of everything, because He is the head. I'm just emphasizing the perverse spirit that has worked forever on some ministers or brothers: the spirit of religion.

We do not fight against blood and flesh, so I am not hinting at a perverse action of some brothers, I am clearly expressing that many people within the church are victims of this unclean spirit. I even believe that this spirit has exceeded its operation to a few people and has affected some denominations, including some ministerial platforms.

I believe that the Church must function from the light and the revelation of it, in order to walk in the perfect and divine will of the Lord. I believe the church is the only one that can bring justice to a world full of injustice. She is the only one who can produce light in a world full of darkness. That is why I believe that the Lord was not saying that we should not judge, but that we should do it with just judgment, without beams in the eye.

" Judge not according to appearances,

but judge with fair judgment''

John 7:24

If we are to judge, first of all, we must have a correct attitude toward our own sins and injustices. We must be aware of grace, because grace is the antidote to the poison of religiosity. If we succeed in a state of grace, we will never fall under the bonds of religiosity. Because the graceful knows perfectly well that it is not for his righteousness that he deserves, but for the righteousness of Christ and that nothing he can do, know or say, makes him capable of judging as sufficient.

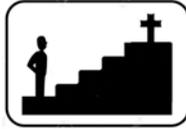
A brother to whom grace has been revealed is someone whom the Lord has taken the beam from so that he can see his condition and conscious of it, receive the life of Jesus Christ. Someone like that, he will never judge others by his wickedness, he will simply drop the stone from his hand. Such is the precious church of the Lord.

*“For from his fulness we all take,
and grace over grace.*

*For the law through Moses was given, but grace and truth
came through Jesus Christ.*

*No one ever saw God; the only begotten Son, who is in the
Father's will, He has made known to him”.*

John 1:16-18



Chapter Three

Religion Kills Revelation

“The spirit of religion the first thing he seeks is to kill revelation, because a people without revelation will never be able to manifest the Kingdom”

The most common misinterpretation of Christianity is that it is only one more religion, as is Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Mormonism, etc. Sadly, many who are supposed to be Christians practice it as if it were a religion. For many, Christianity is but a set of rules and rituals that a person has to observe in obedience in order to bear good testimony, obtain divine favor, and go to heaven after death.

That's not true Christianity. True Christianity is justification for grace received through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior of our lives. It is to be cleansed by His

precious blood, it is to die on the cross when He died and to be resurrected with Him for new life. It is to turn ad well of the Holy Spirit and to be guided by Him to all truth and justice, according to the Word of truth and the perfect will of the Father.

The true life of our faith is in who we are, not what we do. I mean, what we do is the result of who we are and never the other way around. We do not behave well to be holy; we are saints for this reason we live in holiness. We do not do works of righteousness to be righteous, we are justified in Christ, for which we live in righteousness.

True Christianity is life and is much deeper than the concept that some manage by saying: "Christianity is not religion, it is relationship with God" Well, I think it is not relationship either, but communion, since the relationship is superficial and two , while true communion means that two can be one.

“But he who joins the Lord, a spirit is with Him”

1 Corinthians 6:17

It is in this communion that the Lord bestows upon us the mind of Christ. It's not in a relationship, much less in the practice of a religion.

“For who knew the mind of the Lord? Who will instruct you? But we have the mind of Christ”.

1 Corinthians 2:16

The enemy wants to blind understanding:

“But if our gospel is still concealed, among those who are lost it is undercover; in which the god of this century blinded the understanding of the unbelievers, lest the light of the gospel of Christ's glory, which is the image of God, shine upon them”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

God on the other hand wants to enlighten understanding:

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the evil one. But we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding to know the one who is true; and we are in the true one, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life”

1 John 5:19-20

Revelation about those who live in the Spirit:

“After this I looked, and behold an open door in the heaven; and the first voice I heard, like a trumpet, talking

to me, said, come up here, and I will show you the things that will happen after these. And instantly I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne established in heaven, and on the throne, one seated”

Revelation 4:1-2

John is an example of someone who is in the Spirit and receives a supreme revelation, because all those who dare to live in the Spirit (Without being mystics and weird) will open the curtain of the principles of the Kingdom, they will be opened treasures of the knowledge of God's perfect will for these times.

On the contrary, the problem of the people of Israel was the spirit of religion, because if the Holy Spirit opens revelation, the spirit of religion closes understanding and puts veils that prevent us from seeing the dimensions of the Word.

Ephesians in chapter 1 verses 15-18, Paul prays that God will give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation, lighting the eyes of understanding. We can have natural understanding, but not have the eyes of that understanding illuminated. Paul is saying that when there is wisdom and revelation, the eyes of understanding open to see other things.

Understanding is limited, it is information that begins to be sorted; but when the spirit of understanding and revelation comes, our eyes open to see a different perspective, to look at the broader things, to see them differently, from another point of view.

When we live under information, we live limited by facts, of what has already been established; But when God takes that understanding and lights it up with his wisdom and revelation, we begin to see life from a very different perspective.

We need knowledge, because knowledge is to receive information, we need understanding, because understanding is ordering the information received, but we have to ask God to open our eyes to live the wisdom and revelation of all what was received.

Religion cannot produce revelation, at most it can give us scriptural information, and that can be good with the life of the Spirit to liven it, but without spiritual life, it will only be information that is reviving, producing strengths, and causing destruction.

*“And such trust we have through Christ towards God;
not that we are competent for ourselves to think of
something as ourselves, but that our competence comes
from God,*

which also made us competent ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the spirit; because the letter kills, plus the spirit gives life.”

2 Corinthian 3:4 to 6

As we saw in the letter to **Ephesians 1:15-17** Paul asks for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation for the brothers, in **Philippians 1:10** Paul prays that the church will abound more and more in spiritual knowledge and discernment. In **Colossians 1:9** he asks that they be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. In **Philemon 1:6**, that the participation of faith be effective in the knowledge of all the good that is in Him, in Christ Jesus.

We see this over and over again in Paul's letters, because nothing of the will of Christ can be accomplished without the mind of Christ working through the body of Christ which is the Church. And the mind of Christ only works in us through the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so we will never find it by chance, nor can we understand it humanly. Every good and spiritual thought we can have, as long as it comes from us, not only is not from Christ, but can also be contrary to Him.

The mind of Christ is not the result of good Christian ideas, the mind of Christ is not whatever we believe Jesus

would do. That is our mind trying to decide how He is but He is not in us.

Those who simply practice religion, cannot access the mind of Christ, only seek to move heaven in favor of their desires, combining works and prayers, while at the same time considering that God will hear and act if they act righteously or make sacrifices as long fasts , morning prayer or injured knees when not using a pillow.

“Because mercy I want, and not sacrifice, and knowledge of God more than holocausts.”

Hosea 6:6

It must always be the Holy Spirit who works in us the spiritual reality as it is in the heart of God. It cannot be because of our research or study of Him. Why?

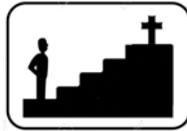
“But the natural man does not perceive the things that are of the Spirit of God, because for him they are madness, and he cannot understand them, because they must be discerned spiritually
”

1 Corinthians 2:14

This does not mean that we should not search the scriptures; We should definitely do it, but searching the scriptures not as a discipline or seeking a life lesson. We should read the scriptures because they are a window

through which we can seek to see the true God, the Person of Jesus Christ.

We must read the scriptures so that the Spirit has tools to open the eyes of our hearts and reveal ourselves to Christ and his fulness.



Chapter four

The enemy of the apostolic church

Jesus went to the synagogue, according to his custom. In these places the writings of Moses were prayed and read aloud every Sabbath (**Acts 15:21**). Passages from the books of the prophets were also read. When Jesus rose to read, He surely recognized many of those present, for He attended this same synagogue for years. Then they gave him the

scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and he looked for the passage that speaks of the One whom the Lord has anointed with His Spirit. Today this passage is found in verses **1** and **2** of chapter **61** of the book of **Isaiah**.

Jesus read the words that indicate that the anointed foretold would proclaim freedom to the captives, that the blind would regain their sight, that the oppressed would be freed, and that the lord's pleasant year would come. At the conclusion, Jesus gives the scroll to the synagogue helper and sits down. Everyone looks at him carefully. Then, when everyone stared at him probably for a while, he makes this important statement: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled before you" (**Luke 4:21**).

Upon hearing Jesus' statement, they became angry, got up angry, and pushed Jesus out of the city and took him to the top of the mountain on which is Nazareth to throw him from there. However, Jesus manages to escape and goes down to Capernaum, on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee.

It is assumed that the synagogue was the place where Jesus could freely manifest himself, because everyone there knew the scriptures and announced in them what they had hoped for, the arrival of the Messiah sent. However, all the religious who knew the letter, could not know the truth when they had it before their eyes. Religion itself blinded

them and before the announcement of the envoy by the Father they wanted to kill him.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but have eternal life, for God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world may be saved by Him.”

John 3:16-17

The word apostle comes from the Greek **apostolos** which means: Sent, the word is formed by the prefix **apo** which means: Apart, out, far away. And the **Stello** prefix means: I send or I put.

Jesus was an apostle, he was sent by the Father for a purpose, but the religious attacked him when He manifested himself to be that envoy.

“Therefore, holy brethren, participants of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 3:1

The religious attacked the envoy, because even though they announced it for many years, they were comfortable with the Scriptures, with their liturgies and traditions. Religious claim to believe and proclaim the

wonders of God, but when the Lord does any, they are the first to ignore and attack them.

Jesus was not mistreated or persecuted by the wicked, nor by sinners, he was not forbidden by the Romans, nor were the Gentiles, on the contrary, all followed and admired him, even Gentile foreigners such as the Samaritan, the Canaanite or even the Roman centurion. But he was criticized, persecuted, falsely accused and convicted, by the same religious practitioners.

The Lamb became brave as a lion in the face of the religious spirit because this wicked principality opposes every divine design that proposes change. Of course, if they did it with the son, they also did it with the apostles of the first century of the church.

A vital aspect of the apostolic mandate is to manifest the Kingdom and the power of God, but the religious do not understand this, they did not in the early years of the Church, being the same carrier of miracles and extraordinary signs. They took refuge in the Jewish religion and from traditions sought to avoid with persecution and death the spread of the gospel of the Kingdom.

“Which of the prophets did your parents not pursue? And they slew those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous, of whom ye have now been deliverers and killers; you who received the law by the disposition of angels, and did not keep it. Hearing these things, they

were angry in their hearts, and they crackled their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, set his eyes in heaven, saw the glory of God, and Jesus who was at the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens open, and the Son of Man who is at the right hand of God.

Then they, giving great voices, covered their ears, and lashed one against him. And casting him out of the city, they stoned him; and witnesses put their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.”

Acts 7:52 to 57

As we can see, it was not the heathen who stoned Stephen and imprisoned the Christians of the first century for propagating the gospel. It was the people who said that they loved God, who tried to hinder the way of salvation, preventing preaching with manifestations of the Spirit or hindering the growth of new believers with the legalistic precepts under which Jesus died to free us. There were many religious scribes and Pharisees who were angry because the Gentiles were allowed to enter the kingdom without carnal circumcision or without respecting their traditions.

The religious spirit seems a little different today. Religion attire is not phylacteries, nor are color-coded clothing with embellished titles that seek to give some special beings a higher spiritual rank than others. Despite the changes in the external aspect, the religious spirit was an

enemy of the Apostle Jesus Christ, was an enemy of the apostolic church of the first century and is an enemy of the apostolic church that today seeks to manifest the Kingdom freely.

No one is immune from the works of the religious spirit. Do not identify him in strangers, because that spirit infiltrates and even affects the chosen ones. Let us remember that Jesus told his disciples that they should be very careful with the leaven of the religious. **(St. Mark 8:15)**

Yet, with warning and all, Jesus' disciples fell victim to his murderous agenda. Do you remember the sons of thunder? The disciples who were enraged that the Samaritans did not receive Jesus in their territory and wanted to call upon The Judgment of God by seeking fire upon an entire city. Can you imagine being so sanctimonious as to ask God to destroy an entire city? This is not normal behavior, there did not operate the foolishness of the mind, there operated the murderous spirit of religiosity.

Of course, after hearing astonished the request of his beloved disciples, Jesus responded severely by saying, "*Perhaps you do not know what Spirit they are from*" **(Luke 9:52 to 55)**. But Jesus knew exactly from which spirit the two disciples received that influence of thought: a religious

spirit, that's why he had warned them to take care of themselves. And this is also striking if we think about it, because the disciples of the Lord were men and it would have been logical for Him to warn them to behave carefully before women or prostitutes who could seduce them with their proposals, however He did not warn them, but rather be careful of the religious. In conclusion, a religious is more dangerous for the Kingdom than a prostitute.

On the other hand, if the spirit of religion could influence Jesus' chosen disciples, then we are all vulnerable. Knowingly or unconsciously, the spirit of religion has affected believers and non-believers equally to this day.

Those of us who are aware of this evil spirit continually battle against its damaging operations. If we do not resist it, then it opposes us in our search for a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, and we cannot grow and mature beyond our perception of what God wants, capturing his will only from what has already been written in the Bible. On the one hand it is fine, because the Bible will allow us to advance safely in the guidelines of His will. But that there is when God wants to guide us to a truth or an act of righteousness today.

I find it funny, but at the same time it makes me angry, that the same people who read and confess 1 Corinthians 2:9 that says: ***“Rather, as it is written: Things***

that eye did not see, nor ear heard, nor have they risen in heart of man, They are those that God has prepared for those who love him. ” They are the same ones who later rebut or reject something from God, simply because they have not seen it before or do not find it in any verse.

They forget that Paul keeps saying: *“But God revealed them to us by the Spirit; because the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man who is in him? Nor did anyone know the things of God, but the Spirit of God.”* But of course, if someone says that the Spirit told him something today, they oppose, angrily, saying that today there is no revelation, that at most the Lord can enlighten us through a verse, but not tell us something new today.

It is rare that the same people who warn that the devil speaks through music, the media, fashions, movies or any ungodly person can say that God speaks only through the Bible or a preacher. Dear reader, I clarify that I love the Bible and put it in the first place, but let me tell you without fear of being wrong that God speaks today in many different ways and how the sovereign earns Him.

With a hundred times that the Bible records God speaking audibly, there is no biblical reason why God could not speak to a person audibly today. Even the audible voice

of God is an exception, not a rule. Even in the biblical records of situations in which God speaks, it is not always clear whether it is an audible voice, an inner voice or a mental impression, but God speaks.

God speaks to people today. First, God speaks to us through His Word (**2 Timothy 3:16 and 17**). Second, God speaks through impressions, events and thoughts. God helps us discern between good and evil through our consciences (**1 Timothy 1: 5; 1 Peter 3:16**). His Holy Spirit guides us to all truth and justice and lets us know what is to come (**John 16:13**). May God speak to us as he pleases, because he is God and no one can tell him how to do things. You can speak to us using a child, a landscape, a dream, an angel or a situation. Of course, the spirit of religion will seek to blind understanding to every expression of God so that we do not do what our Lord desires.

“Because all who are guided by the Spirit of God, these are children of God”

Romans 8:14

The religious spirit is a dangerous opponent for the apostolic church because believers cannot be fully equipped to successfully do the work of the ministry without a deep knowledge of Christ and his perfect will. The apostolic church works prophetically and the spirit of religion opposes that.

The apostolic church is not one that recognizes apostles, in fact, many of those who say they are apostles today are not. The Apostolic Church is functional to the purpose of God these days and not only moves Christians away from religiosity, but has the obligation to counterattack the religious spirit, raising legitimate and mature spiritual children, to continue the work of manifesting a church glorious without spot or wrinkle.

Apostolic and prophetic gifts will not allow religion to return us to the Middle Ages. These gifts are edifying gifts, gifts for the government, gifts for leaders who will not bend to religious spirits, who will instead confront them and take dominion over them so that the Great Commission can be realized.

The spirit of religion seeks to introduce into the Church liturgies, languages, traditions, ceremonies and formalities that are simple human structures and only produce an impediment to the genuine movement of the Holy Spirit.

Today there are many churches that began to scrutinize the old covenant, in search of the meaning of Jewish holidays and customs, they did so in order to find prophetic situations that can serve today for the advancement of the purpose, however, many of them have fallen sadly in simple Judaism. Sometimes these things are camouflaged in novel prophetic acts, but in reality, they are

only more of the same. The only thing that guarantees a true prophetic act and actions that manifest true faith, is a legitimate direction of the Holy Spirit in everything we do as a Church, not trying to be novel in something to attract attention or arouse the admiration of others. In reality, we should only operate with revelation and legitimate direction from God.

“And if anyone imagines they know anything, they still don't know anything as they should know.”

1 Corinthians 8:2

Paul warned Timothy about religious spirits, calling them “traitors, impetuous, infatuated, lovers of delights rather than God; having an appearance of mercy, but denying the power of this: he avoids these” (**2 Timothy 3: 4-5**).

How can we recognize the religious spirit? Well, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (**Galatians 5:22**). But the fruit of the religious spirit, is pharisaic, hypocrisy, pride, false humility, dead works, traditions, instability, control, manipulation that is sorcery and intimidation.

When this spirit operates in institutional or congregational leadership, the Church is prevented from advancing under an apostolic and prophetic guidance. It is a

very perverse spirit, because it always uses its authority, which by the way, is often illegitimate, but it is a supposed authority in the name of God, so that people with fear submit, but only to be controlled.

This spirit has always tried to have spiritual power. Even when John the Baptist proclaimed in the desert, a new time of God, which made repentance and baptism necessary, they refused and attacked John. Sometime later Jesus himself confronted them with this situation, but they simply ignored him because he could not give a logical explanation of whether or not John was a prophet sent by God.

Then we saw how, in the presence of Christ, they were threatened to have to give up their authority and that caused fierce harassment, constant persecution with hypocritical apparitions and continuous attacks with tricky questions or public questions seeking to disqualify him. Of course, since they couldn't do it, they ended up falsely accusing him before the justice of Rome to be killed.

We also saw the pressure and persecution they exercised against the apostolic fathers of the first century, which did not cease until they managed to form a dome of government through Constantine and thus regain control, establishing a new system of worship, liturgies and idolatrous rituals that are preserved to this day in what the

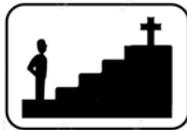
Roman Catholic Apostolic Church would eventually be called.

After the reform, the persecution became fierce against all those who sought freedom of worship and life. The inquisition killed almost one hundred million Protestant brothers, just for having portions of the Bible, for not recognizing the authority they professed through harsh threats, for wanting to do the will of God, or simply for not keeping the rituals that they imposed. False accusations, persecutions and torture were a constant for years at the hands of those who supposedly led the church in the name of the Lord.

Then the spirit tried to jump creating some new institutional lines, with more structures and more religious demands, that is sustained until today, producing divisions, criticisms and lack of love to understand the diversity that should always be between brothers. This supposedly traditional leadership attacks every change that it does not understand and is unable to sit down to talk or see the fruits of a proclaimed truth. They simply close on themselves while claiming to preserve sound doctrine.

Finally, this spirit of religion did not conform to all this, but rather camouflaged itself and sneaked into the ranks of the renewed church. He returned to engage in supposedly apostolic and prophetic leaderships, but in reality, he did so

through people who proclaimed themselves without calling and without reform, thereby appearing to be what they are not and as he has always sought, they demand recognition of the Once they filter new religious structures. Of course, different, novel, with the appearance of ultra-spirituality, but it is only the same religious spirit doing the usual. Perverting the genuine manifestation of the Spirit through the saints I have prevented the true government of the Lord.



Chapter five

The illegality of legalism

When we see the word legal, we know that it refers to something that is legitimate. As we live in a fallen world and our culture is in a moral decline, we can realize certain things, even if they are legitimate, they are horrible for example today it is legal in many countries to practice abortion, today it is legal to change sex or Equal marriage, in some countries, pedophilia or even zoophilia is legal, marketing and dissemination of pornography is legal, in many countries the drug is legalized and the more things we can think of. However, all that legality is illegal before God.

We can live in an earthly country, but our citizenship is in heaven. We must accept as far as we can the earthly laws, but we must live by the heavenly. There is a human legality and there is a Divine legality. We must understand how both work and we must cultivate criteria to live pleasing the Lord.

In general, we identify that legal things are right and illegal things are wrong. Therefore, if a legalist in a spiritual sense, is a person who always tries to do the legal thing, keeping human and God's laws. Wouldn't legalism be a good thing? At first glance, legalism seems laudable. A good work that must be recognized. But it is nothing commendable or worthy of recognition.

The Kingdom of God is totally legal, if the Father is a Judge, if the Son is a lawyer and the Spirit is the **Parakleto**,

which means or represents the one who stood next to an inmate as a lawyer before Roman justice. If we also consider the Scriptures as the law of God, then we should have no doubt that the Kingdom of God is completely legal. But legalism is something else. Let's see:

Legalism (DRAE) Tendency to the literal application of laws, without considering other circumstances. // Formality or legal requirement that hinders or prevents the effective functioning of something.

Webster's New World Dictionary: Literal and strict adherence to the law. // In theology, the doctrine of salvation through good works.

Dictionary of Religious Terms: Emphasis on the letter, rather than the spirit of the law. // Believe in salvation by obedience to the law, rather than grace and faith. // Improper emphasis on legal details, without balancing considerations with justice or mercy.

The word "legalism" is not found in the Bible. In relation to the church it is a term used to describe a doctrinal position emphasizing a system of rules and regulations, to achieve both salvation and spiritual growth. Legalists believe that strict literal adherence to these rules and regulations is necessary for a life approved by God.

Doctrinally, it has infiltrated the church in two fundamental ways. As Judaism, in seeking a detailed observation of the old covenant, as well as keeping the laws of Moses, as well as Jewish traditions, holidays and customs. In this case they seek to be scriptural in everything they consider and argue masterfully, combining the new covenant and the old covenant by attempting to comply with the law positioned in Christ.

Those who hold this Jewish legalistic stance may still fail to see the real purpose of the law, especially the purpose of the Law of Moses in the Old Testament, which is being our "ayo" or "guardian" to bring us to Christ as Paul teaches in **Galatians 3:24**.

On the other hand, legalism has infiltrated, not under a Jewish position, but in keeping all institutional statutes, regulations and doctrines based on closed interpretations, without giving rise to debate or opinions. They generally consider as enemies of their sound doctrine all those who allow certain freedoms opposed to their views. They have an essentially opposite position to grace. They think that grace is debauchery and that all who say they are free from religiosity are nothing but poor deviants from the truth that have allowed the world to get into their congregations.

They are generally prone to the control of the life of believers, regarding what they do, how they dress, how they

Speak or where they go and that has a certain tone of holy zeal, however, it only becomes in excessive control and leads Go ahead through control, intimidation and fear.

Regarding our disposition, legality in the Kingdom is the key to a fruitful life, because the Kingdom is justice and the just must walk in legality, since the opposite of it is illegal. However, legalism is an extreme of legality and is exaggerated and abusive, does not contemplate grace or life, is the opposite of being compassionate.

Instead, we are taught to be merciful to each other. "Receive the weak in faith, but not to contend about opinions." (**Romans 14: 1**). We must be just and legal persons before God, however, we must not judge others, condemning in the name of God. We must be full of grace and truth, we cannot throw stones at an adulteress, nor ignore who has had five husbands, we cannot discard a corrupt looter, or a repentant prostitute. We must have the ability to understand the life and darkness that have operated in them, we must not forget where the Lord took us from and we must have compassion on the sick or the demonized. We must have mercy, which is nothing other than understanding the misery of the heart of man and loving with the love of Christ.

Sadly, there are those who feel so sure about their doctrinal position, that they will exclude us from their

circle, before allowing us to express a different opinion than what they consider the only truth and that, too, is legalism.

Many legalistic believers today make the mistake of demanding unconditional surrender to their own biblical interpretations, and even to their own traditions. For example, there are those who feel that to be spiritual, one must simply avoid tobacco, alcoholic beverages, romantic music, movies, or recreational walks, etc. The truth is that taking care of everything that can affect our spiritual life is fine and logical, but avoiding all these things with fear, believing that they are diabolical and that they can rob us of holiness is an immature and false thought. In reality everything is lawful for us, but not everything suits us, (**1 Corinthians 10:23**) we must have the discernment and guidance of the Spirit to be normal people like Jesus, who could go to marriages, eat with sinners and drink wine , without being contaminated and without sinning, although he was criticized for that.

*“Because Juan came, who neither ate nor drank,
and they say: Demon has.*

The Son of Man came, who eats and drinks, and they say:

Here is a man eater, and wine drinker,

Friend of publicans and sinners.

But the wisdom is justified by your children”

Matthew 11:18 and 19

Jesus faced criticism at all times and every time the religious considered that their actions were not correct according to their opinion. But in this case Jesus concludes their defense by saying that wisdom is justified by his children. This caught my attention and I scrutinized a little more about it, since there are differences with other biblical versions, for example the updated version says "Wisdom is demonstrated by its deeds." Or the version God Speaks Today that says: "The wisdom of God is demonstrated by its results." In other words, Jesus was teaching them that their structured and religious beliefs were foolishness before God and that their works were acts of Divine wisdom, of which in the end they would see the result.

To avoid falling into the trap of legalism, we can hold on firmly to the words of the apostle John, who in the first chapter of his gospel wrote: ***“For the law through Moses was given, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ...”*** (John 1: 7) That is, the law was good to demonstrate God's will and man's inability to fulfill it. This incapacity was not based on intention, but on a problem of heart, with which the Lord showed that all failed, that no one could and cannot fulfill it, because of a nature without solution. For which Christ became man, he fulfilled the law for all men and led man without solution to the cross. He was condemned by all incapable and sinful men, but rose again on the third day to give us new life. Hallelujah!!!

The truth was expressed very well by the apostle Paul in chapter three of the letter to the Romans: ***“There is no fair, not even one; There is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks God. They all turned aside, they became useless; There is no one who does good, there is not even one.”*** For this cause we all need grace. This is a great truth and we cannot deny it. If on the contrary we confess it and appeal to its grace we will live in Justice.

“But for him you are in Christ Jesus, who has been made to us by God wisdom, justification, sanctification and redemption; So, as it is written: he who glories, glory in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:30 and 31

Knowing this wonderful grace that has worked in our lives, we should not judge others, nor condemn others easily. If we have Christ in our hearts, we have the truth, grace and love. Otherwise we may have practiced religion and we may be contaminated by his spirit.

Paul said: *“You, who are you, that you judge the foreign servant? For his own lord is standing, or falls; but he will be firm, because the Lord is mighty to make him stand.”* (Romans 14: 4). Judging people and brothers in the faith is clear evidence of a heart contaminated by religion. *“But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you too, why do you despise your brother? Because we will all appear before the tribunal of Christ.”* (Romans 14:10)

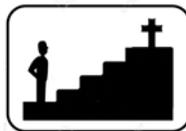
Here we need a word of caution that will keep us in balance. I believe that legality is necessary for the life of the Kingdom and on the other hand I believe that legalism is illegal and harmful. That is, on the one hand we need to be merciful to each other and tolerant of disagreements and disputable issues, without judging ourselves hastily and much less condemning each other, but neither should we accept sin, nor spiritual lightness. I think we should not be scared, but we must be careful and act wisely, knowing and understanding the limits within which we must live.

We are exhorted to contend for the faith that was once entrusted to the saints (**Jude 1: 3**). And we must do that

with fervor and with the right Spirit. If we remember these guidelines and apply them in love and mercy, we will not fall into legalism or spiritual Luke warmness.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but try the spirits if they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. In this, know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not from God, and this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is now in the world. ”

1 John 4: 1 to 3



Chapter six

Religious leaders

The leaders who operate under a spirit of religiosity, are men and women who today exercise key functions within the Church and who believe they work effectively for God, even believe that they are performing a service that produces a certain rejection, precisely because it is effective. They think that the opposition they have is from the enemy and for them it is not the devil their only enemy, but all those who seek to be against or question their sound doctrine. It is the Sauls of today, who actually pursue the spiritual life of the church with the certainty of being doing a service to God.

Leaders who operate under a spirit of religiosity, not only operate in the illegality of legalism, but with the most perverse tools, which are: Manipulation, intimidation and threat. But they do not do it with evil, they are only under the influence of a spirit that deceives them, and they do everything in the Name of the Lord and trying to serve him effectively.

These leaders have two possible backgrounds. Some of them never really were born again. They are people who for one reason or another, entered the ranks of the Church, studied in seminars, institutes or Christian universities and then were sent to the work, thus occupying a position that they should never have occupied without having the most important, which is the very life of the Spirit.

You may wonder how is this possible? Well, it is historical and more common than many believe, that there are unsaved people operating in the field of leadership. In reality, they are like those leaders who work in Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses or similar sects. Many of these characters, have extensive biblical knowledge, preach, teach, train, lead, however they do not have the life of Christ and as we know, he who does not have Christ does not really have life. (**Saint John 3:36**)

For example, there are countries in which, the pastorate is a university career, therefore, some young people inspired by their family beliefs and even without having the true life of Christ operating in them, enroll and prepare in these universities, leaving to the work with theological titles, but only with that. The churches on the other hand, on many sides, hire a pastor, as a simple employee who must perform a task. They evaluate it every year and determine if they have performed a good task, if so they offer a new contract, otherwise they change it for

another. Undoubtedly all this is alien to God's designs, but it works like this. And it is also what allows the operation of the spirit of religion.

This situation should not surprise us, if we take into account that the official religion in our country is Roman Catholicism and we know very well that there are Catholic schools and many young Catholics who cultivate the idea of serving God, study and can exercise their ministries, but many of them only have a vocation, but they do not have a true encounter with the Lord.

On the other hand there are religious leaders who did have a true encounter with the Lord and received his grace and his life. But they are people who, over time, tried to prepare for the ministry and entered theological institutes or began working in structured and religious institutions, which were deforming and making their healthy intentions sick.

In most cases, these leaders believe they are on the right path, strive and serve God jealously, but they do it with the wrong spirit. They work under the rule of other religious and thinking structures, which do not allow freedom and the flow of the Spirit. These leaders do not impart life, nor can they understand the true will of God, because they have closed revelation and become blind leading blind. **(Matthew 15:14)**

These leaders, both those who were never reborn, and those who went astray drowning the life of the Spirit, are people who can change just as Saul of Tarsus did, through a tremendous touch of the Lord. For God there is nothing impossible, therefore any of them, the day less thought, can be broken, enlightened and liberated from the spirit of religion. However, I must also recognize that it is not very common to see this, and the reason is because the spirit of religion operates in the fortress of Pride.

The leaders who operate under the influence of the spirit of religion, are people who teach hard, are absolutely persuaded of the rigor they propose in the gospel, they are people who do not move easily from their stubborn way of thinking. It would be for them to have to acknowledge that they were wrong and generally react by attacking any concept contrary to their convictions.

These religious leaders often see the fruit and progress of other ministries. They crave that and believe they deserve it, they in many cases end up envying the progress of others and even get frustrated by not understanding how people with wrong actions can get positive results. Given that it is they who believe they are doing things right, how could others have good results doing things incorrectly?

When something like this happens to them, they become disoriented and choose to critically criticize the most

successful, in reality it is because if they do not understand something, they consider it easier to criticize it, than to question their sound doctrine by listening to something different.

They want to have good results, work to achieve it, they want multiplication and still want to prosper. They tend to speak harshly against material prosperity, however they have a lot of projects in the portfolio that cannot be executed due to lack of resources and are frustrated, because they believe they have a good heart, yet they live under the influence of the evil spirit of religion.

When they see other ministries multiply, show signs or prosper, they become disoriented and that is when they attack publicly saying they are from the devil. The reason for this conclusion is simple: "If I am from God, if I do everything right and it doesn't work for me, the one who gets results doing things differently must be from the devil ..."

These religious leaders, they do a lot of harm to the church, generally do not open themselves to dialogue, judge easily and are prone to divide, since they become sectarian when it comes to preserving their sound doctrine. They defend their structures in fear of being contaminated. I reiterate that their motivational idea may be good, but the spirit is incorrect, therefore the results are always negative.

I would like to list some of the characteristics of these religious leaders:

1) *They believe they are the only holders of the truth.*

They are the Pharisees of our times (**Matthew 23: 3**) They are puffed up in their reasoning, they believe that the Bible is flat and if they studied it they know it and if they know it, they believe it and if they believe it they defend it, however they do not they consider the dimensions of the revelation that a living Word possesses. They only see a plan and do not believe that today we can receive revelation, the revelation is what is written and there is no life there. They see the letter and study it, but the letter kills and is what happens to their spiritual life. (**2 Corinthians 3: 6**) When death affected them, they only have the knowledge and the certainty that they already have everything they need for ministry. From there, what they give to the people is only what they have, letter and letter, but not life.

2) *They believe they are "saints" because of their devout merits, so they try not to become contaminated.*

They see pollution and risk in every sinner. They judge the sinner, considering that this state is their responsibility and their bad actions. They forget who they

were, where the Lord took them from or simply ignore the sinful state they once had. **(Mark 2:16)**

They do not easily recognize the operation of grace, nor the love that God intends for us to have. They see in the sinners the pollution and forget that Jesus joined with the sinners, ate with them and they called him "Friend of sinners". What an extraordinary title, I regret to consider at times, that the Church has lost that beautiful title.

On the other hand, religious leaders see every activity in the world as a potential risk. As if they were from Jupiter. They teach non-pollution, without considering that not everything is pollution. They do not know how to evaluate between what is lawful and what is not convenient. They just prefer to think and teach that everything is illegal and ready. They think that they are not wrong. However, in many cases they have formed fearful and useless Christians in society.

3) *They put heavy burdens on those attending their church, which they cannot move themselves.* (Matthew 23: 4)

These religious leaders consider the gospel as a permanent sacrifice. They preach a difficult and truly expensive gospel. They do not enjoy Christ and therefore will not lead their people to the enjoyment of the Lord. They do not

understand the delight and fullness that Paul intends to achieve in Christ. **(Ephesians 1:23)**

Leaders who operate under the spirit of religion demand themselves, what God does not ask of them, and they demand from the people what even they cannot accomplish. They become unhappy, gray and bitter people. What's worse, the people they lead are the same as them.

Jesus was questioned in his day, just by being anointed with oil of joy, more than his companions, that is, that of the whole group, He was the happiest. The religious were angry at this and believed him demonized, son of the devil, eater and wine drinker. They could not digest that Jesus entered the house of the Gentiles, went to marriages of friends, sat down to eat with prostitutes and sinners, that he could eat seeds without washing his hands or that it would simply be normal. That was for them as the unforgivable sin. A religious leader does not believe that we should be anointed people, full of joy and normal. They believe that holiness is seriousness, bitterness and antisocial posture, is to go against the flow, not enjoy the body, or life, or anything ...

4) *They believe they have God's approval in every structure.*

Leaders who operate under the spirit of religion, build strengths to defend every thinking posture and get caught in

them, but believe that the Lord is locked in with them and that everything alien to these strengths are spiritual enemies.

I remember a pastor friend with whom I tried to talk about some biblical concepts and being passionate about the Word of the Lord, several times I tried to talk or discuss some very interesting topics, about which God was admonishing me. However, every time I tried to explain a different position regarding some Biblical passage, not doing it in a disqualifying way with respect to the traditional position, but as enriching the known interpretation, he told me: "Ah well... If it is as you say you have to Breaking the Bible ..." That was very disqualifying and of course it ended with the talk. My idea was not to break the Bible, but to extract from it by the Spirit greater wealth.

Like my pastor friend, there are many completely closed leaders to debate healthily on doctrinal issues. They learned a certain concept and do not change it for anything, believing that the Lord supports this obsessive zeal, without realizing that God can determine changes. Someone once told me: "God is the same yesterday, today and forever, just like the Word, God does not change at all ..." I understand that, because it is also written, but the God who does not change, is revealed in the Scriptures as the God who always did something different and as creator, never repeated a tactic or strategy.

He told Noah to build an ark and never proposed that design to anyone, Abraham told him to leave his land and have many children, but not Moses. He prepared it in the desert and put the anointing on a stick. Samson had the anointing in his hair and Elijah had it in a robe. There are times that he sent his people to wait a while to conquer, other times he sent them to fight and other times as before Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, sent them to surrender ... God always did everything differently, that is why the religious in the time of Jesus became so disoriented when they saw John the Baptist, because a man with long hair, all bearded and screaming in the desert, dressed in camel hair and a Leather belt, cannot be a servant of God. The Lord is holy and does not do those strange things. If he speaks to announce the arrival of the Messiah, he must do it in the temple and not in the desert, he must do it through a priest and not a Hippie.

When Jesus entered the synagogue, they praised him for his words, but when he said it was the Christ, they wanted to kill him, because the religious do not recognize anything different, they believe that God cannot do strange things, they believe they know how God has that doing things, that is why the same religious who knew the Scriptures, ended up killing the Christ.

They could not understand how Jesus behaved in the way he did, they did not conceive that the Son of God took

as disciples some wild fishermen to some illiterate of the vulgar, to common people who followed him, they did not understand how the Lord Theology was not indispensable. Unfortunately, I believe that today the same thing happens with many religious leaders, they do not give credit to certain things, just because they think that God would not do so.

5) *They have a list of “don't do” rules and believe that obeying those rules makes them fit to approach God. (Colossians 2:20 to 23)*

Many of the rules that have been established within the traditional church, it is not known very well when they were born, nor who established them, but there they are and if they are there, they believe they should be respected.

It is not known very well where certain rules came from to dress in this or that way. Certain rules of food, behavior or culture, however, are there and in many cases continue to defend them as if they were true bastions of healthy faith.

They were leaders of the Church, those who forced to dress the brothers in a certain way. They forbade children to play football because it was the devil's head, they were forbidden to play balls because they were the eyes of the devil, they were forbidden to watch television because it

was the devil's box, they advised young people not to go to university because it was of the devil, not to get into politics because it was of the devil, not to be lawyers, nor judges, nor police, nor anything that could contaminate them. They were forbidden to listen to music because it was of the devil, to celebrate the daughter's fifteenth birthday or to waltz with the father for a photo, or to join the family on Christmas date, or throw a firecracker at the end of the year, for being mundane. They advised not to watch football, not to play sports, not to get together very much with worldly relatives and that I know how many more things that deformed Christians by removing them from the scene of daily life and making them see themselves as strange, dark people, poor and boring. A real shame considering that Jesus was the opposite.

6) *They criticize in public those who do not think like them, denounce them and name them without allowing any defense by their defendants.*

Leaders who operate under a religious spirit, are assigned the defense of the true gospel, they believe they should defend the Bible, the Church and God Himself. They believe that they possess the truth and that criticizing or publicly accusing other brothers is the least that God expects of them.

I always see sadly that many leaders and brothers criticize other ministers or accuse them in social networks. They do not measure that they are social networks and that many non-Christian people also read the criticisms and, in the end, they form concepts about the church and the ministers. It is a shame that some believe they have the right to show as diabolical what they consider wrong and do so in the sight of everyone. In many cases I see that they defame ministers who do not even know personally, they only take a phrase or a recorded concept and with that they make poison to distribute.

On one occasion it caused me some outrage, the tough stance of a leader with respect to another leader, therefore I did what I never do. I appealed to his good will and wrote him a private mail, where I very carefully invited him to review his position, to meditate on the need not to hit publicly before people who do not know God. I didn't try to defend the other minister, I don't think he needed it, my point of view was not to attack each other on social networks, I just wanted him to keep his opinion in the right areas. However, this brother answered the email by arguing against my request, again criticizing the supposed false pastor and telling me that what he did was what Paul did in his letters. Perhaps this brother never meditated on the fact that if Paul denounced someone in a letter he did so in the church, since Paul never wrote a letter to anyone outside the

Church. And that Paul also had an apostolic assignment to perform certain things that not everyone should do.

These leaders not only criticize their peers, but also criticize entire congregations and even forbid members of their congregation from joining them. (**3 John 1: 9,10**) I remember that in my city, some brothers left the congregation because of certain disagreements and the pastor not only forbade the rest to talk to them, but forbade them to greet them and tell them "God bless you ..." A true religious stupidity.

7) They do not know the Grace, the Word of Kingdom and the Justice of God, and try to establish their own "justice" (Romans 10: 3)

The leaders who operate under the spirit of religion are people who have no revelation of grace. They are like the older brother of the prodigal (**Luke 15:11 to 32**) who stayed with his father and worked hard, but he got angry when his brother returned, because he did not believe he had the right to kill a kid and celebrate. He owned everything as a son, however he did not think he deserved and not only that, but he got angry with his brother, because of the jealousy of seeing him arrive with nothing and finding out that the father gives him position and possessions again. He wanted punishment for his brother, because he didn't deserve anything else. The religious wants

punishment for sinners and rewards for the sacrifice they make, but they do not understand the grace, of receiving without deserving them and of being without generating it. Somehow, they need to believe that personal sacrifice makes them better or deserving. And it is not that our works do not serve, but our works should not be to be, but because who we are.

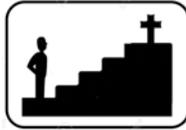
That is, we are not holy because we behave well, but because Christ is holy and we receive his sanctification. Therefore, we will do works of holiness because of who we are and not vice versa. When this is understood revelation ally, we enjoy position and live by it.

In the old covenant the Lord demanded holiness, in the new covenant, he grants us holiness in Christ, so he cleanses us with his Blood and gives us his Holy Spirit. For this reason, if he asks us for holiness it is because he first granted it to us in Christ. In this covenant God does not want us to do things for Him, but He asks us to allow Him to do what He must through us and glorify himself. A religious does not understand that, he needs to have control and be who does all the merits to be what God wants.

In the time of Jesus, the religious believed themselves righteous and that was the greatest sin they committed, Jesus told them, you do not sin because you are blind, but

because you say you see. When in reality they are blind they lead blind. (**Matthew 15:14**)

Jesus confronted them harshly and treated them of bleached graves, told them that they looked good on the outside, but on the inside they were rotten, that they thought they were good for what they did on the outside, but that they had a problem that was inside them and it was their heart. Today this things has not changed, if we do not receive from God the new life, the new heart and its Holy Spirit, we cannot live as true Christians. We need to be to do and never vice versa as the religious believes.



Chapter seven

The yeast of religion

“In this, gathering the crowd for thousands, so much that they ran over each other, he began to say to his disciples, first: Beware of leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

Luke 12: 1

Yeast is a microscopic fungus that has an important capacity to decompose by fermentation of various organic bodies, producing different substances. For example, the use

of yeast in bread makes it considerably increase in size. To do this, it is only necessary to store some fermented dough from the previous day and add it to the new one.

The disciples, as good Jews, should have been familiar with this negative symbolism of leaven, since its use was forbidden in all sacrifices (**Leviticus 2:11**), and especially in Passover (**Exodus 12:18 to 20**).

Hypocrisy is described here as the yeast of the Pharisees. The word "hypocrite" comes from the Greek word **hupokrites** and refers to someone who is acting or pretending. Among the actors of the Greek and Roman theater it was customary to use large masks with mechanical devices to increase the strength of their voice. These actors, who hid their faces and changed their real voices, were called **hupokrites**, or hypocrites.

Jesus compared the conduct of the Pharisees with that of these actors, men who simulated or pretended to be something they really were not. The Pharisees in Christ's day constituted a powerful community of leaders who claimed to be more fervent and righteous than the rest of Jewish society. They established themselves as a model of what it was to be fair and godly; however, in Christ's eyes his example was actually destructive.

Christ believed that the behavior of these men had a leavening effect on those who became close to them. It seems that just contact with the Pharisees made them dangerous. Personally, I think that was due to the unclean spirits of religiosity that operated in them. When Jesus approached with his disciples where there were Pharisees, he warned them to be careful, evidently the hypocritical attitude they carried was influential.

The hypocrisy of the Pharisees consisted in appearing before men what they really were not before God. They liked that everyone thought of them as very holy, and to achieve this they made great displays of external religiosity. Jesus denounced them strongly. He told them that they offered for the purpose of being seen and admired (**Matthew 6: 1 and 2**); they prayed for the busiest places in order to impress others with their devotion (**Matthew 6: 5**); they fasted doing everything possible so that others would notice the great sacrifice they made (**Matthew 6:16**). The Lord accused them of using all these forms of external religiosity to try to hide an ungodly heart.

In addition, they appeared to obey the Word of God, when in fact they had replaced it with human commandments that they themselves had devised to protect their own interests (**Mark 7: 6 to 13**). They had turned their traditions into divine law, and forced others to their rigorous fulfillment as proof of holiness and orthodoxy. How could

they affirm that they were faithful observers of God's law when they had created traditions that invalidated it? How could they teach, and even force their fulfillment, saying that this was the right way to honor God? Of course, Jesus rebuked them harshly for all this. In the twenty-third chapter of Matthew, Jesus called them hypocrites about eight times. He didn't sent them to say, he told them publicly

***“But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men:
for ye neither go in yourselves,
neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”***
Matthew 23:13

The prophet Isaiah denounced hypocrisy in his time:

***"So says the Lord: Because this people come to me with
their mouth, and with their lips they honor me, but their
heart is far from me, and their fear of me is nothing more
than a commandment of men that has been taught"***
Isaías 29:13

John the Baptist called "generation of vipers" to the hypocritical multitudes who came to him to be baptized, and warned them to "produce fruits worthy of repentance" (**Luke 3: 7 to 9**). Jesus also took a firm stand against sanctification; He called the hypocrites "wolves in sheep's clothing" (**Matthew 7:15**), "whitewashed graves"

(**Matthew 23:27**), "snakes" and "generation of vipers" (**Matthew 23:33**).

There is another passage in Matthew 16 that would be good to analyze in the light of our subject:

“When his disciples came to the other side, they had forgotten to bring bread. And Jesus said to them, Look, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They thought within themselves, saying: This says because we did not bring bread. And Jesus, understanding, said to them: Why do you think within you, men of little faith, that you have no bread? Do you not understand yet, nor do you remember the five loaves among five thousand men, and how many baskets did you collect? Not of the seven loaves among four thousand, and how many baskets did you collect? How come you do not understand that it was not for the bread that I told you to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees? Then they understood that I had not told them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees. ”

Matthew 16: 5 to 12

In this case, Jesus again warns his disciples about the leaven of the religious, but in this case, he does not point to hypocrisy, but to the doctrine they had. That is, the teaching

of religious can be dangerous, because it pollutes a little, but remember that a little leaven leavened the whole dough. **(Galatians 5: 9)**

The Lord at that time, referred to yeast as ideas or trends that can change the ways of thinking and acting, separating his disciples from sincere and pure faith. Of course, I think that warning was not only for them, but for us today.

The religious knew very well the art of simulation, they knew how to make an impression of piety, without possessing that piety. They knew very well the difference between the private and the public, and how to focus exclusively on the public. They demanded impeccable behavior from others, but they themselves did not. Jesus said about them that they sat on the teachings of Moses or the Scriptures, yet they did not live from the heart, nothing they learned

“The scribes and the Pharisees have sat in the chair of Moses. So, do and observe everything whatever they tell you; but do not do according to their works, because they say and do not”

Matthew 23: 2 and 3

When Jesus mentions that they did not do what they said, it is not because they did not have works, but because

their works were hypocrites, they did all their works to be seen by men, and they loved public recognition, but they were not sincere to God. .

They made long prayers in public; and their bodies were beautiful on the outside, but their hearts were full of theft and injustice. The Lord compared them with bleached graves, beautiful on the outside, full of dead bones and all filth inside.

This teaching is very current, since today great importance is attached to ‘marketing’, to the image, to ministerial advertising. Unfortunately, today it seems that what the eyes see is essential in opinion, status and social relationships. This would be understandable in environments and with ungodly people, but we must recognize that it also happens in the environments and ministries of today's churches.

This public attitude or position, full of vanity and competitive egos, does nothing but favor hypocrisy. Today is like it doesn't matter so much what things are, but what they seem. Reality does not matter so much, as appearances that seek to be saved.

On the other hand, we have teachings that seep into the church affecting God's revealed truth for these times. On the one hand, the usual religious concepts, which only curb

the newness of God and on the other hand some new teachings that also modify the truth in pursuit of something different that men say appearing to be novel and full of revelation. Unfortunately, there are many ministers who are not focused on saying the will of God, but on saying something new, that seems impressive in the ears of their amazed listeners...

I think they are doctrines that should not penetrate the true message of the Kingdom, because they are loaded with human intentions. It is clear then, that what happened many years ago is valid today in Jesus' warning. Today we also have religious hypocrites who put yeast in the church and we also have many hypocrites who profess not to be religious, but who in the end also filter their erroneous doctrines in order to arouse admiration and fame. It is the same, hypocrisy and lies, never contribute to the manifestation of the Kingdom and over time can be totally destructive. Hence the warning of the Lord Jesus to all who teach with leaven.

“Many things in the world make people disobey God. And that will always be so.

But how bad it will be for anyone who makes another disobey God! If someone makes one of these little followers of mine disobey God, he will receive a worse punishment than if he was tied around his neck

a huge stone and they will throw it to the bottom of the sea.

So, be careful what you do!”

Luke 17: 1 to 3 TLA



Chapter eight

The killer of Grace

*“Because by grace you are saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God;
not for works, so that no one can boast”*

Ephesians 2: 8 and 9

If a person tries to be justified by his behavior, he falls from grace (**Galatians 5: 4**). This is so, because

religiosity is a “carnal attitude that exalts man,” thereby denying “the grace” that God gave him to achieve salvation and full communion with Him.

No one, absolutely no one can achieve salvation through their behavior because there is no just, not even one, no one understands or seeks God (**Romans 3:10 and 11**), because all have sinned and are destitute of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). For this reason, those of us who have received the life of Christ must feel grateful for the love and mercy of our wonderful God.

If someone could achieve salvation through his behavior, he would boast and God does not want anyone to boast, He wants all the glory for Him and for his son Jesus Christ, because only they belong to them.

The believers that God uses the most are not those who boast in their strengths, but those who recognize their weaknesses because when they are weak, then God makes them strong (**2 Corinthians 12:10**). It is a carnal reaction, to think that our works are what make us deserving of something.

“With Christ I am crucified together, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me; and what I now live in the flesh, I live it in the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. He did not cast-off grace

*of God; because if by law it was justice,
then for the rest Christ died”*

Galatians 2:20 and 21

In my years of ministry, I have met many pastors, most teach and live the grace of the Lord, however, I have also encountered those who mix a little of grace and a little effort and human right. They generally do not do it because of bad intentions, but because they believe that grace is too wonderful to be so, that all Jesus Christ cannot have done and we receive so much, something we have to do.

Well, if we must do something and it is to live in the faith of the Son and perform the works that the Lord indicates to us by the revelation of the Word and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for which he puts us wanting as doing for his good Will. **(Philippians 2:13)**

Some of those pastors who have a mixture of grace and demand for the people, believe that we are saved through faith, but also believe that works must be done to keep us saved, thereby ending up completely discarding the grace of our God.

In addition, some of the things that they consider necessary do not have to do only with life, but with cults and activities within the congregation, things like attending general meetings, prayer meetings, Bible study meetings ,

participate in cells or the system that the church practices, serve in some area, collaborate for everything they propose as projects of the congregation, offer, tithe, among many other things and of course not sin having differences with the leadership. For those pastors, if any of its members does not meet these requirements, it is enough to lose communion with God and put salvation at risk.

Unfortunately, there are thousands of pastors in thousands of congregations who believe and teach the same thing and that teaching goes from generation to generation and eats like gangrene (**2 Timothy 2:17**).

I remember on one occasion a sister was upset with an attitude of her pastor and at the next meeting, she confessed, apologized and told her that she had left the last meeting with an anger about that attitude. His pastor then said: How dare you go to your house mad at me? Didn't you think that if Christ came that night you would stay or if you died during the night you would go to hell? See, such concepts generate fear, kill grace and distort the true gospel of the Kingdom.

A congregation belonging to a well-known institution uses methods of discipline that I consider religious and perverse. When a brother sins in some matter, not only with respect to other brothers, but in his personal life, a sin such as adultery or something, they force him to confess his sin publicly, which if someone had not found out he does so in that

moment and after that confession you must arrive at the meetings when the cult has already begun and withdraw before the meeting ends. This so that no one greets him, besides the brothers are forbidden to say: God bless you ...! No doubt a killer discipline of grace.

“And he taught them, saying: Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves.

And the scribes and the chief priests heard it, and sought to kill him; because they were afraid of him, because all the people were admired of his doctrine.”

Mark 11:17 and 18

It is incredible that those who sought to kill Jesus were the scribes and the chief priests. The scribes are supposed to be experts in the Scriptures, men who knew very well letter by letter, however all that knowledge did not serve them to see the Christ. In the end they knew many verses, but they were murderers.

On the other hand, it was the chief priests who sought his death, madness, if we consider them to be the holy men, who ministered to God in the name of the people and ministered to the people in the name of God. However, these men were murderers.

Today the priesthood has changed and no one wants to literally kill Jesus, because He is at the right hand of the Father, however, there are many men and women who speak of God, but they kill grace. Let's remember what John said and let's see if there is much difference in the matter:

“And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

John 1:16 and 17

The Christian who lives under the slavery of legalism and religiosity, lives under an obsessive mental and spiritual attitude of fulfilling the law and commandments of their leaders, thinking that by fulfilling them, they will more easily achieve God's favor, but they are only confused and They have not received a true revelation of grace. Remember that Paul taught that we have received the gospel of grace and not another.

“As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

Galatians 1: 9

The biggest problem the apostle Paul dealt with was the persecution and religiosity of the converted Jews. Men

who came to recognize Jesus Christ, however, tried to introduce the precepts of the law into the Churches, provoking as Peter himself did, that the Gentiles began to Judaize.

In fact, the Church of the first century was threatened by two dangerous movements that defied Christian doctrine. On the one hand the underground gnostic and metaphysical infiltration of the Greeks; and on the other hand, the open and challenging penetration of Jewish religious legalism that threatened to bury the New Covenant. Paul, among other apostles had to face both threats clearly, forcefully and without half measures.

I must emphasize here, that many of the patterns of behaviors, practices or liturgies celebrated in the church today, were contracted from pagan culture. Well, I know that by reading this, you can generate a short mental circuit in some readers, but it is a historical and verifiable fact.

Liturgy: It is the order and form with which the ceremonies of worship in the different religions are carried out. || Ritual of ceremonies or solemn non-religious acts.

Paganism: It is the religion of the Gentiles or pagans.

There were three historical periods in which many changes were made in the most common Christian practices: In the time of Constantine, during the decades

surrounding the Protestant Reformation and during the revival period of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Beloved reader, I cannot get fully into this issue in this book, but it would be great if at some point you can immerse yourself in the facts of the history of the Church and you will find accurate data on this subject.

Let's look at the religious legalism of the Judaizers. The apostle Paul had gone to the province of Galatia in Asia Minor to preach the gospel; the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ. He preached a Christ who had totally and absolutely obeyed and obeyed the Law so that sinners would be free from the slavery of the Law. Paul, a legalistic Jew, master of the law knew that it was impossible for any man to fully comply with the law. To disobey a tilde of the law was tantamount to disobeying the whole law, and that resulted in the curse. The Torah was an implacable Law. It was the Law of "all or nothing."

Many of the Galatians who had believed in Christ, and had been freed from the slavery of the Law, had experienced freedom. Their chains had been broken by the power of the gospel of the Kingdom, but unfortunately, they had fallen under the influence of the Judaizers, returning to the rudiments of the law, with the aggravating factor that now salvation required to be completed with the observance of that law.

Paul had been surprised by the news received of how the sect of the Judaizers had infiltrated them and they were tearing apart the precious flock that he had founded with such zeal and diligence. He wrote to them with indignation to remind them how they had received Christ through "**faith alone.**" Paul writes to them and begins the letter with a nothing diplomatic rebuke, and confronts them before the pure gospel preached by him, and the diluted one taught by the Judaizers.

“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?”

Therefore, He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? —”

Galatians 3: 1 to 5

These Jews who had converted to the Gospel demanded the fulfillment of the Law as a condition to be saved and receive the blessings of God. They ordered

Christians for example to circumcise themselves; and circumcising in the new covenant amounts to perverting the essence, and the character of the gospel itself.

The destructive influence of the Judaizers' party was such that they declared that it was not enough to practice the doctrine of Jesus Christ, but also that the observance of the entire Mosaic law should be maintained. It is very unfortunate that Judaizing doctrine has infiltrated again today and in many congregations. I know good ministers who have been entrusted in this time, men who, loving the Scriptures, began to scrutinize and in the eagerness to hear or receive something new, ended up being affected by the oldest.

Many of them began searching for our days, some prophetic features in Jewish life, but they did not end up performing prophetic acts, but rather caught in the fulfillment of the law, discarding the grace revealed in the consummate and perfect work of Jesus Christ.

If the apostle Paul had not confronted the Judaizers in the frontal manner as he did, the Gospel of Grace would have ceased to be the gospel of grace; since it would have been absorbed by the exclusivism of Judaism and the Gentiles we would never have known of the love and life of Christ in us. We would be the people of Jews born and Jews reborn in

Christ, we should not only keep the law, but visit at least once in a lifetime the holy city of Jerusalem.

Grace positions us in Christ, makes us children, heirs, kings, priests, saints, citizens of the Kingdom and of the heavenly Jerusalem. We are from the one above and not from the one below. That does not imply that we disconnect from people and life, on the contrary, positioning in Christ enables us to love and mercy that the world so much needs.

People affected by the spirit of religion and legalism always live under obsession, fear and guilt of strictly following the Law in a timely manner. Failure to comply is equivalent to them not receiving the favors and blessing of God; And that is, slavery. A legalist is someone who between the Law and mercy chooses the Law, but with it he judges the neighbor harshly and in the end he ends up killing with accusations to the guilty. They cannot love and have mercy from the grace of the Lord, they cannot act like Jesus, they could not be called friends of sinners, on the contrary, the farther they have them better, so they do not become contaminated ...

The spirit of religion must be nullified in our lives, and let the life of the Spirit in us give us the freshness of true freedom in Christ, which leads us to do things that please God. The new law is the law of the Spirit and of life that guides us to all truth. It is not that we no longer respect

God's commandments, but that we should not think that fulfilling them is what makes us just deserving.

So ... What is the Law for? Let's see:

***“Because by the works of the Law no human being
He will be justified before Him, because through
of the Law is the knowledge of sin”***

Romans 3:20

The Law is like the mirror where every morning we see how our beard has grown, but that mirror is not the shaver that at the same time shaves us. It is the mirror where we see the dirty face, but it is not at the same time the soap and water that helps us clean our face. By the Law we know sin, but she has no power to cleanse us from sin, much less achieve blessings by strict obedience to the law.

With the coming of Christ and his death in perfect obedience to fulfill the law, this law becomes only the mirror where we see the "dirty face of sin" that points to us, accuses and condemns us. A mirror is what the true state reveals to us, but it cannot solve the problem of that state. That is why we need grace through Jesus Christ. He not only reveals the problem to us, but solves the problem eternally.

***“But now, apart from the Law, God's justice has been
manifested, testified by the Law and the Prophets:***

God's justice through faith in Jesus Christ, for all who believe in Him, because there is no difference, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”

Romans 3:21-24

Should we be united with religious and legalists?

Many people say: "We must not speak harsh of the legalist churches, we must unite, we must be one church" But on the other hand, we are not talking about different opinions or ways of seeing or interpreting the Scriptures but areas of manipulation, intimidation and control Should we join them?

I believe and preach the absolute unity that the church needs, but that unity is in God and not in us. The true unity is not that we place ourselves under the influence of the same spirit or by negotiating the truth of the Spirit that is our present freedom. So how should we join them or how should we act?

“Calling to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; a body, and a Spirit, as you were also called in the same hope of your vocation; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, which is above all, and for all, and in all ”

Ephesians 4: 3 to 6

The unity of the church does not occur because the pastors participate in the council meetings. That is good to do, but we may all participate and be with serious differences in our hearts. In the end, we would be together, but not unanimous, which would generate a lot of hypocrisy.

The unity of the church also does not occur when the congregations of the city come together to celebrate a Pentecost or some special holiday. The same thing happens as in the previous case, we can be together but not unanimous.

Some time ago I was invited to minister in a meeting of united churches, that made me very happy, because that is what every minister wants, to see the church truly united. Unfortunately, I was disappointed, since the event was held in a municipal gym and the attendance was massive, but the unit was not present. On the contrary, the meeting became very long, because all the congregations wanted to participate and each of the singers, dancers and even the shepherds, were applauded and encouraged by those of their own congregation, as if competing to see who they were the best, the ones who sang cuter, danced cuter or talked better. A real shame.

The true unity is what Paul poses in this passage of Ephesians and period. Therefore, I believe that the unity

that congregations and pastors must have is in the Lord, without criticizing us or hitting each other and the Lord himself, will know how to encourage, exhort, correct or separate those who correspond and as appropriate.

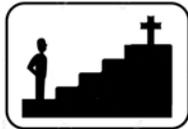
On one occasion I went to preach to a church that was very structured and undoubtedly were being affected by a spirit of religiosity. That was so clear in the opening and development of the meeting, that I began to get frustrated before I was invited to occupy the platform. Then I whispered a prayer to the Lord saying: Lord ... What am I doing here? What can I talk to you? Where do I begin? Then the Lord said to me: "For love ... With love ... Because I love you ..." Then I received a great lesson, we have no fight against blood and flesh, our enemy is spiritual and our brothers, however religious or structured they may be in their Theological positions, we must love them, not attack them, because love covers a multitude of sins and is the only true way to help them.

I believe that we, if we have received and live in the dimension of grace, should pray for our brothers, asking the Father to free them from every spirit of religiosity. We must talk to them and take every opportunity to teach them with love. But we must not put at risk the wonderful grace in which we live, we must be very careful because that spirit is a murderer of grace.

“Or do you think the Scripture says in vain: The Spirit that he has made dwell in us longs for us jealously? But He gives more grace. This is why he says: God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God; resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

James 4: 5 to 7

In conclusion, we must love them as we should love everyone, our neighbor and even our enemies, but we cannot agree with them in many respects, because there is no communion between the light and the darkness that operates in them. We can and should have communion with brothers bought with the same blood, but never with the spirit of religion that can operate in them. We must pray with love for the liberation of their lives, but without attacking our brothers, we must attack the spirit of religion that does so much evil in the body of Christ.



Chapter 9

Religion and the false mercy

The spirit of religion is forming a mentality in those who live under its influence. It is a rare thing, but this mentality not only demonstrates pride and complacency in self-righteousness, but also positions its holders on a pedestal of superiority to others.

It is very curious, because every sense of spiritual superiority they hold is counteracted with a deep sense of inferiority of life in general. That is, before God they feel little, because they are always debtors, but when they do all kinds of sacrificial work, they feel better, superior, just, pious and deserving of Divine recognition. In turn, before the supposed worldly sinners, they feel spiritual superiority, but a great complex of social inferiority.

They are taught in a concept of weakness, they teach them of God's strength, but on the other hand they create a concept of weakness by making them believe that they are

totally vulnerable to the sinful behaviors of this world, they come to say: "I have to isolate myself from the people of the world, "" I must not have unbelieving friends," "I must not mix with non-Christians." " They have a virus that is spread, called sin."

The church is transformed for them into a great refuge, a monastery where they can breathe a "little peace" and believe that when they leave these four walls they meet all the "mundane," "diabolical," "demonized," who They are waiting to pollute them and to stain their precious sanctity.

Generally, these religious feels oppressed in public places or in their jobs, if they have ungodly partners. In the end they choose to vacation away from people or to work being withdrawn and antisocial. Thus, the spirit of religion isolates them and makes them sterile to create the purpose of God.

The spirit of religion makes those brothers believe that every expression of art is diabolical and they fail to appreciate any talent, because they all seem to come from the underworld. They want to delight in their own music, in their own artistic expressions, in their own media and in their own shows. The bad thing about all that, is that they do not seek true training, because every place of training is

overflowing with demons, so they do everything in a mediocre way and for the glory of God.

For example, when one listens to an evangelical radio, they generally do not have speakers, but they have little brothers who, under the inspiration of good will, seek to glorify God, but the truth is that it is for the devil. They do not express themselves well, speak in tongues, greet with evangelical terms, have a poor look at reality and do everything as if they were in the living room of their house.

Of course, we also have a lot of little brothers who step on the platforms of the meetings trying to give glory to God with their art, however they end up doing everything in a very mediocre way and for the glory of God. Of course, many times they think that worldly sinners have resources to do things better, but those filthy resources seem to be given by the devil, so it is better to be humbly scarce.

People who operate under the spirit of religion are constantly bombarded by thoughts of self-contempt, low self-esteem, but of course, as all that is disguised as mercy, it seems that it was fine. Humanism says: "Believe in you, God does not work." Legalism says: "Believe in God, you do not serve."

This leads the brothers who live under the influence of that spirit to misinterpret the Scriptures, so they say: "A

useless servant greets him", "Without God I am nothing and I am useless", "I am the worm of Jacob." "I am the donkey that Jesus rode" etc. When in reality we are princes, that is our position and our essence, we are children of the King of Glory, we are kings and priests to God the Father, we are heirs and joint heirs with Christ.

The religious mentality teaches: "We do not serve," "We cannot," "We do not know," and if someone loves and accepts a little, they already believe it is pride. They believe that respecting and loving each other a little is self-proclamation. The spirit kills faith, because it causes believers to speak bad of themselves and if someone received deserving praise or applause, they cannot accept it and immediately say, "All glory is to the Lord."

Our problem is that we believe in God but we don't believe in ourselves. We must take out "false humility" and bless ourselves, but not to get attention, because that is a sign that we don't love each other. We must love each other because God loves us, we must position ourselves because God chose us and positioned us in Christ, we must believe in our abilities, because God gave them to us to serve him with excellence.

On one occasion I was in a Church and after the meeting was over, a sister asked me to pray for her saying. "You can pray for me pastor, because I am like a Lauchita, I am

always half stinking...” I prayed for her, but before doing so I clarified that I am not a veterinarian, that I am a minister of the Kingdom and that I could pray for her if I changed her statement, because she was a daughter of God, was a queen and if she believed it then the Lord would heal her completely.

On the other hand, those who operate under a spirit of religiosity believe that they must always live in communion with pain, with sacrifice and with absolute self-denial, they say: "It has to hurt", "You have to fast one day a week", "You have to pray on your knees until the meniscus burst", "You have to pray at dawn", they believe that renouncing any act of recreation will be more fair, they renounce parties, pleasure and if they make love with their husbands or wives, it must be without much joy, because otherwise it is sin.

They believe that they cannot pray sitting in an armchair, it has to be on their knees, they believe that it must be early in the morning and if it is cold better, but because of the mentality of the suffering they got them that the pain gives good results. Success, pleasure, joy and personal dreams are words that want to eradicate your holy vocabulary.

Those who operate under the influence of a spirit of religiosity, generally separate the exterior and the interior continuously, the problem is that they do not do it to

understand or learn, but to live apart from themselves, denying part of their being.

They also continually separate the "secular," from the "spiritual," they cannot live integrated into society, because they are heavenly, so they try to differentiate so as not to become contaminated. The problem is that they forget Jesus, who was someone totally sociable and loving. Jesus never sinned, but he sat down to eat and share with ordinary people.

On the other hand, religious believe that clothing is what determines holiness. Even today, there are churches that are questioning whether women can wear pants, if they can put on makeup or not; if you must go to the hairdresser, cut your hair or dye your hair gray. I am not defending vanity, nor the cult of the body, I am referring to a personal, logical and coherent care. However, religious do not believe that this should be so.

These concepts made many brothers and sisters neglect their personal image, because in the end it does not matter, that is mundane and sinful, but the truth is that our outer image must match the inner image of who we are and how we feel.

There are people who, for years and even today, in some churches, take care of the religious image and think

they are pious, they are hypocrites only with appearance, they even change the tone of the voice when they speak. They are the clean ones on the outside that judge inside, they are the ones that show themselves well, but in reality, they are bad.

Another characteristic of those who operate under the influence of the spirit of religion is that they are afraid of the punishment and wrath of God. They are the ones who ask me: Pastor ... When will you preach of the wrath of God? Why is it not preached from God's judgment? Where is the prophetic voice for repentance? Because some believe that the solution for this world is for God to send the punishment for the wicked, worldly, uncircumcised.

They are the ones who keep people in fear, they will tell them: "He who leaves this church, like the prodigal son, among the pigs will wallow and God's judgment will fall on them ... If they want to leave, but so they will return, all battered..." Of course, before that curse, then out of fear nobody leaves and they conclude: "I am not leaving, I stay here, because if I leave the devil will enslave me and God will punish me" It is unfortunate, but that is manipulation and all manipulation is sorcery.

Once I entered a meeting and the pastor began by saying: "When they go to work, they arrive on schedule, because if they don't kick them out, but I see that they come

to the church at the time they want, next time I will ask God to put an angel with a whip at the door and I'm late to whip it ... ”Of course, everyone starts to reconsider the arrival of the next meeting.

I remember that same meeting continued and the pastor began to strongly exhort the brothers. At one point he stared at them with an angry face and said: “You don't like what I'm telling you, right? If you don't like it, leave at once ... But believe me that if you leave, a car is going to grab you at the door and you will be dragged to the cemetery ...” Of course, nobody left ... Of course, I don't either!

On the other hand, those who operate under the influence of the spirit of religion, have a mentality of victims, they always believe that they live under the constant attacks of the devil, they always say: "The devil oppresses us", "The devil attacks us. " "Last night we had a tremendous attack from the devil" They occasionally testify to how they have endured some satanic attack.

They say things like this: "Brothers ... Today in the afternoon I received an attack from the enemy, I was leaving for the meeting and the devil had punctured my car tire ... I wanted to change the rubber and the aid was also punctured ... How tremendous the devil brother ...? But I thank God that in the end I could come walking and give glory to Him, because God is faithful brother, and He did

not allow me to stay, he gave me strength to come and here I am praising him brother ... Gloria a God"

This mentality places the devil in the most unusual attacks that can occur to us. While God is always the one who allows everything to teach them self-denial, resignation and patience.

I don't even tell him if in a meeting where there are five hundred or a thousand people, suddenly a known sorcerer enters. Everyone looks scared and to make matters worse they feel oppressed. It is obvious that it is a mentality, because the oppressed would have to be the sorcerer, if we are light and he walks in darkness. The religious mentality is fearful and fainthearted, speaks of the power of God, but believes too much in the power of the devil.

They are the same people who in their work feel oppressed by strange presences or by the negative spirit of their peers. If he who is in us is greater, if the Lord all mighty defeated the enemy, why was that defeatist stance? It is that religion teaches badly! It is true that the devil moves and there is no doubt that he oppresses, but he is defeated! And we are more than conquerors for the one who loved us.

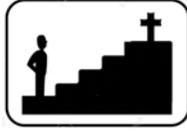
On the other hand, those who operate under the influence of a religious spirit have an escapist mentality

"We are going to heaven", "We will be raised with power, for the new Jerusalem." The mentality of passengers and pilgrims that alienates us from what we must conquer. Of course, one day we will be with Him in the blink of an eye, but while we are on earth we must work and advance in his eternal purpose.

Finally, those who operate under the influence of a religious spirit have a mediocre mentality of poverty and scarcity. They believe that poverty is synonymous with humility, but sometimes it's the opposite.

They say that Jesus was poor, so they must be like Him. But they do not record that he became poor so that in his poverty we would be enriched. Of course, it is true that Jesus died naked, bore the disease and charged the curse of poverty for us to identify with our pain and our needs, but he did so that we too could identify with his victory.

The big problem is that it has the appearance of piety and moves camouflaged in church settings. His best disguise is exaggerated zeal and his apparent consecration, but in reality, he is a serial deformer of the truths expressed to the saints.



Chapter ten

Sorcery in the Church

The spirit of religion is a satanic falsification of a life of relationship with God. Under the influence of the religious spirit, an individual can do right things, for wrong motivations.

***“Because I tell you that if your justice is not greater
that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ”***

Matthew 5:20

In some versions he says if his justice were not greater, if his justice were not more excellent, if his justice were not superior, if his justice with more perfection than that of the Pharisees... This is curious, because if someone saw how the Pharisees lived, they were men admired by society, they were men with the appearance of mercy, who supposedly did the right things. But before Jesus they could not hide the true motives under their clothes and in the end,

they had the power to manipulate their peers, manipulate Jews to give false testimony, they managed to manipulate the Roman government, they manipulated the masses, by getting everyone they shouted choosing Barabbas, they were manipulators, who used spirituality to falsely govern the will of the people.

Today, this may not seem so tragic, but I can assure you that the leaders who operate under a spirit of religiosity are manipulative experts, who use fear, intimidation, threat and ultimately achieve their goals, but do so by practicing Sorcery

“Lamp light will no longer shine on you; neither will the voice of the groom and the bride be heard more in you; because your merchants were the great ones of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorceries”

Revelation 18:23

One of the factors that give high success to the enemy operating within the church, is that which has to do with sorcery, clarifying that sorcery is not only what has to do with occultism, satanism, witchcraft or a spell of voodoo, but also, and predominantly, it is observed within our congregations under the subtle deception of manipulation, intimidation and domination manifested through religiosity.

The spirit of religiosity is so widespread among Christians that few come to realize how far they can be influenced by it. In addition, the results of legalism, which are guilt and condemnation, reside in a very difficult place to identify.

***; Oh foolish Galatians! Who fascinated you?
(The correct translation in other translations,
Who has bewitched you?) so as not to obey the truth, to
you in whose eyes Jesus Christ was already clearly
presented among you as crucified?***

Galatians 3: 1 VRV

What makes this passage so incredible is the fact that the apostle Paul is writing about the effect of sorcery on born-again believers and filled with the Spirit, people who had liked, seen and experienced the miraculous power of God. The believers in Galatia received the gift of the Holy Spirit and had witnessed miracles and powerful manifestations. But Paul, now, says they were Bewitched!

Did you know that a congregation can be made up of good people, anointed with the Holy Spirit, and still ignore the devil's movement in your midst? On the other hand, they can hear an anointed word from the heart of God, and remain unable to answer ... almost as if someone had bewitched them.

From my ministerial experience, I believe that many congregations have one thing in common with that Galatian church and they are bewitched. Paul says that because of this fascination, they could not understand and obey the clear truth of God and I believe that today the same thing happens, many congregations receive a good word and say amen to every expression of God, however, they don't react to put it for work.

The spell is the power to mislead a person through spells and curses. The Greek word literally means "Enchant or mislead with your eyes." The spell or sorcery, does not allow to see what is in full view and fall under its charm is to do what someone said even if it has no logic, coherence or rationale.

Medieval fairy tales are full of love potions stories that can make a beautiful princess fall in love with a prince not too graceful. The princess's perspective on the prince's vulgar appearance is obscured, distorted and causes her to fall into deception. Jesus performed extraordinary miracles before the religious, he still did them in the synagogue or in the temple, but they could not see or obey

The Spell of the religious spirit did not allow them to see what God was doing. On the contrary they persecuted him, criticized him and falsely accused him so that he could be crucified by Roman law. The spirit of religion effectively

deceived the Pharisees, scribes and even the interpreters of the law.

There is no logic to the mandate that someone gave to falsely accuse and murder Jesus. We all know that Jesus was someone who never sinned; therefore, he was someone who in the days of his flesh did not harm anyone, never lied, never transgressed a law, never let anyone down, nor did anything wrong. Who could imagine that he would be punished so badly to death? Only the operation of a spirit could generate so many attached to a barbarism. That spirit did not operate through sorcerers or pagans, it was through the religious.

Today, the only means that Satan has to take power from his enemy, the church, is to find some way to hide or obscure the victory that the believer has already achieved. The believer means a threat to Satan. However, here is a dilemma: if the devil launched a direct attack on the believer, he would be identified and quickly defeated. But if you can find a way to enchant the believer with a tool of your own belief, you can have the opportunity to succeed. But to achieve this, he must prevent the believer from observing and living in the power of grace. In that case, send the spirit of religion to subdue it.

If the power of grace resides in what Jesus did for us no matter what the believer could do to be good, then Satan can hide the cross by adding works to the Christian's beliefs.

Grace works "All or nothing." Since it exists simply based on what cannot be earned, otherwise it is no longer grace. When the believer loses sight of the cross, he inevitably returns to the works of the law. Then, once he has been bewitched by the influence of the enemy, the believer can return to being under the law in two ways: Carnality and legalism.

When we put our trust in any method or person apart from God, we are acting in carnality, and that puts us under a curse. Many believers try to convince nonbelievers with arguments to give themselves to Christ. No one has entered the Kingdom of God for being convinced with arguments. Only the Spirit of God can attract people and give them new life. But trusting their capacity for debate or their charisma, some ministers believe they do not need the help of the Holy Spirit to do the work of God.

When we trust in carnality, what happens? Our heart departs from the Lord, and we can end up trusting in methods or people, except in God. And it is very possible that while we are in the temple, singing hallelujahs, raising our hands and praising God or speaking in tongues ... a curse is weighing on us. What is the result of being in carnality? We cannot see the cross of Jesus Christ. We lose

sight of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, and therefore we cannot live the fullness of Christ's victory.

Legalism is a variety of carnality. Instead of trusting in the flesh, legalism relies on rules and norms. Legalism is one of the greatest stumbling blocks that new Christians find, and can be found in all congregations. It may become the biggest problem we have as a church in the western world.

In Paul's time, the discussion of the Galatians focused on the issue of circumcision. Some Jewish Christians believed that new believers of Gentile origin should not only place their trust in Christ, but also take the yoke of Jewish law. When men surrendered to Christ, the Galatians insisted that they should also be circumcised.

Paul responded to the Galatians by reminding them that returning to the law puts the church under a curse from which she has already been redeemed. He urged them to wake up from the deception and spell of the religious.

***“Because everyone who depends on the works
of the law are under curse,
Well, it's written: damn everyone who doesn't
I will remain in all written things
in the book of the law, to make them”***
Galatians 3:10

Since circumcision was part of the Mosaic law, the Galatian believers were once again placed under a curse. Just because some manipulated the love and surrender of the brothers, demanding that they comply with rites that God did not demand.

The tendency among Christians of all ages has been to combine grace and works. Grace and works mix as well as water and oil. Either we live by faith in the grace of Jesus Christ, or we live by the works of the law. Paul writes in Galatians 3:11: "And that by law no one is justified with God, it is evident, because: the just shall live by faith." It is notorious, then, that there are two ways in which we can live: by law or by faith, but in no way can we live by both at the same time. We must not confuse the law written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, with the law written on the stone to produce judgment. In the Kingdom there must always be legality, but not legalism.

So we should not do anything? This is the great theme of religiosity, so I clarify it again so that this concept can be fixed in us. One thing is the works of the law and another very different works of faith. If we live in faith, we will surely do works, but these works are the result of who we are and not to be able to be. We do not do things to have faith, we have faith and therefore we work. The works of the law are imposed beyond our will, the works of grace are

the result of a will and a bestowal granted by the Lord through his precious Holy Spirit.

***“(The Lord) make you fit in every good work
for you to do his will***

***Doing in you what is pleasant
before him, through Jesus Christ”***

Hebrews 13:21

When the believer returns to the law, he must fulfill every jota and every tilde. If the Galatian believers accepted circumcision but failed at some other point in the law, they were guilty of the whole law and no better than a non-believer. Since every person is born with a sinful nature and cannot perfectly keep the law, he is condemned before beginning. Therefore, the new covenant is based on the grace it grants through Jesus Christ and not the law it demands through human justice.

There is only one way to achieve justice before God: Faith, which is the justice that comes by faith in Jesus Christ. Justice simply means that a person has been placed in the right relationship with God. When a person is made righteous, he has the right to enter into a relationship with God, to have fellowship with Him, to worship him and to spend eternity with Him.

Jesus at birth did not abolish the law, even when during his earthly ministry; He fulfilled it. The law was perfect, without failure, and revealed the nature, character and holiness of God. But the law could no longer operate as a means to achieve justice before God, on the part of men with fallen or sinful nature, could they (or we) ever comply with the entire law, nor become just by fully complying with it.

As it was impossible for men, Jesus, God made flesh, fulfilled the law, so that through his person and through the faith that God himself gives (Grace) we can achieve justice. Jesus Himself, in the account provided by St. Matthew in 5:17 of his Gospel, said: Do not think that I have come to repeal the law or the prophets; I have not come to appeal but to fulfill. This indicates that the law remains forever, but we are not under the law, but under grace.

The Judaizers came to the born-again Jews; trying to drag them back under the laws of the Sabbath: laws about meals, laws about doing or not doing things, about dressing or not wearing certain clothes, putting them under all kinds of rules and regulations, bringing them back under the curse of which Jesus had redeemed Is this familiar to you? Of course, today there are not only Judaizers that are affecting some congregations, but there are religious leaders who, without Judaizing, demand from their brothers,

all kinds of unnecessary behaviors and duties according to grace.

If we could be brought to a correct relationship with God through the fulfillment of rules and norms, then the death of Jesus would have been in vain. We would not need it. But thanks to Him who did everything, today we can receive everything. Jesus did not say on the cross that everything was almost done, He said: "It is finished"

Most people believe that they have to keep a certain number of rules to stay righteous before God, but what makes us fair does not depend on rules such as not getting drunk or not smoking. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not at all in favor of getting drunk or smoking, I am only exposing true justice.

The important thing is that there is only one way to be made righteous before God, and it is the justice that comes by trusting in what God has accomplished through Christ on the cross. Drinking wine with meals will not make you more or less fair. Refraining from wine will not make it more or less fair. In Colossians 2:16, Paul says: Therefore, let no one judge you in food or drink, or in terms of holidays, new moon or Sabbath.

Many well-intentioned churches impose legalistic practices on their members. A denomination insists on

meeting to worship only on Saturdays; other refuses to consider that a day other than Sunday may be appropriate for worship. Paul not only urged the Galatians not to let anyone judge them for food or drink but also for their Sabbaths. If someone wants to keep the Sabbath, do it, but do not impose your conviction on others. And much less force them if they have enough hierarchy to do so.

Congregations that have the strictest rules are often the ones that have the most difficulty dealing with the sins they encounter in people. When a church responds to sin by imposing more laws, out of fear, that church is simply looking for more curse.

The more sin they see, the more law they impose. The more law they impose, the more rules there are to break. The more rules are broken, the more law they impose. It becomes a vicious circle that produces a defeated, lifeless, impotent, Bewitched church. The law will never make a person fair to God.

Can abstaining from eating meat on Fridays make a person fair? Can the fact that a woman uses her hair on a impeller, or a dress fifteen centimeters longer, can make her fairer before God? Not at all. Only faith in Christ opens the doors to justice. This does not imply that he does not try to dress wisely, but that is not to be holy, but because he is holy in Christ.

Most congregations cast aside the law of Moses and replace it with a new set of norms. There is a Baptist law, a Pentecostal law, a law of the Assemblies of God, a Catholic law, a Lutheran law ... whatever the denomination, it will have its own set of laws. Some even have their own manual to interpret the circumstances, ignoring that the Lord said we should not add anything to the Bible to do doctrine. **(Revelation 22:18 and 19)**

A church may even pretend not to be denominational, or be "interdenominational" or "trans denominational," and still have a set of laws as binding as those which Jesus abolished on Calvary. A church may be sunk in ceremonies, religious activities or even in work or growth systems, but it may be totally lifeless!

In Romans 6:14, Paul says: ***Because sin will not rule over you; For you are not under the law, but under grace.*** This leaves us with a tremendous conclusion: When we fall under the law, sin always has dominion over us and when someone imposes on us their personal or institutional laws it causes the same.

Denomination rules, religious ceremonies and church activities have a purpose in the life of the congregation: to shape the life of the church, to provide a common basis from which the body is intended to be built ... but they fail Justice. When such ceremonies or activities are used as a

measure of justification, they have been used to hide the cross and have become a spell. I have seen with pain how in some congregations they use the brothers by submitting them to the service of a growth system, manipulating them so that they cannot refuse to work, making their task a priority of their lives.

Legalism and confidence in the flesh are misleading, because they seem very good and have an aspect of deep religiosity. That is why both legalism and confidence in the flesh are "powerful spells." Every time we try to justify our actions or beliefs following the rules, we fall back into the flesh and turn away from the justice we have received by faith.

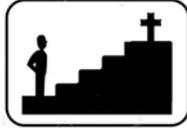
Living under the oppression of the spirit of religion only produces bonds and slavery. Christians cannot live under bondage and slavery for a long time without suffering its adverse effects on their lives, that's why today, we see many well-meaning and pious people, who deeply love God, who seeks to do everything their leaders tell him and yet, nothing works for them in life. It is because the spirit of religion that is witchcraft cuts off the true blessing of God.

I clarify that I am not proposing that every demand from leaders is witchcraft or that we should not work on growth or discipleship systems and do it with all dedication. I am saying that we should do nothing with the wrong spirit

governing ourselves. We are called to live under the government of God, He puts his will and his work, the church must function by revelation and not by imposition.

“Be therefore firm in the freedom with which Christ set us free, and do not be again subject to the yoke of slavery”

Galatians 5: 1 VRV



Chapter Eleven

False worship

We have seen how the spirit of religion tried to infiltrate early in the ranks of the church through Judaism and the Greeks, but now let's analyze other channels through which it seeks to affect the Lord's church today.

I propose not to see worship as the expression of a song. The song is a valid and beautiful means to express adoration, but it is only one more way of worshiping, not the only one. Worship is really the multiple expression of a heart in love and gratitude, a sincere and dedicated heart. Therefore, in worship, it is not as important as we sing, but the condition in which our heart is. That is precisely the problem of religiosity, since it is manifest hypocrisy. A religious can do many good things, the problem is not in his deeds, but in his heart and that is where the source of worship is born.

Worship: Reverence with great honor or respect for a being, considering it as a divine thing. || To revere and honor God with the cult that is due to him. || Love with extreme. || Like something extremely.

In the church we generally boast of not having idols as in Roman Catholicism, but that does not mean that we do not have idolatry. Satan always sought and will continue to seek to be worshiped, so all false religion is the worship he seeks through any idol or god, regardless of manifesting through different figures or names, the only thing that matters is that they worship him.

For us who live the Faith in Christ this seems impossible, that is, we do not even see in our imagination a brother prostrated before a false god, however we can also be worshipping the wrong through the excessive devotion to good things, for example the temple, some have worked so hard for the building that it becomes more important than the saints who congregate.

Some leaders are also idolized, there are those who love and respect more what the leader says or does than what God says or does and falls into false worship. Today it is very common for some leaders to hold on to their ministerial positions to generate a superior position and arouse admiration, devotion and control of their people. This happens when a spirit of religiosity operates, because in the Kingdom Jesus taught the opposite. **(Matthew 20:26 to 28)**

In some cases, our spiritual consecration, our ministry or position can also generate a false worship. Pride activated

by our admired devotion, by spiritual gifts or by developed talents, can also be objects of our false worship, some may think that no one would worship himself instead of doing it to God, however it is what he manifested in His prayer was the religious Pharisee who prayed beside the publican.

“To those who trusted themselves as righteous, and they despised others, he also said this parable:

Two men went up to the temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, and the other was a publican. The Pharisee, standing up, prayed with himself in this way: God, I thank you because

I'm not like the other men, thieves, unfair, adulterers, not even like this publican; I fast twice a week, I tithe everything I earn. But the publican, being far away, did not even want to raise his eyes to the sky, but beat his chest, saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

I tell you that he went down to his house justified before the other; because anyone who exalts himself will be humbled; and he who humbles himself will be exalted”

Luke 18: 9-14

The lesson is that the publican left for his house justified and the Pharisee did not. The publican was not justified by any of the works of the law, but by his repentant and humble attitude before God, by his recognition of sin

and by the faith he demonstrated in God by pleading for his mercy and forgiveness.

Christ reminded the audience that: ***“because whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and he who humbles himself will be exalted”*** (v.14). The publican had a humble and regretful attitude. He was justified. The Pharisee was not humble, was proud and was not justified.

The Bible speaks frequently about the need to avoid pride. Let's see what Solomon wrote about what God thinks about pride: ***“The fear of the Eternal is to hate evil; pride and arrogance, the wrong way, and the perverse mouth, I hate”*** (Proverbs 8:13). God hates pride, because pride is the false worship of oneself.

The spirit of religion operating in a particular way in organizations and religious leaders who have taught ideas contrary to God's thoughts have caused false worship (**Mark 7:7 and 8**) As a consequence of this operation, many people have been led to believe that they worship the true God, when the truth is that they offend Him.

“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.”

Leviticus 10:1-2

The sons of Aaron had a responsibility before the people and before God. They were not new brothers from a congregation. They were priests who knew very well what God had asked for, however they were not careful in what God wanted and proposed to worship in a different way. Perhaps they expected that after executing that idea, the Lord would open heaven to congratulate them, but that was not what happened. Those of us who are in charge of a ministerial function today, we must be very careful of our ideas and teachings, since these can arouse false worship.

Jesus warned his disciples: "*Beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inside are voracious wolves*" (Matthew 7:15; Mark 13:22, 23). Paul wrote that "*the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of men who suppress the truth*" (Romans 1:18). Thus, it is imperative that true Christians heed these warnings and stay away from anyone who teaches false doctrines or who conceals the truth of God's Word (**1 John 4: 1**). Any wrong teaching can divert people to false worship and therefore the Lord's warnings.

On the other hand, the true worship of God comes from a heart that desires God in the first place and nothing but God,

and this was taught by the Lord Jesus Christ when He made the speech on the subject of true worship with the Samaritan woman. That came to bring water from the well. **"You [the Samaritans] *adore what you do not know.*"** (John 4:22) These people worshiped God "without encouragement" because their total affection had not focused on the true God, therefore their worship was false. The Samaritan woman spoke of worship by referring to the place, by He knew the subject so much, however she could not speak of what she had not known, only knew a heartless adoration.

***"More time is coming, and now is when
true worshipers will worship the Father
In true and spirit; because also the Father
such worshipers seek to be worshiped"***

John 4:23

It is possible that even true believers fall into this error. We could never accept having physical idols, like the Samaritans, but we could be worshiping with a false heart. Religious may sing, but they cannot worship. We must sing and do everything with a sincere and true heart, it is then and only then that we will be worshiping in spirit and in truth.

Let us shout, as King David in Psalm 63: 5, ***"My soul will be satisfied as thick and thick, And my mouth will praise you with joy"*** Nothing less than God must satisfy the heart

of the regenerated man, and the answer Genuine to that wonderful grace, it is the true adoration of a heart in love. (Hebrews 13:15)

*“Above all else, guard your heart;
Because life flows from him”*

Proverbs 4:23

People who live under the influence of the spirit of religion, have song, do things, give themselves up, sacrifice themselves and do everything they are told, but they cannot have intimate communion with the Lord, they cannot flow in revelation and not They can worship with true worship.

The religious yeast is hypocrisy and a hypocritical heart can never truly worship. God does not need songs, the Word teaches that He has thousands of angels who sing to him with heavenly voices, (**Revelation 5:11**) so God does not seek a song, he desires a sincere heart.

David had that characteristic; we all know that he was a true worshiper. They told him the sweet singer of Israel and composed a lot of songs to the Lord. David took the tabernacle of Moses and when he brought the ark to Jerusalem, he armed it differently. Without mediating a divine ordinance, he opened it to the people, filled it with songs twenty-four hours, filled it with expressions of worship and humbled himself before the Lord and no

strange fire came out of the ark and consumed it, but the Lord himself said that He wanted to have a tabernacle like that one again.

*“After this I will return
And I will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which is fallen;
And I will repair its ruins, and I will lift it again,
For the rest of men to seek the Lord,
Acts 15:16 and 17*

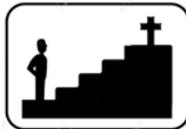
If there is something we can highlight about David, it was his sincerity. David was wrong many times, but he never hid his mistakes from the Lord, on the contrary, David always knew how to humble himself before Him. That is why his worship was never false. The spirit of religion creates an awareness of personal justice; therefore, it does not consider errors, but rights and like the Pharisee who prayed before God.

David was like the publican, he did not think he deserved, he recognized grace and cried out for mercy, therefore his heart pleased God and his worship was always well received, because it was true. False worship is born from a heart with pride like Uzias censers and in the end, it only manages to produce leprosy.

The Lord leads us to true worship and admonishes us if it is necessary to have a sincere heart before Him, to worship him in Spirit and in truth.

***“Oh God, you are my God;
I look for you intensely.
My soul thirsts for you;
My whole being craves you
which dry, exhausted and thirsty land”***

Psalm 63: 1 NIV



Chapter twelve

Symptoms of spirit of religion

1) It lacks true revelation of the Word

The spirit of religion puts veils in the eyes of Christians, preventing the life of the Word from producing in them Divine government. People who operate under this spirit are usually guided to study the letter a lot, but they do so without the operation of the Holy Spirit, so they make thinking strengths to defend theological arguments.

Remember that it was the spirit that operated in scribes, teachers and interpreters of the law, men who knew the Scriptures almost exaggeratedly, however, they could not recognize the living word that was Jesus Christ himself. In fact, He told them clearly, however the lack of revelation makes it easier to kill the supposed truth than to try to understand it outside the book.

They are the same people who teach that things that the eye did not see or hear heard, are those that God has prepared for those who love him (**1 Corinthians 2: 9**), however, when God does something new, they do not accept it, claiming that God does not such things. With which they assure by the Word, to know how God does things, however they can strain the mosquito and swallow the camel. (**Matthew 23:24**)

2) Exaggerated emphasis on external forms.

The religious spirit seeks to emphasize external appearances, in the opinion, in the right words, in the right things and in the correct posture. They are always afraid of what others will think, manifest lack of personality and insecurity.

As we have seen hypocrisy is one of its fundamental characteristics, therefore it does not matter much what you really want or feel. Always try to show the right thing, even if your heart travels in another direction.

King Saul sinned by disobeying God's will and acknowledging his sin, however he told Samuel not to tell the elders of the people, that no one would know, that he would offer a burnt offering to Jehovah. It was important for him to keep up appearances.

When David sinned and the prophet Nathan lets him know, David did not say, "Too bad ... Please, don't let anyone know ..." David repented, fasted and threw himself on the floor of his palace, waiting with humiliation and crying that the Lord will forgive him. Surely his servants would see him lying like this, but David did not consider anyone's opinion important, he just wanted an answer from Jehovah.

Michal, Saul's daughter and David's wife, was also a person who was more concerned with what they would say than right, she was horrified by her husband's exuberant dance since she went beyond what she was used to seeing and felt fear of the criticism of the servants, therefore she criticized it and suffered lost because of it, because God was listening to her and was a barren woman all her life. (2 Samuel 6:14 to 22).

3) He has a sense of fear and condemnation.

The religious spirit always concludes in condemnation, both for sinners, for whom they do not feel compassionate love, but repulsion and distaste as for the brothers who are severely corrected, but await urgent changes, before threats of Divine judgment.

People who live under the oppression of the spirit of religion feel a continuous fear of personal failure and

Divine anger. In the kingdom of God, there is mercy for those who seek it, but they do not understand very well that, in case of any fault, they say that God forgives, but they do not believe it, so they always talk about consequences and even seem to enjoy them when someone who failed suffer them.

David was guilty of terrible sins, but he had a heart according to God's. He loved the Lord, repented and always experienced forgiveness. It is beautiful to meditate carefully on Psalms 32 or 51, because David makes his condition clear, but at the same time confesses and waits without hesitation for God's forgiveness and acceptance.

4) He has an attitude of personal pride

People who live under the influence of the spirit of religion are proud of their humility. They believe that their works of good and relentless devotion make them better than others. They don't say it openly, but they love to show it to enjoy when others say it.

They easily tend to become critics of those who do not achieve the measure of their consecration. They really strive to do things right and it is not bad that they do it, but God looks at hearts and the problem they suffer is that their heart is not sincere in what they do.

5) It has an oppressive legalism

All legalism is oppressive, but those who operate under the influence of a spirit of religiosity offer a legalistic system without flexibility. He wants to produce a method that replaces the dynamism of an intimate communion with God. Under this spirit, other brothers are given an artificial model of service and classify them by the ability to conduct themselves and obey without objection.

They observe and demand in a suffocating way, more and more people. They do everything in the name of God, they only pretend to be their spokesmen and do not accept arguments from those who end up subject to their tricks.

They can't stand to see the freedom of other peers. The religious in the time of Jesus did not support that their disciples had some type of privileges such as not fasting, not washing their hands before eating or simply not keeping all the rites of faith that they should keep.

6) They are certain that they know God

Religion reduces God to a subject of intellectual study. The goal is to understand and make it predictable. It is an attempt to place God within the limits of his understanding. Thus, the new movements of the Spirit are

rejected if they do not conform to the understanding of how God should work.

Theology is his workhorse and not bad, but even the term theology has its origin in Latin *theology*. This word, in turn, comes from the Greek concept formed by *theos* ("God") and *logos* ("study"). Theology is, in this way, the science that is responsible for the study of the characteristics and properties of God.

I clarify that I am not against theology, I do not want to cultivate enemies of that area, but just thinking that we can have subjects to study God, is something pretentious. All right, I understand the implications of a healthy theology, I just say that there are people who claim the ability to put God under the microscope of a laboratory and teach others what they see, as if they understood everything. They generally believe that they know how God thinks and how he will act, based on what he once thought, said or did.

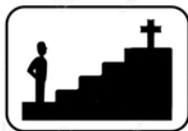
The religious forget that God always did different things and that He acts as he pleases, because he is God and because he is a sovereign Creator. That is why the apostle Paul, having visited the third heaven, wrote of hidden mysteries and ineffable things.

7) They make an exaggerated emphasis on tradition and customs.

The religious spirit will lead him to give great honor to what God has done in the past, while standing up in opposition to his will for the present. This is what happened when the children of Israel burned the bronze serpent incense (see **2 Kings**).

The religious not only make an exaltation of the biblical stories, which is totally understandable and logical, but they have devotion to what God did years ago in their congregations or in the institutions to which they belong. They can keep concepts or regulations based on the things of the past, without considering God's will for this time.

They are always preaching that in the past everything was better, they yearn for the early church, when in reality, after more than two thousand years, we should be enjoying a breakthrough. It is key not to lose the essence or neglect the apostolic and prophetic foundations of the church, but we must go in search of new direction and manifestation of God.



Chapter thirteen

Personal advice before the spirit of religion

In my years of ministry, I have had to face the questions of many brothers, who are oppressed by the spirit of religion in their own congregation. Most of the time through their leaders, in others because of the environment. But there are also times that some church leaders are oppressed by religious institutions.

Taking into account the subject that I have faced in this book, I would like to suppose in these pages that someone asks me a question and I want to answer, taking care of the answer. In fact, you may not agree with that response, therefore I do not attempt to include it as part of the teaching, but as a personal opinion, in the face of the operation of this loathsome spirit of religion.

Pastor Rebolleda I am in a very religious and structured congregation, do I really feel oppressed, limited, controlled, what do you think I should do?

I Osvaldo Rebolleda, only responsible for this answer would tell ...

Run for your life! Do not allow an unclean spirit of religion to manipulate your life or that of your family. Congregate elsewhere, which will not mean leaving the Lord or the body of Christ, or the Church as many will pretend to tell you. Do not criticize or murmur the leadership or the brothers from where you leave, do not try to justify yourself by criticizing or accusing, just be free, look for a place that works and moves under the direction of the Holy Spirit and put you under authority.

On the other hand if you are a leader of that place and the revelation of what is happening in your congregation is dawning you, I would tell you to stay and try to produce changes from within, as long as you have the position and spiritual strength necessary to Face this ruthless spirit. Do not allow this spirit to end up killing your gift, your potential or freezing the progress to your purpose over time. I would say that it would be good to try, but only under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, if not, leave that place, your career is not wasted time, maybe you have

gained experience to unleash your potential elsewhere and help Let others fall into error.

In all cases I would tell you never to react with anger about the men or women who have led such congregations, remember that our fight is not against blood and flesh. Many of them are also victims of this spirit of religion. Love them, pray for them, so that they can also be free of this spirit and never go out the door of conflict, lawsuit or curse.

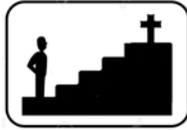
Finally, I would make it clear that one day we will have to face the Lord face to face and we will not be able to blame anyone if we did not do what we should do. If the Lord through spiritual discernment allows us to discover that a spirit of religiosity and legalism is operating in our environment, it is so that we can fight it successfully or to flee from that place without hesitation. He would not show us such a thing so that we would remain to suffer as slaves, because the Lord called us to freedom.

You should not allow the tools that this spirit always uses: Threat, intimidation, fear, curses or manipulation that is witchcraft, affect your final decision, If you flee from that place the Lord will cover you from all evil, but do not get hurt and without congregate, quickly join a healthy ministry and put yourself under God's established authorities. The

coverage of a healthy church will also prevent any negative word from reaching its life.

Jesus said then to the Jews who had believed in him: “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free ... ”

John 8:31 and 32



Chapter fourtee

Prayer of renunciation to the spirit of religion

In this chapter I would like to include a prayer of renunciation that can help those who seek to get out of the influence of a spirit of religiosity or legalism. Even if someone is not very sure of being under that influence, I advise them to make this prayer out loud and renounce all vestiges of religiosity.

I advise you to make this prayer out loud and with true faith, because something will definitely change in your life. The reason for including such a prayer is the request that has arisen from people who wish to be definitively free of this spirit, have tried to get out of the influence by changing congregation, but nevertheless notice that there are doubtful behavior patterns in them and wish to renounce all possible influence and do not know how to do it.

This prayer is only a model that can help you but surely you can improve it by expressing yourself in your own way and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, so do not take it as

the elaborate and implacable solution that it does not pretend to be. Endorse the words and speak with the heart, that is not the echo of a desire, but the true expression of a humiliated and willing heart.

Beloved Lord ... I approach You in the name of your beloved Son Jesus Christ to express my gratitude, my adoration and my sincere regret regarding any pattern of wrong behavior or thinking ...

I regret and give up every known or unknown open door that I have allowed to open up to the spirit of religion because of my behavior, putting my spiritual life and that of my family at risk ...

I regret and renounce every legalistic thought, behavior or religious determination that, covered in the appearance of piety, has opened doors in my life and that of my family to the spirit of religion ...

I regret not receiving your complete love, compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness; and I give up any belief that you, Lord, are distant and judge. I choose to embrace all your aspects and know you intimately.

I regret if at any time I allowed myself to be guided by another spirit other than the Holy Spirit, if I accept the manipulation, intimidation or threat of another person ...

I regret relying on my intellect in worship, in praise, in prayer, in reading the Word and in spiritual warfare.

I regret and renounce all legalism, traditions and religious formulas.

I regret and give up all participation in dead works.

I repent and give up all boredom, passivity, or disinterest in Your work and the hardness of my heart if I have had it.

I regret and resign if at any time I put the opinion of men above Your wise opinion.

I repent and give up all attitudes committed to sin.

I regret my lack of transparency, for covering and not confessing sin, for not receiving correction, for being on the defensive, justifying myself quickly and rationalizing my mistake.

I regret if I allowed leaders who operated under a spirit of religiosity to lead me in the wrong ways. For not discerning it quickly, for enduring all manipulation for too long.

I repent and give up all deceit and hypocrisy, all pride, all arrogance and self-righteousness.

I regret and give up all comparison, criticism, judgment, greed, all gossip, zeal and anger. I repent and give up all persecution and slander about those who move in the Holy Spirit and not understanding them I criticized them.

I repent and renounce every act of rebellion that has been driven by the spirit of religion in my life. I choose obedience as an attitude of heart.

I repent and ask forgiveness if in my service in Your work, I allowed a spirit of religion to use my life to judge, control, manipulate or mistreat others, I had not really seen it that way and I apologize because I did not know under What spirit I was acting. I apologize if this perverse spirit infiltrated your church through my life ...

I choose not to receive anything that comes from the same spirit that murdered Jesus, the spirit of religion that continues today trying to assassinate the work of the Holy Spirit.

I choose to confront and totally oppose that spirit and not oppose the Holy Spirit of God ... Father, I thank you and believe in Your love, Your grace and Your work, in the name of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ!

I _____ in the name of Jesus Christ and with all spiritual authority in Him, I break every curse,

charm, spell or ritual that may have affected my life. Every carnal or institutional pact, every sacrifice of the flesh and cut off all ties that the spirit of religion may have generated in my soul. I cut off all generational ties that the spirit of religion has intended to infiltrate my family line ...

I break every legal right, known or unknown, that allows the permanence of the spirit of religion in my life and in my family ... in the name of Jesus Christ!

Spirit of religion ... As a member of the body of Christ and with the authority that the Lord has established in my life as his son in Christ Jesus, I turn against you and make you out of my life!

I refuse to allow you to steal my intimate relationship with the Lord ...

I refuse to allow you to kill the flow of the Holy Spirit in my life ...

I reject all manipulation, control and sorcery about my life ...

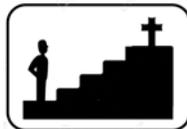
I refuse to allow you to destroy the effectiveness of the anointing that I have received from God ...

I choose to be guided by the Holy Spirit in everything and I submit in sincere obedience to a leadership established by the Lord, faithful, true and of the Spirit of truth.

I choose to establish myself in the principles of the apostolic, prophetic and Kingdom church to manifest on earth every plan and every Divine design. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen...

“Pay attention to me, those who worship God; Come, I'm going to tell you what God has done for me. With my lips and my tongue I called him and sang praises. If my intentions were bad, God would not have heard me; But He listened to me and answered my prayers! Blessed be God, for he took my prayer into account and he showed me his love! ”

Psalm 66:16 to 20 Simple Language Version



Acknowledgments

“I would like to thank my heavenly Father in each of my books, because he loved me in such a way who sent his Son Jesus Christ my redeemer.

I would like to thank Christ for becoming a man, for dying in my place and for leaving me his well-marked footprints.

So, I can't get lost

I would like to thank the glorious Holy Spirit my faithful friend, who in his infinite grace and patience,

He revealed everything I shared ...

I am very clear that the only teacher is He

And of Him is all the glory and all the honor...”

“I would also like in each book to thank my life partner, my beloved wife Claudia for her love and patience before my long hours of work, I know that it is difficult to live with someone so focused on their purpose and it would be impossible without your understanding”



Pastor and teacher

Oswaldo Rebolleda



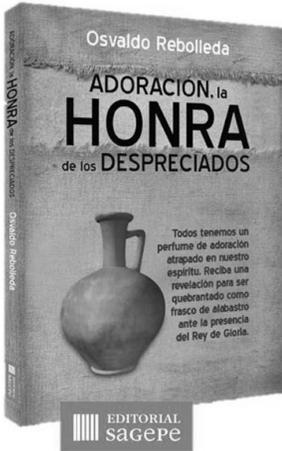
Pastor and teacher Oswaldo Rebolleda today has thousands of titles in teaching messages for the perfecting of saints and various study books with varied and vital themes for a victorious Christian life.

The teacher Oswaldo Rebolleda is the creator of the School of Spiritual Government (EGE)
And minister itinerantly in Argentina
And to the last of the earth.

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Other books of Oswaldo Rebolledo

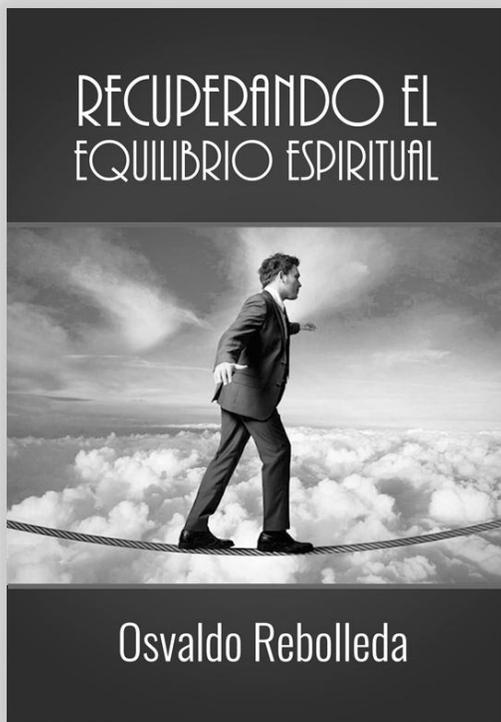


“We all have a perfume of worship trapped in our spirit. Receive a revelation to be broken as an alabaster jar in the presence of the King of Glory ...”

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should have in your library ...**



***«All change must be produced by God
through men and not by men
In the name of God ...»***



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