

## *Narcissist/Jezebel ~ Codependent/Ahab Bible Study*

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What a journey this has been containing many months of breaking until recently not even knowing the why's of what I was walking out and yet continually seeking Jesus for understanding, covering and guidance. My prayer and desire is that you be comforted with the same words and truth by which I was comforted in order to continue comforting others by which you are comforted.

The main focus of this series of study is going to be receiving Godly instruction and truth in reference to *Narcissist/Jezebel ~ Codependent/Ahab*. Some of you likely are thinking you know about this already, however, I challenge you to pray and open your hearts to receive what I am going to be sharing because truthfully not too long ago I was sitting in your seat right now.

I can guarantee you 100% every last one of you have dealt with or are dealing with and maybe even have exhibited traits resembling a narcissist or codependent, no matter how young or old you are. It wasn't until last week did the Holy Spirit reveal to me how they are tied into oppression/possession or basically being influenced by a spirit of Jezebel or Ahab. The truth is, until something is revealed – How can you repent of such a thing? You cannot... And this is where my journey began. I was sick to death of being controlled, manipulated, pressed upon, drained, being told how I felt or should feel which negated my God-given gift to have an opinion, being self-labeled as a "Giver," basically I was drained, having nothing left to give. The list could go on and on – which we will explore more in depth later... But for now, let's just say the Lord did not want me DEPENDENT or rather CO-DEPENDENT anymore on anyone but HIM.

One day He gave me a Scripture which shook me up a little, it was Galatians 1:10 –

**For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**

I saw the fault in my ways in this... I saw how I often try to PERSUADE MEN and I also saw how often I seek to have the APPROVAL OF MEN. It was on that day I began my journey to freedom and I let Him lead me all the way – into total freedom and Who He sets free is free indeed. Looking back now I can see how this Co-dependency (Worldly term) was woven into the fabric of my soul from a very young age – like a web too far reaching and too complex for any man to deliver me from. It was me and it was our Lord Jesus. This was His doing, that none should boast in that He solely would get the Glory He so deserves. All He required of me was to let go of all I had been told, taught, shown, etc... By man (because it is all vanity – but that is a whole other story within a story) Speaking of which, the driving force behind Rituals is vanity the Lord showed me. On a side note if people saw what I saw – You would never demand or persuade anyone ever to worship,

take communion, give an offering or be delivered again – which is vile to the Father and stinks in His nostrils, and is a primary reason why Jesus is coming back to set in place and teach His own His true feasts. Did you know it says in Mark 14:25 that Jesus will never drink of the fruit of the vine until that DAY WHEN HE SHALL DRINK IT IN THE NEW KINGDOM? I digress.... I am just saying that we do so much out of vanity convinced it is according to what the Lord would have us do. Forgive me for the rabbit trail...

Back to the study at hand if anyone is still with me?

My journey started when I was so broken inside I relentlessly called out to my Lord to help me, not to mention all the others I called upon and so graciously tried to help me and loved me through it. The pain did not go away until I began to get the understanding of why it was there in the first place. Sooooo, I was comforted by the Lord, gained His wisdom in order to comfort another and periodically since only He can actually change a heart we will pray together for Him to do a mighty complete work in your life as well.

There are two types of creation. Obedient children and disobedient children. The disobedient children have chosen the way of Cain, to walk according to their own ways in succinct rebellion, having their conscience seared with a hot iron, no longer feeling the pull to repent. Simply put, they may speak of Jesus but refuse to live a life laid down in submission – not loving Him enough to do as He says.

Today I am talking to those who truly desire to walk according to the precepts of Jesus in full submission to His will, His ways, reflecting the character of Him. I am a firm believer that we cannot lay down something until it is revealed, once revealed the Lord will give us grace to overcome all things. Obedient children receive the Lord's conviction in their hearts which is power to repent – to actually go and sin no more.

So there I was... He had showed me a truth about me and yet I had no knowledge to back up the characteristics I was displaying and the forces coming at me by the hand of others who attempted to mold me into something I was not and yet their demands made me feel as if I was drowning – no matter how hard I poured into them, nothing changed. I knew that day, I was the one who needed to change. When we change it forges a change in those close to us. Amazing how God works all things together for the good this way.

I began to research all I could about the characteristics of the Worldly term – Co-dependent, which we will go over. This whole process has been so Holy Spirit lead I find it difficult to articulate all He was doing with Earthly words. While in the process of this discovery I had an amazing revelation... Co-dependents feed off of Narcissists and in turn Narcissists glean fuel from a Co-dependent. This will become much more clear to you when we get further into our Study. That day as I was standing in the kitchen the Lord spoke to me in my Spirit saying He laid out an example for me in the Bible... Jezebel and Ahab. It was at that moment I had that which I needed to share with others – Scriptural proof of this insistent Spiritual entanglement. As

we move forward we will explore more about this entanglement and the strong presence of Jezebel/Narcissists today. It is so important of a truth that it is even mentioned in the Book of Revelation, being something the Church of Thyatira must overcome in the last days.

#### **Revelation 2:18-29**

<sup>18</sup> And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

<sup>19</sup> I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

<sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

<sup>21</sup> And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

<sup>22</sup> Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup> And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

<sup>24</sup> But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

<sup>25</sup> But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

<sup>26</sup> And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

<sup>27</sup> And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

<sup>28</sup> And I will give him the morning star.

<sup>29</sup> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jezebel is a demonic force at work in the World today. This influence is honestly more than any of us can handle alone and actually it would be detrimental to even attempt such a feat. There is one way and one way only to defeat this foe, whether you are suffering from such tendencies yourself or under its influence and that is to NOT KNOW THE DEPTHS OF SATAN'S SPEECH, HOLD FAST TO JESUS UNTIL HE COMES AND TO KEEP DOING THE WORKS OF OUR LORD UNTIL THE END. I believe this is the exact time we are living in prophetically right now... Those under her influence (mind you, this is INSIDE the Church) have a small space in time to repent.

The first mention of Jezebel/Ahab in the 1 Kings when Elijah faced this demonic force. LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT RIGHT AWAY – JEZEBEL DOES NOT ONLY REFER TO WOMEN. This false truth itself was born out of the Spirit of Jezebel to remain hidden. The only reason this entity is referred to as a female is because it multiplies and grows wherever it is allowed to function. Please do not tolerate her operating – if you hear someone speak the false doctrine of only women can operate likened to a Jezebel Spirit – expose it as such – a lie. I would encourage you to read 1 and 2 Kings in full via the Holy Spirit to glean full understanding of the scope of the destruction birthed out of such darkness. For the sake of time I am just going to paraphrase what is found in Scripture. Beforehand, I want to go over the fruits of this Spirit's labor mentioned in **Galatians 5:19-21** – which are: ADULTRY, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS, LASCIVIOUSNESS, IDOLATRY, WITCHCRAFT, HATRED, VARIANCE, EMULATIONS, WRATH, STRIFE, SEDITIONS, HERESIES, ENVY, MURDER, DRUNKENNESS, REVELLINGS – which in doing ANY OF THESE THINGS you will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Mainly because we cannot serve two masters, the Word says we will love one and hate the other. Committing such acts makes one so entwined deeply with Satan, his is the Kingdom one serves during that time. Thankfully, our Father is so merciful there is granted a space to repent. I often wonder when that space in time will be up? That day and hour only He knows, which is why we are to work out our salvation daily with fear and trembling. Praise God.

Back to 1 & 2 Kings, only because it is so important to see the truth in how Jezebel and Ahab fuel and feed one another. After we lay the Biblical foundation we will get into more life application resources and tools which apply to us each and every day. When we do this, trust me, you are going to be amazed at how much this falsehood has touched you throughout your life and likely still does today.

Like with anything... Once your eyes have been opened you become so much more aware of the subtly of the ways the enemy seeks to destroy and you see just how he has used you and others to accomplish his will. We can be so ever grateful for the gift of repentance in this fashion for it truly is a gift. Now that I am more aware I can cast this chain off of me, no longer serving his kingdom. However, having such wisdom at times does bring with it a burden so to speak because I find myself seeing it beguiling and influencing many others. Knowing it is not my job to point out what another is stuck in, but rather point to the One Who does save – Our Lord Jesus, as I said earlier this truly is a deliverance which is intimate between Him and the individual.

Let's take a look at the Queen of Narcissism and the King Co-dependent spoken of in Scripture, that being – Jezebel and Ahab.

King David had been absent from the scene of Hebrew history for about 135 years when this story opens. His great kingdom, enlarged and more richly endowed by his son Solomon, had been fractured into two weakened fragments. The southern kingdom of Judah was being ruled by his

descendants, while the northern kingdom of Israel suffered under a succession of wicked men at the helm.

Ahab is introduced to the pages of Scripture with these shocking words: “And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him” ([1 Kgs. 16:30](#)). He had the dubious distinction of being the most wicked king who reigned over Israel up until his day. “He married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him” ([1 Kgs. 16:31](#)).

“Sidonians” were people on the Mediterranean coast who occupied the great cities of Tyre and Sidon. With the ever-present menace of Syria and the growing threat of Assyria, Ahab decided that he needed an alliance with this neighboring nation, so he made a treaty with the king of Phoenicia and sealed it by marrying his daughter. That is how Jezebel happened to move to Samaria, the capital of Israel, and there is only one way to describe it — *a whirlwind hit Israel*.

The king of Phoenicia was not only the political leader of his people, he was also the high priest of their religion, as his name Ethbaal implies. Jezebel had grown up steeped in the worship of Baal and his female consort, Astarte. Baal was considered to be the god of the *land*. He owned it, they said, and he controlled its weather and the increase of its crops and cattle. Jezebel’s mother was considered to be the mother-goddess of fertility. So idols of both her parents stood side by side in their temples and were worshiped by priests and temple prostitutes with lewd dances and sacred orgies. In times of crisis such as famine, they slashed themselves and even sacrificed their children to appease the gods and implore their help.

Jezebel was fanatical about her religion. The worship of Jehovah must have seemed dull and commonplace by comparison, and she was determined to change it. She was a headstrong, self-willed, domineering woman, and with a moral weakling for a husband, she had little trouble getting her way. She brought 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of her mother and housed them in the palace, and fed them in royal style. Their duties were to promote the worship of Baal throughout the land.

Not satisfied to establish her religion in Israel, Jezebel sought to stamp out every remnant of Jehovah worship and to kill every true prophet of God. She had to have things completely her way, and she almost succeeded. Some prophets survived by compromising their convictions and turning into “yes” men for Ahab. Another group of 100 were hidden in a cave and fed secretly by a godly servant of Ahab named Obadiah. But Elijah was the only one courageous enough to stand up openly against Jezebel’s wickedness. God gave him a great victory when he called down fire from heaven upon Mount Carmel. The prophets of Baal were slain and it looked as though the nation would turn back to God. But Jezebel was not finished with her sinister work. She swore in

her rage that she would kill Elijah, and he ran for his life, collapsed in the wilderness and pleaded with God to let him die. It was the lowest point in the godly prophet's great career. And Baal worship lived on, dragging the nation to new depths of degradation. This stubborn, headstrong, self-willed wife of Ahab brought disruption and distress to Israel for years to come.

Jezebel often manipulated her husband Ahab using his weakened state she enforced upon him as yes another tactic of control, often taunting him that he was weak. Sadly, these two were *self-willed to the end*. *I guess you could say – she used all sorts of manipulation possible to get her husband to accomplish her dirty work without getting any blood on her own hands*. Elijah met Ahab in the vineyard and pronounced God's judgment on both him and his wife for their wicked deeds. King Jahosaphat was visiting and asked Ahab "Is there not yet a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of him?" ([1 Kgs. 22:7](#)). And Ahab replied, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. He is Micaiah son of Imlah" ([1 Kgs. 22:8](#)). So Micaiah was called, and although he knew his life was in danger, he spoke what God told him. Israel would be scattered on the mountains like sheep without a shepherd ([1 Kgs. 22:17](#)). As we might expect, Ahab rejected Micaiah's prophecy and had him cast into prison. He was going to have what he wanted and do what he pleased, regardless of God's will.

But it didn't work out quite like he planned. Ahab knew the Syrians would be after him personally, so he removed his royal garments and disguised himself as a regular soldier. "Now a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor" ([1 Kgs. 22:34](#)). That soldier did not know he was shooting at the king, but his arrow penetrated the narrow slit between the pieces of Ahab's armor. Very few bowmen would have been that accurate. It was obvious that God was guiding that arrow, and Ahab's self-will ended in his untimely death.

Jezebel outlived him by almost fourteen years. Jehu, the captain of Israel's army, was to be the instrument of divine discipline in her case. After slaying King Jehoram, the son of Ahab, he rode to Jezreel. Scripture says, "When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she painted her eyes and adorned her head, and looked out the window" ([2 Kgs. 9:30](#)). She knew what was about to happen, but she was going to die like a queen, arrogant, self-willed and unrepentant to the end. She shouted abuses at Jehu from her upstairs window, but at Jehu's command, several of her servants threw her down, "and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot" ([2 Kgs. 9:33](#)). It was a violent death, but it illustrated again the seriousness of sinful self-will in opposition to God. Jezebel and Ahab had two sons and one daughter and unfortunately, these same curses were carried out continually generation to generation so their influence lived on, even to this day.

God only knows how many generations will be affected by our sinful self-will, our insistence on having things our way instead of God's. This shocking story ought to provide the incentive we need to put off every remnant of self-will and yield ourselves fully to do the will of God. This is simply a brief overview to the recollection of such evil operations. Like I said, I encourage you to read 1 and 2 Kings to fully grasp the truth in Spirit.

Next time we are going to glean wisdom from this Old Testament demonstration while pulling it into the here and now so it is applicable in our lives today as a useful tool to walk in full display of Jesus on Earth, as a true witness to Him above all else. In the upcoming broadcasts we are going to deeply cover the characteristics of both Narcissists and Codependents, specifically how they weave and feed one another and learn to be free in Jesus – not for a moment or a day, but set free forever, in order we are complete in Him, having our identity in Jesus and Him alone. The fruit of this freedom is we shall truly walk in love towards all, loving Him first, being of One Accord with Him and one another for the Glory of His Name.

## PART 2

### CODEPENDENCY

Today we are continuing on our journey in Part 2 of the Narcissist –Codependent Bible Study, picking up where we left off last week in which we studied 1 & 2 Kings, learning more about Jezebel & Ahab's entrance, purpose and fate. Most importantly, we gained clarity why this is important for us today... Speaking of the Church of Thyatira, who is given but a space and time to repent for being seduced, tolerating and fornicating with Jezebel. The Word says if they refuse to repent they will receive an additional burden, being cast into the Great Tribulation. In addition, it is written, these are those who know the depths of Satan. On the flipside, for those of us who overcome and keep doing the works of Jesus until the end, we shall receive power over the nations as Jesus, the Morning Star is granted unto us. (This is the fullness of Jesus operating in and through us here on the Earth). Last week we went over the context of these verses found in Revelation 2:18-29, so if you missed that broadcast I encourage you to go back and listen.

Last week I also set a foundation Biblically using Jezebel and Ahab, but due to time constraints we must keep moving forward so I am not going to spend much time reviewing the portions we already discussed, with the exception of using my life experiences on this journey.

#### **Shall we get started?**

Today we will be going to touch a little more on the evidence of influence of Jezebel and Ahab intermingled with real life relationships. Remember I said this Study will take a more life application turn and my goal is to make that turn today. The truth is we all suffer at the hands of this destructive force in one way or another. For some of us we have demands placed upon us which are tormenting and unattainable no matter how much we love and lay our lives down for another. Narcissists continually raise the bar for they are broken vessels too. As we break free from depending on another to complete us we will bind ever so close to Jesus, the One and Only created King, Who truly can complete us in fullness. This alone is the sole purpose of this Study, although as we journey there will be much fruit produced in the breaking... It is all about Jesus and being one with Him as He and not another is placed upon the thrones of our hearts.

In our sin nature, the old creature has elements of characteristics of narcissism or rather love of self – vanity and setting oneself up as God... It was foretold of this long ago by a term called VANITY. Ecclesiastes, which we have studied recently, tells us ALL IS VANITY. Vanity battles with



Jesus getting the Glory He and only He deserves. The enemy has tricked us who are codependent into believing a fable and here it is... "So and so, just cannot make it without us." We have much to repent for and I encourage you as the Holy Spirit reveals your hand in this dysfunction of impure love just take it to the Lord with a repentant heart, which is imperative to the breaking free process.

Anyone here feeling DESPERATE FOR LOVE FROM ANOTHER? That is a number one red flag codependency is operating in your life. This could be a parent, child, significant other, sibling or friend... Thirsting after anyone other than Jesus as a life source is a big no no. Don't lose hope but rather rejoice because truly it is exciting right now! The Lord always reveals a truth about us before He releases us from it in order He get the Glory for deliverance and our testimony can encourage another... We pay it forward this way! We lay our lives down as a display for just what Jesus can do, even with a hot mess like me and you! He turns our ashes into beauty and we go from hot mess to beautiful mess, continually in need of a Savior. As we are honest about ourselves regarding our own shortcomings we will walk as we fully receive, we shall fully give... That is to give HIM and not our self - mixed in with Him when we pour out to others. It shall be His way, void of self – charity which is pure unconditional love.

I mentioned last time how in this World there are GIVERS and TAKERS and in JESUS we become a balance of both, healthy and usable for His purpose abiding continually in Him. I want to remind you there are those who GIVE IN ORDER TO GET. From the outside they appear to have pure love however, their deeds point back to self and not to Jesus. They have a giving nature but there are always strings attached such as... Attention, appreciation with pats on the back, trying to win you over or expecting you to behave in a certain way in exchange for their deeds. These are those who do not do their deeds in secret in order for the Father to reward them openly. They want to be seen by others or are manipulating you to give a piece of yourself to act, think or come into agreement with them. When faced with this situation... Just stay true to yourself and keep your eyes on Jesus because we are not to please man but only our Father in Heaven. I will say during my research I found most professionals sadly offer no promise of hope for the people with Narcissism and they speak of such trying times for a codependent in recovery, however, I know our Lord and He can do anything so this is not our truth but rather the World's truth, one we will not accept. We must keep in mind Narcissism is our sin nature and you will see Codependency is sinful as well. Anything that separates us from our Lord in any fashion is sinful. Both tendencies are not our identity in Jesus. Keeping that in mind, just because we may display a tendency to be one or the other or even a mix of both, it is a whole other ball game to be fully turned over to one or the other. Granted we are not perfect, but we are being perfected!

Intimate relationships with stubborn, willful people can bring unhappiness to all concerned. Their self-will which has never been surrendered to God will seldom give in to those around them as they are void of compromise, often only considering themselves, lacking compassion for another unless of course they are affected in some way, in which at that point they will turn on the charm – still only giving to get. With unyielding obstinacy they keep demanding their own way and looking for every possible means and method of doing or having what they want. They will not listen to reason; they will not consider the feelings of others; they will not face the potential consequences of their intended actions. They believe that they are right and others are wrong, and they are determined to have everything their way. They obviously know very little of God's love which "does not seek its own" ([1 Cor. 13:5](#)), but have only self-love which insists on its own rights and demands its own way. Those who live with or are connected to people like this eventually find themselves emotionally drained at the end of a tireless road from trying to please the unpleasable. Does this sound familiar? There is only one answer to the question in dealing with these people and that is through the grace of our Lord. Remember, everything is purposeful and profitable for the perfecting of the Saints so we must war against wallowing in the mud of claiming victimization. It is likely if we are in this situation we opened a door to the dysfunction due to some residue of past hurts with a desire to be wanted or needed and that is okay because what God brings you to, He will bring you through. We often are seeking a quick work while He seeks us to demonstrate to us His will inside a process in order we attain tools to assist another.

### **Moving on...**

Of course, Ahab was just as self-willed as Jezebel, but with a different temperament. For one thing, he had willfully entered a marriage that was politically convenient, but contrary to every word from God. Sound familiar? Weak, indecisive people who waiver like Ahab often want their own way just as much as headstrong, domineering people like Jezebel, but they react differently when they do not get it. Remember the Lord said a double minded man is unstable in all his ways? I guess you could say they both are very childish in nature. We have discussed this before and how there is a difference in being "Childlike" versus "Childish." That is a topic we can go over again sometime if you all desire. But for now I am just going to leave it there for the sake of time.

During conflict, the forceful ones rant and rave, strike out at those who stand in their way, throw fits and destroy things, the weak ones sulk and pout and fret like spoiled children. They may refuse to get out of bed and even refuse to eat. They just want to feel sorry for themselves and let everybody know how bad things are for them, they also display many physical ailments. All we really succeed in doing is letting people know how self-centered and immature we are when we act of our own will rather than the responding with the Holy Spirit.

Self-will of either variety, the violent kind or the touchy irritable kind, can ruin a relationships. Both are wrong because they say – “I am right and you are wrong.” The trouble often starts when someone infringes upon our rights and we feel dishonored. It usually starts with a breakdown in communication and sadly continues on until there is a breakdown in the demonstration of love. Instead of letting the love and graciousness of Jesus Christ control us, our sinful natures take over and we go into our rage routine or sulk syndrome, whichever it is with us and it slowly but surely eats away at our relationship. And that inflexible self-will which has never been broken and yielded to God may ultimately lead to much greater problems if not put into submission. It is at that point we will search to fulfill that need either by Jesus Who is truly the only One Who can complete us or get the need met elsewhere which opens doors that are often more difficult to close later.

A week or so ago I spoke about the three phases of Adultery for this reason. They were, Emotional, Physical and Spiritual. Now we can see why's has it is all interlocked and woven together to bring us down if we step one foot out of the Father's will we invite the enemy in and he often will sift us as wheat by our own doing.

God wants to break our sinful, stubborn wills. He wants to conquer them with His love. The first step to victory is simply to admit that continually demanding our own way is disobedience to God's Word, and therefore sin. Talk to the Lord about it. Be honest with Him. Tell Him frankly that you would rather have your own way than be unselfish and considerate of others, but acknowledge that it is contrary to His Word. Ask him to help you. Then by an act of your will, determine to do the loving thing. That step of faith will open the channel of God's power. He will not only enable you to carry through with your decision to act in love, but He will give you genuine delight in doing His will. What He has poured into us, we will pour out to others as a display of Him and not self.

Let's revisit Ahab and his vegetable garden for a moment. Jezebel found Ahab sulking in his bed and said to him, “How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?” ([1 Kgs. 21:5](#)). So he explained to her how Naboth refused to let him have his vegetable garden. She

replied, "Do you now reign over Israel?" ([1 Kgs. 21:7](#)). In modern terms, that might sound more like, "What are you, a man or a mouse? Speak up! Don't you know that you are the king. You can take anything you want." With her demonic influence, Jezebel could not seem to understand that even the king in Israel was subject to the laws of God.

We discover how thoroughly this weak and wicked man was dominated by his overbearing wife when she said, "Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite" ([1 Kgs. 21:7](#)). She planned to commit a hideous crime; she was going to pay two false witnesses to testify that they heard Naboth blaspheme God and the king, so that both he and his sons would be stoned to death and the king would be free to lay claim to his land ([2 Kgs. 9:26](#)). She was going to teach Ahab her philosophy of life: "Take what you want and destroy anyone who stands in your way." And Ahab did not have the courage to stop her. A man will do strange things when he is taunted and ridiculed by his wife and a wife needs to know she is safe from all harm, emotional and physical if she is to give her heart over completely to a man. In both cases trust is of the utmost of importance. Men crave respect and women crave attentive compassion. Some men need to be encouraged and reminded to be sure, but not to do evil! A godly woman will challenge her partner to listen to God and live for Him, not encourage him to sin and definitely not to submit to her will but the Lord's alone. Men often fail because they are not loving their partners in a way they desire to be loved in gentleness but rather how they are convinced the woman needs love. Lol... Sa la vie... Isn't this the Genesis of it all anyway?

I do not want to fixate on just male/female here in this series because it expands much farther than one simple relationship which is in trouble. As we glean understanding on what it means to be codependent and the why's of it and where it came from we will see it is vast and wide and not your fault traditionally.

What is Codependency? On a broad sense it is when we become dependent on anything or anyone else, including self to have fulfillment in this Earth. Codependency is laced with idolatry and vice versa. That may go against your flesh and seem harsh but hear me out on this. When we are operating out of a place of this stronghold we often will crave to be needed and search out the Earth to find just that one who can validate us that we are worthy to be something of importance to just someone, which is an insatiable flesh desire. Sadly it is commonly all done under the guise of love and the Gospel but it is unhealthy... I call it the doormat syndrome. Jesus was not a doormat by any stretch of the imagination so it is faulty thinking on our parts when we lay our lives down for another to gratify a need within us. Jesus laid His life down for us to conquer death, not to meet some need He had lack of to be filled. Remember when Jesus

told Pilot – “You have no authority over Me other than that which is granted to you by My Father in Heaven”? Jesus had authority to lay His life down and pick it back up again. We on the other hand, may lay our lives down only to be trampled on over and over, defeated rather than defeating and conquering death in the footsteps of our Savior. Jesus said HIS BURDEN IS EASY AND HIS YOKE IS LIGHT... Unfortunately, our burdens are heavy in which we cannot be the light. But all of that is about to change – Praise the Lord!

My prayer is that we begin to see ourselves in the true identity we have in Jesus. We are more than all the evil words spoken over us time and again. The Lord is calling us to be sober minded no longer a slave to sin and a huge part of this breaking free is letting go of all that has been spoken over us which does not align with the Word of God Himself. Codependency is synonymous with a sense of “Unworthiness.” We are told to pray to be worthy to stand before the Lord one day and as long as we believe we are unworthy we cannot fully receive all He did on the cross for us. I thank Him so intently for changing our mindset in truth.

Before we do a rundown of a list of characteristics of a codependent nature it is important you understand this is not your fault. The majority of us with these tendencies were groomed from a very young age to be this way to the point it has become our norm. The Lord is setting before us an open door no man can shut to freedom and in walking through it, the real you will be revealed to you, just as you were created in His image you will see Him in yourself letting go of all graven images not profitable for the Kingdom. Like I said, this is not your fault. As we let Him do His perfect work in removing the idols from our hearts it is both painful and beautiful at the same time. His desire is to indwell us whole heartedly, replacing that which we view as losses become our gain in Him. He removes our heart of stone, replacing it with a heart of flesh, His heart begins pulsating through us in which we truly are sanctified and set apart.

I want to remind us that Codependency fuels Narcissism and vice versa. They are a very unholy alliance so to speak. I am not sure how long this series will last or how far the Lord wants us to go with it so I am just going with the leading of the Holy Spirit taking it slow since this truly is a lot to digest. Let’s talk a little more about Codependency.

Sometimes the Lord has to shake us awake which is exactly what He did to me, prompting me to even begin exploring and now sharing my testimony of breaking free. I am in a process and you too are being invited into a process should you accept His offering. A precious Sister in the Lord told me one day, “To stop internalizing man’s faulty impression of me.” So now in turn I am saying the same to you. The truth is only the Lord Himself knows the intentions of our hearts.

This is reserved for Him and Him alone. It is true we may “Perceive,” another’s heart but to truly know the intentions is not given over to man just yet, lest we judge before the time. It would appear some hearts are hell bent on sin and others are purposed to not sin, knowing we all fall short and do sin – it is the intention the Father considers as he tries the reins of our hearts. Whatever happened to me? Have you all asked yourself that question? I often think I am surely not as this person or that person describes me as... So, they have a faulty impression of me, they are viewing me through a veil of flesh – their own and therefore, they label me something I am not, same goes for you. What is of the upmost importance here is that we begin to view ourselves not through the eyes of others, but rather through the eyes of Jesus. Seeking Him and only Him for validation. It is in this acceptance we turn a major corner to life everlasting.

We often wake up to find ourselves locked into a relationship which started out free loving and in turn was a façade all along. We entered into this relationship for the sake of love only to find we were the ones weighed in the balance found wanting. At some point we realize the situation needs to change and yet the other person sees we are the only one who needs to change and they are fine. In this case there is a strong feeling of love pulling us to the person and because rejection is so familiar to us we cling to that which is unhealthy out of fear. When we have from a young age been trained to CARE FOR other’s needs rather than BE NURTURED AND CARED FOR apart from that space our hearts are void of love itself, we basically become loved starved and a bad love becomes better than no love at all. I have good news – Jesus came to set the captives (us) free! He is calling us to overcome the love demands locking us in so we can walk fully in Him in freedom.

I have compiled a list in which you may see yourself or a loved one in through all or just a few of these points. This is not a totality but rather a guide to check our hearts against, seek the Lord and pray over for revelation of truth within us. He is calling us to not only be gentle as a dove but blossom into wisdom too. I for one have been way to trusting and foolish in my childish ways, it is time to put those childish tendencies to rest.

**Are you Codependent?**

- Caretaking: Codependents may:
  - think and feel responsible for other people for other people's feelings, actions, choices, wants, needs, well-being, lack of well-being, and ultimate destiny.
  - feel anxiety, pity, and guilt when other people have a problem.
  - feel compelled almost forced to help that person solve the problem, such as offering unwanted advice, giving a rapid-fire series of suggestions, or fixing feelings.
  - feel angry when their help isn't effective while continually anticipating other people's needs.
  - wonder why others don't do the same for them – the gap of reciprocating
  - find themselves saying yes when they mean no, doing things they don't really want to be doing, doing more than their fair share of the work, and doing things other people are capable of doing for themselves.
  - tell themselves what they want and need is not important.
  - try to please others
  - find it easier to feel and express anger about injustices done to others, rather than injustices done to themselves.
  - feel satisfied when giving – need to be needed
  - feel insecure and guilty when somebody gives to them – based in competition.
  - find themselves drawn to needy people and needy people are drawn to them (Spiritual)
  - feel bored, empty, and worthless if they don't have a crisis in their lives, a problem to solve, or someone to help.
  - abandon their routine to respond to or do something for somebody else – reacting not responding via the Holy Spirit
  - overcommit themselves often feeling chaotic in a hurry and pressured.
  - believe deep inside other people are somehow responsible for them.
  - blame others for the situation they are in or they way they feel
  - believe other people are making them crazy, angry, unappreciated and used
- Low Self-Worth: Codependents tend to:
  - come from troubled, repressed, or dysfunctional families.
  - deny their family was troubled, repressed, or dysfunctional.
  - blame themselves for everything and have negative thoughts such as what they feel, think, look like or act like is wrong
  - get angry, defensive, self-righteous, and indignant when others blame and criticize them
  - get depressed from a lack of compliments (stroke deprivation) or reject compliments all together
  - feel different than the rest of the world, isolated – surrounding self by those who are safe and agreeable, avoiding confrontation at all costs
  - feel guilty about spending money on themselves or doing unnecessary or fun things for themselves.
  - feel rejection or that they are never good enough, take things personally, victim mentality
  - have been victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment, or alcoholism – often grew up as a child caring for a parent or siblings
  - tell themselves they can't do anything right, overly cautious to not allow self to make a mistake
  - wonder why they have a tough time making decisions – constantly look to others for advice
  - expect themselves and others to do everything perfectly.

- wonder why they can't get anything done to their satisfaction, often think I should have done this or that, carry much guilt and are ashamed of who they are feeling if anyone knew the real them they would be rejected
- try to help other people live their lives instead of facing the fear of themselves
- artificial feelings of self-worth from helping others – taking on the burdens of others as their own
- wish good things would happen to them and yet believe only good things happen to other people not them
- wish other people would like and love them while believing other people could never possibly love or like them so they try to prove they are worthy of another's love – because of this they settle for being needed in place of being loved.
- believe other people couldn't possibly like and love them.
- Repression: Many codependents:
  - push their thoughts and feelings out of their awareness because of fear and guilt.
  - become afraid to let themselves be who they are.
  - appear rigid and controlled.
- Obsession: Codependents tend to:
  - feel terribly anxious about problems and people being highly focused on Worldly events often seeking to be the first to know what is going on to validate self-importance
  - worry about the silliest things – obsessive to the point of controlling every detail
  - think and talk a lot about other people to the point of losing sleep
  - never find answers but always seeking knowledge
  - try to catch people in acts of misbehavior or continually checking on someone
  - feel unable to quit talking, thinking, and worrying about other people or problems to where all their energy is focused on problems
  - abandon their routine because they are so upset about somebody or something and often cannot get everything done on their list
- Controlling: Many codependents:
  - have lived through events and with people that were out of control, causing the codependents sorrow and disappointment and often anger inside
  - become afraid to let other people be who they are and allow events to happen naturally.
  - Refuse to see or deal with their fear of loss of control.
  - think they know best how things should turn out and how people should behave.
  - try to control events and people through helplessness, guilt, coercion, threats, advice-giving, manipulation, or domination and eventually fail in their efforts or provoke people's anger, rubbing others the wrong way because you know best
- Denial: Codependents tend to:
  - ignore problems or pretend they aren't happening or minimize problems to cope
  - tell themselves things will be better tomorrow in order to not face the issue at hand, always kicking issues down the road to deal with
  - stay busy so they don't have to think about things.
  - get confused in the chaos they create are depressed and frequently sick
  - go to doctors and get tranquilizers or use alcohol or drugs to medicate away life to relax
  - became workaholics to perform
  - spend money compulsively.
  - overeat.
  - pretend those things aren't happening, either.



- Compulsive to watch problems get worse.
  - believe lies.
  - lie to themselves.
  - wonder why they feel like they're going crazy.
- Dependency: Many codependents:
  - don't feel happy, content, or peaceful with themselves.
  - look for happiness outside themselves to fulfill the void within
  - latch onto whoever or whatever they think can provide happiness, seeking pleasure from others
  - feel terribly threatened by the loss of anything or person they think provides their happiness.
  - didn't feel love and approval from their parents.
  - believe other people can't or don't love them.
  - desperately seek love and approval, often from those who are incapable of loving them
  - believe other people are never there for them, equating love with pain
  - feel they need people more than they want them.
  - try to prove they're good enough to be loved.
  - don't take time to see if other people are good for them.
  - worry whether other people love or like them.
  - don't take time to figure out if they love or like other people so get entangled in negative relationships
  - center their lives around other people and worry they will be abandoned by them
  - look to relationships to provide all their good feelings.
  - lose interest in their own lives when they love someone ignoring others
  - don't believe they can take care of themselves while caring for other people continually
  - stay in relationships that don't work or are bad for them, tolerating abuse or unfaithfulness because they are unworthy to receive healthy forms of love
  - feel trapped in relationships unable to break free and once they leave they seek another relationship right away that is often the same bad pattern
  - wonder if they will ever find love or be loved
  - Idolize others and have certain people they will never say NO to, lack of boundaries
- Poor Communication: Codependents frequently:
  - Blame, threaten, coerce, beg, bribe or advise others
  - don't say what they mean and don't mean what they say, lack of follow through
  - don't take themselves seriously or feel others take them seriously or they go the complete opposite and take themselves too seriously having a lack of joy
  - ask for what they want and need indirectly--sighing, for example
  - find it difficult to get to the point and not sure what the point is
  - gauge their words carefully to achieve a desired effect.
  - try to say what they think will please people or provoke others
  - try to say what they hope will make people do what they want them to do.
  - eliminate the word "no" from their vocabulary
  - talk too much, don't let others get a word in and monopolize the conversation
  - talk about other people.
  - avoid talking about themselves, their problems, feelings, and thoughts.
  - say everything is their fault or that nothing is their fault

- wait to express their opinions until they know other people's opinions because they believe their opinion does not matter
- lie to protect and cover up for people they love.
- lie to protect themselves.
- have a difficult time expressing their emotions honestly, openly, and appropriately or refuse to assert themselves
- think most of what they have to say is unimportant and frequently apologize for bothering someone
- begin to talk in cynical, self-degrading, or hostile ways.
- Weak Boundaries: Codependents frequently:
  - say they won't tolerate certain behaviors from other people but yet they do
  - gradually increase their tolerance until they can tolerate and do things they said they never would.
  - let others hurt them and keep letting themselves being hurt by the same person the same way and wonder why they hurt so badly.
  - complain, blame, and try to control while they continue to stand there.
  - finally get angry and over react
  - become totally intolerant.
- Lack Of Trust: Codependents:
  - don't trust themselves, their feelings, decisions, other people while at the same time they trust people they shouldn't
  - think God has abandoned them and often lose faith and trust in God – blaming Him for their own doing and open doors they shouldn't
- Anger: Many codependents:
  - feel very scared, hurt, and angry and surround themselves by people who are the same
  - are afraid of their own anger or afraid of other's anger and blame others when they are angry
  - think people will go away if anger enters the picture and are afraid they cause anger in others or punish people when they get angry with them
  - feel controlled by other people's anger while they repress their own anger
  - cry a lot, get depressed, overeat, get sick, do mean and nasty things to get even, act hostile, or have violent temper outbursts wondering if they will ever be free of anger
  - have been shamed for feeling angry and place guilt on themselves for getting angry
  - feel increasing amounts of anger, resentment, and bitterness.
  - feel safer with their anger than with hurt feelings.
- Sex Problems: Some codependents:
  - are caretakers in the bedroom or refuse it altogether because of anger
  - have sex when they don't want to but prefer to be held, nurtured and loved since it is void outside the bedroom
  - try to have sex when they're angry or hurt to fulfill a void
  - are afraid of losing control so do not enjoy sex
  - have a difficult time asking for what they need in bed.
  - withdraw emotionally from their partner or feel repulsed by sex
  - force themselves to have sex, anyway out of obligation to meet another's needs
  - reduce sex to a technical act minimizing that which God created to be pure
  - wonder why they don't enjoy sex or have lost interest altogether
  - make up reasons to abstain rather than taking ownership and setting a boundary

- wish their sex partner would die, go away, or sense the codependent's feelings.
- have strong sexual fantasies about other people, have an emotional or physical affair
- seek porn as an outlet to avoid intimacy
- Miscellaneous: Codependents tend to:
  - be extremely responsible or irresponsible lacking balance
  - become martyrs, sacrificing their happiness and that of others for causes that don't require sacrifice.
  - find it difficult to feel close to people to have fun or be spontaneous
  - have an overall passive response to codependency--crying, hurt, helplessness.
  - have an overall aggressive response to codependency--violence, anger, dominance.
  - combine passive and aggressive responses going to and fro
  - Indecisive or emotionless
  - laugh when they feel like crying.
  - stay loyal to their compulsions and people even when it hurts.
  - be ashamed about family, personal, or relationship problems.
  - be confused about the nature of the problem so keep it hidden
  - cover up, lie, and protect the problem.
  - not seek help because they tell themselves the problem isn't bad enough, or they aren't important enough.
  - wish the problem would go away on it's own
- Progressive: In the later stages of codependency, codependents may:
  - feel lethargic, withdrawn or depressed
  - experience a complete loss of daily routine and structure.
  - abuse or neglect their children and other responsibilities.
  - feel hopeless.
  - begin to plan their escape from a relationship they feel trapped in.
  - think about suicide.
  - become violent.
  - become seriously emotionally, mentally, or physically ill.
  - experience an eating disorder (over- or undereating).
  - become addicted to alcohol and other drugs.

My goodness that is a long list. I am so thankful for Jesus right now... Aren't you? I thank Him for holding up a mirror to our brokenness so we can be truly set free. Whether you saw yourself in just one of the characteristics I described or in every single one of them He is offering us to drink of Him, where life everlasting is found. In doing so, just like the woman at the well who had a divine appointment that day we have one set before us this day. Chances are most of us at one time or another has looked for love in all the wrong places. Yesterday is gone and today is the day of Salvation. Before we pray, let's understand these characteristics do not define us and who we are unless we embrace them rather than Jesus. Once we ask Him to really come into us and dwell in our hearts He will. We must repent for our willful sins and childish ways. We are all products of our environments up until a point when He says, "It is finished." Today let's be finished of all these past hurts and pain, leaving it all at the cross so we truly go and sin no more.

### *Let's pray ~*

*Heavenly Father we thank You for delivering us from all evil. We pray Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in our lives from this day forward. We confess with our hearts for that which we do to sin against You and how we have given ourselves to others in ways that are not in one accord with Your will in our lives. Forgive us Lord for guarding our sin, denying it or protecting that which is not aligned with Your word for the sake of looking as one who can save another or even to the point of saving ourselves. We lay it all down before You Lord never to pick this faulty expression of love up again. We thank You for the indwelling of Your precious Son and Holy Spirit Who finished all at the Cross in order for us to walk freely as Your children of Light. Help us Lord to point only to Him and thank You for showing us mercy when we try to save another in His place. Lord we submit to that which You have planned for us and ask You to close doors which are not of You, to open doors for ministry that are assigned by You and to give us wisdom to know the difference. Infuse our relationships Lord God with Your love and divine order so pure love exists in ways unimaginable. We are sorry Father for times we have manipulated, gotten angry or frustrated with the ones you set on our path to set healthy boundaries with for the sake of pure love. We have so tainted what love actually is we need Your eyes to see the truth in each relationship we have so we are manifesting Your light and not self. We are trusting You to give us strength to endure all things in Jesus for the Glory of His Name. Help us to make our yes mean yes and our no mean no. We are all broken vessels Lord, but if it be Your will mend us and make us whole so we can serve You to the fullest. We break every soul tie in Jesus Name that is outside of Your courts and bind that unholy alliance only to loose it in Heaven. And for that which is Holy in Your sight Lord we bind in Heaven and loose it here on Earth in our own lives. Thank You Lord for creating within us a pure heart. We humbly ask all this in the Name of Jesus. Amen and Amen. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.*

So that is all for now on the discussion of Codependency, however, later in the series we will revisit this topic as we go deeper still into the fueling exchange done by Codependents and Narcissists and then talk about setting boundaries which is the Genesis of a healthy relationship . Next time we meet we will begin to uncover narcissism and the characteristics that they carry stirring up much pain and regret, because they themselves suffer much pain and regret.

## PART 3

### THE WITCHCRAFT OF NARCISSISM

So in keeping on our current journey of Study and Reflection on how we have opened ourselves up as play things for the enemy today we are going to look at the bridge to divide and conquer the enemy has used to accomplish his will in our lives, which at times has left us in a pile of rubble. Before we get too far into understanding Narcissism and those who are under such influence I want to explore how one operates in this fashion. Since we alone open the door to tolerating the influence of others in our lives, it is good to know the tactics by a term very familiar to most everyone... Witchcraft.

You know for days I have been pondering the next step in our Study and of course, like clockwork as I set aside today to continue working on it... The enemy came in like a flood, using the very tactics I have been searching out to talk with you about. Which this truly is not a bad thing whatsoever, because it is during these times we have a blessed opportunity to check our own hearts, seek our Lord Jesus and continue to be purified from within.

Many of us are under condemnation from others every single day and some days all those dark spirits gang up together for a timely assault... Today, that would be me. It is as if they all met together behind the scenes and said – let's go after her today and see if we can take her down if we come at her from different angles, using those closest to her. Sound familiar to any of you?

When this happens, first and foremost we must not get offended and respond by emotions. Please remember just because someone says something about you, does not make it so. If the truth was known, we all have faulty perceptions of one another... What breaks my heart is when people use those perceptions as if they gleaned the information from our Lord and think they are actually doing Him a favor in accusing you. To me, that is most heartbreaking. The Lord desires we reach a place of compassion towards those who do this so we can humbly pray and say – “Forgive them Lord they know not what they do.” I must admit doing so is easier said than done, but if we focus on our Lord and all He went through for us it is so much easier to submit to His ways, leaving behind our own.

In all this process, I am seeing more and more why the Lord has a controversy with His Church, because in reality we are not “His Church” not yet, because there is so much vanity in it, we really are “Our Church.” The fallen church is full of vanity where witchcraft runs amuck. Revelation explains it so well in that, we often “tolerate” Jezebel which goes against the principals of Jesus.

I remember years ago in an interview when President Obama was asked a question. They asked him --- Do you defeat the enemy or reason with them? He said reason, but that isn't my point. I remember that question from so long ago because it struck something in my Spirit and I thought to myself then and I do now – that is the problem even inside the Church... We have too many people trying to “Reason with the enemy” when he has already been defeated. We have been given the keys to life and the authority to walk in Jesus so the enemy will flee but he doesn't

because of our own desire to be noticed, important, have glory, etc.... We, like our Nation, have been compromised from within. Reasoning with the enemy is a characteristic of a true Co-dependent believing they can save the World and all those in it. Jesus offered His water of life everlasting, but He never forced anyone to drink. It is my prayer we understand the workings of the enemy to begin to no longer tolerating him at work, which is only part of the steps we need to take in ridding ourselves of his influence in our minds, hearts, lives and so on. The worse enemy is a hidden one and I pray today just like I have been that all those operating out of any spirit of witchcraft be exposed and those under the influence of such are delivered and healed by the Mighty Hand of Jesus Himself. That darkness is extracted from their hearts and He pour into them so they become a usable vessel for His Glory.

### **Let's pray...**

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to seek You and learn more about the story of us. We have fallen at times but always count on Your hand to lift us up back into the way You would have us go. Please forgive us for taking anything for granted You have set before us or for times we get caught up in vain imaginations which go against Your will or Your ways. We ask You Lord to deliver us from all evil, whether that be in our own thought processes, assumptions of ourselves or others. We seek the sober mind of Christ Jesus so we are able to do Your bidding on the Earth until You take us Home to be with You. Lord I bind up the enemy so he has no place to operate during this teaching, may all his false accusations fall to the ground where they cannot bear any fruit covered by the Blood of the Lamb. In Jesus Name I release soberness, gentleness, meekness, compassion and love which is pure flowing from Your throne of grace. Help us to root out all that is not of You in our lives so we stand uprightly and walk according to Your plan. In Jesus Mighty Name, speak to us Holy Spirit, your servants are listening and open to Your conviction and teaching. Amen.

So... Narcissists have a tool they use... It is called "Witchcraft" and like any tool it is what they use to accomplish their work here on Earth. Keeping in mind a tool is used we must understand it takes a worker to use the tool to accomplish the job they have set in mind to accomplish. Therefore, there are set in place "conduits" the enemy uses to accomplish his desire on Earth, just like we are vessels FOR THE LORD, there are vessels of dishonor against them... They are called HUMANS.

Please stay with me now because this is imperative to understand. Do not be fearful of what the enemy may propose against you in any way because we as Children of the Most High God are covered by the Blood of the Lamb, Who never will forsake us and He always provides a Way of Escape – His Name is Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life. I will warn you to stay in agreement with Him and only Him, keep Him as your total focus as you fixate upon only Him. When we take our eyes off Him for only a brief moment, the enemy can beat us up just a little. I know because it has happened to me, even recently. Once our Light exposes darkness it tries to hide and if tolerated it will lash out, squirming and accusing. This is why we have been building a strong foundation in our Lord Jesus as of late. Once uncovered, once a nest is stirred up in the Spirit I

discovered the very thing you are exposing will in turn accuse you of being that influence in the lives of others. This is a weak attempt, a last attempt to draw you away from that which you were assigned. But never mind, he cannot have you and he cannot have me. We are already bought and paid for by a high dollar, through a life laid down in exchange for the grand opportunity to give glory only to the Lord from on High. A little false accusation pales in comparison to the reward of Him. As soon as I started praying all witchcraft be exposed a few days ago and taking a deeper look into how we are not to “tolerate the workings of Jezebel” it lit a fire in those who do just that. Don’t say I didn’t warn you, but the beauty is as long as we stay in love itself and seek our own hearts to be purged of all remnants of the old creature, the Lord will continue to purge us and purify our hearts. After all, He works all things together for the good for those who are called by His Name, even accusations polish His hand crafted vessel time to time.

It is only by prompting of the Holy Spirit I would even attempt to discuss witchcraft because anyone who knows me, knows this is not a topic I desire to peer into at all. However, the Lord wants us to keep walking and learning precept upon precept and line upon line. Before we get started, I want to remind you this is a tool the enemy uses, just like one of our weapons of warfare is prayer to bring down the enemy he uses witchcraft to bring himself up.

Just to clarify we never give glory to the kingdom of darkness, however, we are not being wise to underestimate those who are against us. So for today we are going to take a wide eye look into the ploys of the enemy in the form of witchcraft. There are many generational curses passed down from generation to generation, often we are even unaware of what has been spoken over us in times past and yet we carry the residue unknowingly – these are often called “family personality traits.” Just like we have our Grandmother’s eyes or our Father’s nose... Our personality is marked with traits the same way. Witchcraft is manipulation and manipulation is witchcraft both are control based and passed down. Since the Book of Revelation is written to the Church – I am speaking to those IN the church today because if you think for one minute there are not people who operate out of these dark forces among us today you are fooling yourself. Hardly a day goes by I do not run into one of them inside the ministry, not outside of it.

Co-dependents by nature are their prime targets, which we discussed the why’s of that in Part 2 of this Series, but we will take that further and see how Co-dependents and Narcissists fuel one another in a future Study. I am not so concerned with “Naming” the dark forces operating because they lie about who they even are, but rather understanding who their puppet master is. And I guarantee if you belong to Jesus they know who you are and that you are not one of them because you serve our Lord. People under their control just cannot seem to help themselves and sadly they often believe they are doing God’s will in what they do as stated in **John 16:2** which reads:

**They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.**

As a matter of fact, if you notice here... They will kill you (even with just words) in order to put you out of the church fellowship. And quite often it is based in jealousy, envy and their need to be in

control. This can happen in any type of fellowship you may be in, such as at work or with your family. If you have a loving nature, they are outside of love and therefore, they want you to stop spreading the love of Jesus so they will do crafty things to devise ways to stop the flow of love itself or rather the flow of God. This is nothing more than a work of the flesh, operating through a vessel who has not died to the flesh fully yet. Flesh agents are agents of satan as he commands them to accomplish his killing, stealing and destruction. These vessels do not have power, the demon operating through them has the power and they are just being used. Makes you really want to die to the flesh daily doesn't it? It is why we are told in **Ephesians 6:12**:

**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

Spiritual warfare is just that... Spiritual. We have no authority under self to conquer that which is operating through someone's flesh. We must stand in the authority of Jesus Himself to combat that which is in opposition to Him in another's flesh. I hope that makes sense? When we understand the true nature of the Spirit Realm we develop a deep level of compassion for those who are operating under the binding of such dark forces, especially those who are unaware. Each human on Earth is a yielded vessel either to dark or light, depending which master you serve. And the one you serve is the one who indwells and operates through us to perform upon the Earth. This goes along with the Scripture which says you cannot serve two masters in Mathew 6:23-24:

**But if your vision is poor, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24No one can serve two masters: Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.**

Those who carry out the enemy's plots have been conditioned early on through trauma, rejection, lack of love and any other sort of painful wound which has been left untreated with a root of vengeance such as someone is gonna pay... Like I have said time and again, hurting people hurt people. It is quite sad because as you will see in our next Study of Narcissism they are hurting too and quite deserving to be freed of the chains that bind them through Jesus.

There are four main objectives of witchcraft:

- To propitiate a higher spiritual being
- To control the forces of nature, such as rain or good weather for harvest
- To ward off sickness and infertility
- To control other human beings—to terrify enemies in battle or to produce sexual desire in one person toward another.

Now let's take a deeper glance into the characteristics of witchcraft operating inside the church, some of which you will recognize through our precious studies and some may be new insights, but with all truth it is important we look inwardly first to insure these tactics are not coming by our own hand.



These would be considered RECOGNIZABLE WEAPONS the enemy is using to conquer and overcome Christ Followers and divide us so we do not reflect THE BODY OF CHRIST.

As we go over these examples this should cause your discernment to rise up and take notice.

#### SPRITUAL RED FLAGS:

- To engage the spiritual world to enforce one's will upon another
- Using powers and authorities other than the Holy Spirit to exercise healing and deliverance
- When someone tries to pull you out of a fellowship because they themselves are offended
- Someone who doesn't just tell others they need to be saved, but gives directives on HOW to be saved, which are not Biblically inspired.
- The usage of lucky charms or superstitions for covering (anointing oil, etc...)
- Manipulation and control of any sorts – often playing the guilt card or intimidation
- Being crafty or sneaky to accomplish one's desire
- Habitual practices such as throwing salt over your shoulder when some is spilled
- Using prophetic future telling as a way to direct a person in the way they should go
- Laying on of hands as a diviner or soul healer where the source is not the Holy Spirit
- Guiding people in a spiritualist fashion into the past or future
- Intense interest in ghost hunting, demon hunting, UFO's, crossing over experiences or other supernatural activity – ANY engagement with the spiritual world outside of the command of God is dangerous and destructive
- Ritualistic tendencies as a method to God (confession before a priest, etc...)
- A deep desire to attain knowledge
- Hyper-charismatic influences pointing to only a certain person for knowledge, prayer, approval and attention. (false sense of belief someone or yourself is "Holier" than you are)
- Holding someone to a financial obligation in order to receive deliverance
- Using fear to draw someone closer to the Lord
- Angel intrigue and worship
- Soul hunting/conversion versus Jesus leading people unto Salvation – He is the only way
- Attempting to shield or protect another, standing in place of the Lord
- Overly caught up in future events – sign seeking
- Cultivating of soul ties - switching dependence of others on self (as in, so & so cannot make it without me...)
- Seeking man to answer questions as a ruling authority – or placing yourself as the only one who holds all the answers
- Speaking with or seeing dead people – even in dreams
- Suspicious of others
- Being in a state of rebellion – unteachable, threatening
- Seeking for others to pay for their wrongs – vengeance minded
- Cursing others – Name calling, speaking death, comparing one's walk with your own, deciding who is saved and who isn't, predisposed to assuming someone is not saved based

on outward appearance, overly concerned with people being saved (not just leaving it in God's hands) --- All of these are forbidden forms of control in the lives of unbalanced people

- Chaotic personality, running to fro with the inability to be at rest (The Father even rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day as a demonstration to His Creation even rest is purposeful)
- All works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-21 (Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, etc...)
- Desire to be noticed, attention seeking, even to the point of being admired and worshiped – competitive mindset (sayings of – If I was in charge, I would...)
- Gossip, backbiting, falsehoods, rebellion against church leaders and those the Lord has placed in authority – vain imaginations
- Bitterness, anger, unforgiveness, competition
- Refusal to repent or standing in the way of repentance in others
- Seductive speech luring someone into a one on one situation – isolating
- Boasting on self (how much you give, lay your life down, souls you've saved, etc...)
- Giving gifts/money/time/attention with expected outcome to feed one's pride (we are to do our good deeds in secret so our Father can reward us openly)
- Telling lies in order to gain favor, embellishing the truth
- Coming into agreement with things which are not Holy and Sanctified – unequally yoked
- Betrayal
- Easily swayed
- Lack of integrity – let your yes mean yes and your no mean no

This is just a small sampling of how witchcraft is operating in the church today. We have all been guilty to some degree of manipulating others or events to bring about a move of God. We have had the right motive with the wrong means to be His hands and feet. **Deuteronomy 18:18-22**

<sup>18</sup> I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. <sup>19</sup> And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. <sup>20</sup> But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. <sup>21</sup> And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? <sup>22</sup> When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

I have had many words spoken over me which were given out of a place of love and yet did not come to pass. I am sure you all can relate. This is why we must be ever so careful not to hand out promises over someone's life which are not Biblically founded AND Holy Spirit inspired.

Remember, we will give account for every single idle (unfruitful for the Kingdom of the Lord) word we have spoken.

I will share one example in my life in which if I was not grounded in the Lord and looking to Him I would have floundered in much fear and heartache. I do not want to share who did this because that person is no longer with us as she has gone home to be with the Lord. I will tell you she was very close to me and I loved her very much... I guess you could say I had let her into my inner circle so to speak. Just a few years ago we were talking on the phone and she told me the Lord had shown her my mom was going to die the following summer, which was only a few months away. Knowing my mom has many health concerns it was not totally unreasonable this could transpire. But as soon as she said this – I just knew inside this was not a word from the Lord, I could see past the person knowing the enemy was using her to instill fear and all sorts of emotions within me. Not too long after that this person herself was diagnosed with cancer and died only a few months later. I am not saying these two things had anything to do with one another, that is the Father's business and not of my concern. Glory to God, three years have passed and my mother is still here and for that I am ever grateful. Using this as an example, this person had the right heart intent, however she was not operating out of the Holy Spirit. We too can become blinded in pride and unteachable to consider just maybe we are not hearing correctly and worse yet, delivering a falsehood. I have found this to be true for all us, even me at times.

This is a good reminder to take all things to the Lord, be still and wait upon Him. If we get a word and it is coming from the Holy Spirit – I promise you He will not let you rest until you deliver that word. Remember, that which we do to others we actually are doing unto Him. This should give us pause every single day.

We have been studying so much about self-will and rebellion being in opposition to God's will and finding peace in Him being God as we sit quiet waiting for Him to move. It is becoming so much clearer as to why He has taught us to die to the flesh daily because all forms of witchcraft are workings of the flesh. **! Samuel 15:23 says "Rebellion is the sin of witchcraft."**

We are to give no place to the devil, in our lives, in the church or elsewhere as we avoid appearances of all evil we bind demonic activity and shut all doors which allow darkness to operate. I shared before how the Lord laid it on my heart to stop tolerating Jezebel, just as it was written in Revelation to not "suffer her to operate." Defined in Greek this means: To allow, permit, not restrain or not reveal. My prayer is when this entity comes knocking on our hearts, it will find nothing in us and therefore flee being bound and unable to perform.

In our next Study Series we are going to go much further into the characteristics of Narcissists Personality Types and their characteristics. Today we went over HOW they operate and next time we will expose who they really are so we are better able to discern when they are at work around us, in order we can resist the mission they have been commanded to carry out.

Isaiah 54:17 says:

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

*Interpreted – We know no tactic or tool formed against us as the Body of Believers in Jesus Christ shall overtake us or be profitable for their kingdom of darkness to rule over us. Therefore, also we understand that every single mouth which rises up against us by judging the Lord will condemn them because we have an inheritance being the Lord's servant who are infused with His righteousness.*

There is an exception though to the Promise of this Scripture. Should we be doing that very thing, we ourselves open ourselves up to the Godly Order of *sowing and reaping*, which is required for us to experience that which we have inflicted upon another void of repentance.

This is an extremely serious time we live in. In addition, for our own protection and safety the Lord has blessed us with the Bread of Life, His Word. The Bible. I caution myself and those listening that time is simply just too short to sow anything other than that which is permissible by our Lord. Just like we have discussed today, the enemy has tools, however the Lord has not left us defenseless. Our command is to walk in love at all times and the tools He has placed within us to overcome all things are peace, love, joy, kindness, longsuffering, gentleness and self-control. We are planting a garden and Harvest time is certainly near. We have been entrusted to tend to that Garden of Love for there is shortly coming a day that what is within (us) will be Harvested. What shall be found within us and as it is... So will be our eternal Harvest.

## PART 4

### NARCISSISTS

In our last portion of our study we talked pretty in depth about the “How’s” of witchcraft through which narcissists accomplish their desired outcome of insuring everyone and everything revolves around them. We went over the red flags which serve as warning signs of discernment depicting just how prevalent this Jezebel Spirit is in the Church today. This is not to say it is tolerated whatsoever in the One True Church Body of Jesus Christ, but rather comes in falsely in full display and demand we as believers tolerate its tangled web of deception. In Revelation 2 we are given a small space in time to repent from tolerating this entity within the church, just as those who operate out of this dark power source are also granted a time of repentance. It just goes to prove how longsuffering our Father truly is. Those who do not repent from tolerating or demonstrating such characteristics will be cast into, “Great tribulation,” the Word says. Verse 23 in Chapter 2 defines what we are going through at this very moment in this season we have been granted and truly repentance is such a gift. As the Lord defeats and destroys the offspring (spiritual fruit) of Jezebel something divine occurs --- The Bible says, “All the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts.” It goes on to say that He will give each one of us according to our works. In other words He once again is specific to reiterate His law of reaping what we have sown. And of course, once we truly repent our sins are forgotten and washed away forever, but remember like we have discussed so many times – to sin purposely and knowingly is tempting the Lord our God. Those who do overcome the narcissist within themselves and the church, no longer tolerating and passing this detestable fruit onto others they come in contact with are given a promise which is the Morning Star/Jesus and have power from on high to rule the Nations.

Because the Father is so very merciful He has set before us a very precious opportunity during this season – which is an opportunity to “search” the reins and hearts of ourselves. Which is why I keep saying – repentance is a gift. Before I get to ahead of myself it is important to me that we all remain of one accord on the same page. Just so you know exactly what the Lord is speaking here I want to define the word “reins” in reference to what the Lord is actually searching that is within us.

Reins in Greek means: Our emotions, inner most feelings, thoughts, purposes, intentions – basically it is anything and everything which has to do with our SOUL.

I believe the fact He searches our hearts as well is for the most part understood. So to keep it simple the Lord Himself is searching us in totality, through and through and knows us better than we know ourselves. We have been given an invitation to seek Him through the Holy Spirit to peer into ourselves in order we be purged of all characteristics which do not reflect the Most Glorious Perfect One – Jesus.

I must note: This is NOT A CALL to search the hearts and souls of your brethren or those outside of the Church Body, but rather to SEARCH OURSELVES. And why? For the sake of repentance alone. When we stop tolerating this entity from operating in us, it shall cease to exist.

Okay.... So moving on to the focus of our discussion today on Narcissists.

I really hope you all have been with us throughout the course of these studies because in order to view in depth the narcissist it is important to understand they are fueled by a co-dependent. Therefore, they see a co-dependent as an easy target. In Part 2 of the Series we went into great detail about Codependency, so if you missed that broadcast I recommend you back and listen for today's message to make sense and produce good fruit in your life.

A Codependent wants to fix everyone and every situation.

A Narcissist wants to manipulate and change you in order to gratify their every need and desire.

Lord willing, in an upcoming broadcast we will go over how they fuel one another and how to break the cycle of this demonic dance we do.

But for today, keep in mind, everyone has narcissistic tendencies (which is why we are dying to SELF daily) but a true narcissist does not reflect on their own weakness, but rather they prey upon the weaknesses of others to feed the brokenness they suffer themselves. Pride masquerades the true broken state they are in themselves. In order to hide the truth of them, they attempt to reveal the faults of you.

One last thing before we go into characteristics, types and tactics of a narcissist it is important to note the majority of all research I did throughout this study recommends getting completely out of any relationship you may be in with a narcissist. For the record, I do not share in that belief unless of course the Lord is directing you to break all ties or if the relationship is causing you extreme physical or emotional harm. Like with all matters, please take it to the Lord in prayer and follow His advice. Time again He has given me strength to overcome, just as He has each one of you.

You do not have to tolerate a Narcissist's behavior to love them which is why boundaries are of the utmost importance, but we will talk about that a little later along with one of their major tools of manipulation, called: Gaslighting.

So whether you are suffering from narcissism or under the influence of someone who is, my prayer is that this message today blesses you and releases you from the effects of this sinful way of the flesh. There is no problem too large for our Lord to solve and no sin too great for Him to wash clean. He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, isn't He?

Create within me and those who are listening live or by archive a pure heart Lord. Open our Spiritual eyes Lord to truth of us individually and show us what You desire be made known to us in every situation we are in so You rule and reign in our hearts, lives, relationships and homes. In Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

I truly will be so relieved when I can shut the door on this study as it goes against my flesh and is not a topic, although it has been very enlightening, it is not something I enjoy discussing. As with all teachings we must search our own hearts first and foremost and then glean the full truth of it

and how it can be applied in our lives today. As we go over Narcissism it will be easy to spot in others so use your discernment while we purge it from ourselves, as well.

We are granted the Morning Star, Who is Jesus, in order we have wisdom and knowledge which in turn grants us power and dominion. Jesus abiding inside us brings daylight into our soul as a light of grace and glory. Through perfection we attain wisdom which is a portion of dignity and dominion granted only to a true child of God.

So without further delay, let's take a look into Narcissism.

Narcissism is modern day society's way of defining Jezebel, they are uniform and they are one. Like I said in previous broadcasts, but I will say it again – JEZEBEL IS NOT STRICKLY FEMALES, this entity is only referred to in a female sense because it multiplies, birthing it's negative influence to all who tolerate it to be present to weave a tangled web of deceit.

There is no possible way for me to fully share in our given timeframe all the characteristics so I am just going to share as lead by the Holy Spirit and my prayer is it blesses your life in some small way.

#### TYPES OF NARCISSISTS:

- VULNERABLE NARCISSISTS - These people are generally very sensitive and tend to be quiet or shy by nature, to disguise their chronic feelings of self-hatred and unworthiness. They overcompensate by putting on a grandiose mask, seeking to merge their identities with other idealized people. They have an unshakeable need to feel special about themselves and have little genuine regard for the feelings of others. They are primarily motivated by **fear of rejection and abandonment**, so don't have the capacity to authentically love and care for others. They use emotional manipulation (such as shaming, guilt-tripping and **gaslighting**) to secure sympathy and attention from others. Their lives are fueled by inferiority complexes which often stem from childhood mistreatment.
- INVULNERABLE NARCISSISTS - These people reflect the traditional image of the narcissist and are highly self-confident, cold and lack compassion. Unlike Vulnerable Narcissists, they are **thick-skinned and shamelessly seek for power, glory, recognition and pleasure**. They often suffer from god complexes, believing themselves to be far superior to everyone else – and they have to make that known and always be right.

Both of these types share similar traits such as using others to fuel their delusions, blaming others when something goes wrong and criticizing anyone who sees a fault within them. They lack empathy, faithfulness and crave power and control. Manipulation is their tool of choice.

Just to note: Manipulation of any kind is wrong and goes against the Lord's design. The reason being, He granted each soul with freewill, if the Lord on High did not infringe upon the wills of another, neither should we.

The Bible tells us to train a child up in the way he should go... We are not to “Manipulate” them or others to go in any particular direction. Just as the Father has us in training to rule and reign with Jesus, He is not manipulating us to do so. A good measurement tool to use is this:

Training is for the benefit of the other person and Manipulation is for the benefit of self.

- THE ARMOROUS NARCISSISTS - Amorous Narcissists measure their self-worth and grandiosity by how many sexual conquests they have under their belt. This type of person is known for using his/her charm to ensnare others with flattery and gifts, but then quickly disposing of them once they become “boring” and when they have met the narcissists needs (often sexual or image/status orientated). Amorous Narcissists are the ultimate relationship con artists, “gold diggers” and heart-breakers. At first glance they appear highly attractive, alluring and amiable, but underneath they are only out to please and satiate their own needs and desires. There is a tactic they use at the beginning of trying to win you over called, “Love bombing.” This is when they just sweep you off your feet so to speak with gifts, words of edification, attention, etc... Then in a moment change, withhold love and withdraw. When confronted they may say it is just your imagination, etc... Chances are if you get into a relationship that seems too good to be true – it likely is. Which is why it is imperative to seek the Lord first in all things, especially to guard your heart.
- THE COMPENSATORY NARCISSISTS – These type of narcissists are driven to compensate for past traumas. They feed love in others by creating larger-than-life illusions of themselves and their achievements, in order to regain power and control over their lives. This type of narcissist usually hunts out emotionally vulnerable people who will serve as the audience to their fabricated stage acts. In reality, this type of narcissist is extremely sensitive to criticism and will rarely apologize for hurting you and even in that they care more about how you being hurt is affecting their comfort over your own emotional pain they have brought upon you. Emotional abuse and manipulation is a common method of control used by this type.
- THE ELITIST NARCISSISTS - This breed of person does anything to climb to the “top,” win and completely dominate others. Elitist narcissists are convinced that they are better than everyone else, often due to their achievements or backgrounds (or simply the fact that they were born that way) and have convinced themselves they deserve special treatment, so they stay in a perpetual season of attempting to manipulate and convince others of the same. Their sense of entitlement bleeds into every area of life, from work to the family. They harbor a severely inflated self-image and are skilled self-promoters, braggers and one-uppers. They have a cut-throat need to be the “best” and prove themselves to be intellectually superior all the time and at all costs. They will not listen to any direction or correction from anyone they deem inferior to themselves.



- THE MALIGNANT NARCISSISTS - The behavior of malignant narcissists often overlaps with that of psychopaths and those with antisocial personality disorders. Malignant narcissists often have no regard or interest in moral vs. immoral behavior, and don't feel remorse for their actions. This group is characterized by an arrogant and inflated sense of self-worth that delights in "outsmarting" others purposed to get away with things to the point of being convinced they are above the law and will not get caught. This type of narcissist can often be found in prisons, gangs and drug rehabilitation centers, although many manage to run free in the World today.

We, as humans, have a tendency to focus on who/what we love the most. Sadly, for narcissists it is self. Even when generous or remorseful a narcissist will focus on how the situation is of benefit to them. Remember the profit of their reward is not Jesus, it is recognition to be right.

It is less important to know the types and more crucial we recognize the traits of Narcissism in order we be purged and also discern them in others. So just like I did with Co-dependency I am going to run through a checklist so to speak, which is not inclusive, to the nature of Jezebel at work.

#### NARCISSIST CHARACTERISTICS:

*Charismatic*  
*Charming*  
*Controlling*  
*Conceited*  
*Inflated self-perception*  
*Creates drama*  
*Likes to be in the spotlight*  
*Exaggerates their achievements*  
*Requires constant admiration & approval from others*  
*Takes advantage of others*  
*Compulsive liar*  
*Cannot deal with criticism*  
*Gets hurt easily*  
*Extremely jealous*  
*Appears strong on the surface*  
*Desire for power*  
*Difficulty understanding other people's emotions*  
*Lack empathy*  
*Need for control*  
*Needy behavior*  
*Center of attention*  
*Inauthentic – lacks integrity*  
*Highly Dominant*  
*Attention seeking*

All Narcissists change moment by moment depending on the current "Audience," they are seeking to manipulate or control so you never quite know who the real person you are dealing with is. You may think to yourself when you are in an intimate relationship with a narcissist... Wow, so and so

is so nice and loving to everyone but me because once they have attained your admiration and devotion the goal is accomplished so they no longer seek to win you over.

There is a tactic most true narcissists use as a covert operation and it is called GASLIGHTING. This is a term some of you may possibly be familiar with and for others this is the first time you are hearing about this form of manipulation and control.

Gaslighting is actually a term given based on an old movie from 1944 in which a husband used various tactics to make his wife start to believe she was crazy. He did this by messing with her mind to the point she started to question her own reality. In a nutshell, *Gaslighting is when one person sows seeds of doubt in order to change another's perception of reality so much that we begin to question our own memory, sanity or reality.* Like with all things the degrees to which such manipulation can occur varies greatly from just minor changing of events to the extreme. For example, have you ever gotten into a disagreement with someone and then later they attempt to alter the details of what happened (usually to make themselves look better and you worse) to such an extreme you begin to question yourself? This would be considered a form of gaslighting. It also is a confirmation the enemy is at work because anytime there is deceit and confusion – he has been given placement to operate.

Keeping in mind our topic today is Narcissists and Narcissists and gaslighting go hand in hand. I want to briefly cover some signs to ponder you may be under the influence of this manipulation or that it is being delivered by your own hand. To a small degree we have all at one time or another operated in our sin nature, deceiving ourselves by denial that if I say something didn't happen, then it didn't. Gaslighting occurs when we force our false sense of reality onto another.

#### WARNING SIGNS YOU ARE A VICTIM OF GASLIGHTING:

1. Something is “off” about your friend, partner, son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother, colleagues, boss, or other person in your life ... but you can't quite explain or pinpoint what.
2. You frequently second-guess your ability to remember the details of past events leaving you psychologically powerless.
3. You feel confused and disorientated.
4. You feel threatened and on-edge around this person, but you don't know why.
5. You feel the need to apologize all the time for what you do or who you are.
6. You never quite feel “good enough” and try to live up to the expectations and demands of others, even if they are unreasonable or harm you in some way.
7. You feel like there's something fundamentally wrong with you
8. You feel like you're constantly overreacting or are “too sensitive.”
9. You feel isolated, hopeless, misunderstood and depressed.
10. You find it hard to trust your own judgment, and given a choice, you choose to believe the judgment of the manipulator.
11. You feel scared and as though “something is terribly wrong,” but you don't know what or why.
12. You find it hard to make decisions because you distrust yourself.

13. You feel as though you're a much weaker version of yourself, and you were much more strong and confident in the past or when this person is not around.
14. You feel guilty for not feeling happy like you used to.
15. You've become afraid of "speaking up" or expressing your emotions, so you stay silent instead.

Now I am sure at one time or another we have all dealt with these feelings periodically because truthfully, relationships are difficult to maintain, cultivate and grow in order love remains. The difference between an occasional bump in the relationship road and dealing with a narcissist is that gaslighting is a way of life for them... A means to end and pattern developed into the fabric of all their relationships, past and present. The saddest aspect of dealing with a narcissist is their inability to reflect internally so everything is your fault. They have a, "You broke it, so you fix it," approach which kills any form of hope in growing together in love where we learn together forgiveness and admitting when we are wrong or hurt someone. Thankfully, we serve a mighty Father and He can do anything so we must never give up on another. Jesus told us in Mathew 5, "TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DISPITEFULLY USE YOU." There has never been a more appropriate time in my life to do just that, than in loving a narcissist.

Co-dependents and Narcissists by very nature fuel one another, fanning the dysfunctional flame. Like I said before, if you are not sure - look to the patterns and trends of the relationship in question. Narcissists are very skilled at what they do. While you consider their feelings they do not consider yours and if they do it comes only from a perspective of how you are affecting them. Until delivered they truly do not have the capability to consider your wellbeing and only see vulnerability as a weakness. Quickly, I want to go over a few tactics of "How" they manifest themselves so I will share some examples of the tools they often use, leaving you in a confused state.

#### TACTICS USED BY NARCISSISTS:

- **Discrediting you** by making other people think that you're crazy, irrational or unstable fueled by emotions.
- **Using a mask of confidence, assertiveness, and/or fake compassion** to make you believe that you "have it all wrong" so you begin to doubt yourself and believe *their* version of past events.
- **Changing the subject.** The gaslighter may divert the topic by asking another question, or making a statement usually directed at your thoughts, e.g. "You're imagining things—that never happened!" "No, you're wrong, you didn't remember right." "Is that another crazy idea you got from your (family member/friend)?"
- **Minimizing** by diminishing how you feel and what you think, the gaslighter gains more and more power over you, e.g. "Why are you being so sensitive?" "You don't need to get angry over a little thing like that!" "I was just joking around, why are you taking things so seriously?"
- **Denial and avoidance** by refusing to acknowledge your feelings and thoughts, the gaslighter causes you to doubt yourself more and more. For example, "I don't

remember that, you must have dreamt it!” “You’re lying, I never said that.” “I don’t know what you’re talking about, you’re talking in circles.”

- **Twisting and reframing.** When the gaslighter confidently and subtly twists and reframes what was said or done in their favor, they can cause you to second-guess yourself—especially when paired with fake compassion, making you feel as though you are “unstable,” “irrational,” or “emotional.” For example, “I didn’t say that, I said \_\_\_\_\_” “I didn’t hit you, I just gave you a smack on the head—that’s what all good fathers do.” “If you remember correctly, I was actually trying to help you.” Or “You don’t have any bruises, so it is not abuse.”
- **Isolating you** in which they resent and attempt to force you to cut ties with those who offer strength, comfort or clarity.

As we pray and seek our Lord Jesus, sometimes He delivers us from toxic relationships and other times He delivers us through them. There is no set law and it is individual and personal depending on what He is calling you to do, obedience is key here as you seek His face and wait patiently for Him to prompt you to act. Whatever He calls you to do, He qualifies you to overcome and prevail.

I want to share a word from Him I received recently which really settled me as I too face similar situations in my life occasionally. One day in prayer He told me in my Spirit – “You do not have to agree with someone to love them.” Prior to that precious word, I had been studying in Amos 3, where it says, unless two be agreed they cannot walk together. The Lord was showing me it is possible to love someone and not come into agreement with their behaviors, this just goes a step beyond human love. You can love someone from a distance or close, but above all love Jesus and keep and do His word, just as He commanded.

The number one preeminence of this teaching is that we remain in constant truth. Not just some of the time, but all of the time. If we allow ourselves to be sidelined by another’s perception of truth we start to drift and waiver, questioning ourselves and ultimately questioning God. My prayer is for all us to fully grow into the divine design of the Lord’s handiwork in our lives. As He breaks and mends our hearts to place Him and Him alone on the throne of our hearts, void of all idols and no longer seeking the approval of man we are in a more conditioned state of mind to be used by Him. After all, we cannot serve two masters for in doing so we will eventually hate one and love the other. He commands us to love all; Him first, everyone else second.

I know this was a lot to ingest today, so please email me at: [Angela@ringoffireministries.com](mailto:Angela@ringoffireministries.com) if you have more questions.

Unless I get further direction from the Father or people request we go deeper into this topic I will put this to rest only to revisit it as we examine our walks with the Lord. Like I said a few months ago when we began this journey, we could talk for hours and not reach the end of the truth in this matter. To be honest, I am thankful this assignment is coming to a close, as it is one very close to my heart.