

Spirit of Offense – The Bait of Satan

A trap is something hidden used to capture a prey. The trap is baited with something to lure the animal into the trap. One of Satan’s most common baits is offense. When we pick up the bait, offense, Satan closes his trap.

A servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility, correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentances so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare (trap) of the devil, have been taken captive by him to do his will. **2 Timothy 2:24-26**

Offense: something that causes displeasure, humiliation, anger, resentment, insult, slight or hurt.

Freedom from offense is essential because the world is full of offenses:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they come.” **Luke 17:1**

Offended people can be divided into two categories:

1. Those who have been wronged
2. Those who believe they have been wronged

This is a result of:

- Inaccurate information
- Or accurate, but distorted information

Judgment is made upon assumption, appearance, hearsay.

You will find the greatest resentment and hatred between people who were once very close. These are the greatest hurts and have the potential for the greatest offenses.

Staying Offended:

One way the enemy keeps a person offended is to keep the offense propped up with Pride. This is because Pride keeps you from admitting your true condition. You are blinded to it. You insist that you are not offended, that you have forgiven. Pride keeps you from dealing with the truth. It keeps you from repentance, which sets you free.

If we fail to deal with offense, it will produce much fruit:

Hurt	Jealousy	Hatred
Unforgiveness	Resentment	Envy
Anger	Strife	Blame
Outrage	Bitterness	Deception

This fruit can result in:

Insults	Division	Betrayal
Attacks	Separation	Backsliding
Wounding	Broken Relationships	Loss of Destiny

God is more interested in your character than your anointing. This is why He is always trying to build our character so that we can be a vessel of honor:

In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself of the latter, he will be a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. **2 Timothy 2:21-22**

The mechanism that God uses to build our character is Fire:

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it may be tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 1:6-7**

In good times, anyone can seem loving and kind. But what about that person when the storm comes? If you want to know the real you, wait until pressure is applied. The way you act under pressure is the real you.

The fire of affliction, trials and tribulations allows us to recognize flaws such as anger, bitterness, strife, envy, etc., It allows us to recognize them, repent of them and allow God to remove them from us. Sin and character defects can remain hidden for a long time. The fire of trials and tribulations causes them to surface and we are left with a choice, deal with them or ignore them.

We tend to justify our bitterness, unforgiveness, anger, envy and resentment as they surface under the firing process. We want to look at those who hurt us and blame them, instead of dealing with our own faults and sins. When we blame others and defend our own position, we are blinded to our true condition. Then we will not deal with our issues and we will not move forward to our destiny.

God puts us in very uncomfortable fiery trials to mature, refine and strengthen us, not to destroy us. We grow in the tough times, not the easy times. If maturity was easy, all would be mature.

When you pass the tests, your roots go down deeper and you become stronger and able to withstand whatever comes your way.

When you fail the tests, and become offended, you can become bitter and angry and disqualified. If you run from the trials and testing, you will seriously hinder your growth and maturing process. Some people get hurt and never recover. This is destiny killing offense.

Remember, Jesus learned obedience by the things he suffered. **(Hebrews 5:8)**

What about you? Have you learned obedience through your suffering? Or have you learned to run, to get angry to fight back?

Jesus suffered many wrongs. None of them was the first bit His fault. Yet, He never took His eyes off of His assignment.

Now it came to pass, when the time came for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. **Luke 9:51**

Jesus was never able to be moved from where God wanted Him. He was always in position. If you are in the place where God wants you – church, marriage, job, business – the devil will use offense to try get you to move out of position. If you will not budge even in the midst of great conflict, you will spoil the devil's plans and stay in God's plan for your life. Stay in position!

John 6:60-66 = From that time many disciples left Jesus because they were offended by His teachings.

How to become free from Offense:

1. Recognize that you are hurt – pride wants to keep you from admitting this.
2. Forgive those who hurt you, or those you perceive hurt you - If you do not forgive, God turns you over to tormenting demons until you forgive.

And his master was angry and delivered him to the tormenters until he should pay all that was due him. So My heavenly Father will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses. **Matthew 18:34-35**

Speak out Loud: Lord I forgive him. I release him from everything he has done. I wipe clean every record of wrong. I ask you to forgive him and to wipe clean every record of wrong.

3. Receive Deliverance from Offense and all underlings.
4. Pray for the person who has hurt you.

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.
Matthew 5:44

- 5 . If possible, contact the person who hurt you. Ask for forgiveness for your part and wrong attitudes.

What if you have offended someone?

You may have done nothing wrong. No matter. It is up to you to attempt reconciliation. It is more important to help our brothers and sisters to be able get out of the trap of offense and unforgiveness than to be proven “right”.

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:21-24

Remember that this person feels, right or wrong, that you have mistreated them. It may be very hard for them to ask for forgiveness.

A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city. And contentions are like the bars of castle. **Proverbs 18:19**

In these cases, you must take the high road and humble ourselves to approach our brother and apologize. It takes a maturity to walk in humility and ask for forgiveness. But taking the first step is harder for the person who is hurting. That's why Jesus said you must go to them. Standing up for yourself and your "rights" will never bring peace and reconciliation.

Are you willing to lay down your self-protection, your pride and your rights in order to be restored to a person who has offended you or you have offended?

Ministry List: Repent, Renounce and Remove, in the Name of Jesus:

Offense

Hurt	Murder	Blame
Pride	Rejection	Deception
Bitterness	Outrage	Gossip
Unforgiveness	Jealousy	Slander
Resentment	Strife	Murmuring
Revenge	Division	Complaining
Anger	Bitterness	Rebellion
Hatred	Envy	Disobedience
Violence	Jealousy	