



LAYING THE AXE TO THE ROOT SERIES

Matthew 3:10-12

We have emphasized the wonderful baptism in the Holy Spirit which Jesus provides for us. However, we have neglected that His coming also signaled the time when “the axe is laid to the root” and when the chaff will be burned with fire. Verse 11 that promises the baptism in the Spirit is preceded and followed by verses that talk about a cleansing work. However, so many of us have opted for one without the other. We received the Spirit baptism, but are not willing to allow God to lay the axe to the root.

Part 2 : LAYING THE AXE TO THE ROOT OF JEALOUSY (ENVY) Sunday May 22, 2005

Jealousy – a work of the flesh, a carnal thing

Galatians 5:19-22

We encounter jealousy in all spheres of life. There can be jealousy in the home between husband and wife, between siblings, family members, etc. There can be jealousy between friends, between peers, jealousy in the workplace, jealousy in the church among believers and even between ministers of God.

Jealousy in God's house amongst God's people : 1 Corinthians 3:3

Ministering God's Word motivated by jealousy : Philipians 1:15

Envy/Jealousy is a work of the flesh. Whatever is done motivated by jealousy – no matter how spiritual it may be – is still a work of the flesh and it cannot please God. Romans 8:8

Numbers 5 talks about a spirit of jealousy between husband and wife.

Examples of jealousy

Cain & Abel Genesis 4:1-9

Cain murdered his brother Abel out of anger which was fuelled by jealousy.

Joseph & his brothers Genesis 37:3,4,8 Acts 7:9

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, attempted to kill him, but ended up selling him away as a slave.

Part of this jealousy was due to the fact that Joseph's father Jacob treated Joseph in a special way.

Parents must be careful how they treat their children – not to breed jealousy by treating one with favoritism and partiality.

Saul & David 1 Samuel 18:5-30

King Saul became jealous of shepherd boy David, because of David's success in battle. He began to scheme and think of ways to kill David.

Some people are victims of jealousy in their workplace. Either their boss or peers out of jealousy begin to treat them in an unkind manner. Learn a lesson from David. In I Samuel 18 we notice that even though Saul plotted against David out of jealousy – David behaved himself wisely and did not retaliate.

The Danger of Denial

Sometimes we cover up jealousy through denial. We deny we are jealous, even though jealousy is what motivates us!

When we are in denial, instead of admitting our need, we prevent God from stepping in and helping us.



Various manifestations of the root of Jealousy

1. Murder/Hatred

Genesis 4:8 Out of jealousy Cain killed Abel.

Matthew 5:21,22 1 John 3:15

Jesus raised the standard and said that if we are angry with some one without a cause we are the same as a murderer. If we hate our brother we are a murderer according to 1 John 3:15

2. Anger, Rage

Proverbs 6:34

Jealousy very often is a root cause for a husband's fury – whether it is in a situation of marital infidelity or some other circumstance.

Husbands/Wives what is the reason for your outbursts of anger toward your spouse? Is it a root of jealousy?

3. Revenge

A person's desire to take revenge can be motivated by a root of jealousy.

Sometimes we take revenge in very subtle ways – in very “cultured” ways. Our actions may not overtly show that we are taking revenge. Yet we cannot hide our heart from God.

Romans 12:19 1 Thessalonians 5:15

The Bible instructs us not to take revenge.

4. Cruelty, Being unkind, Ill-feeling, Resentment

Proverbs 27:4

Songs of Solomon 8:6

Anger is cruel – but jealousy is worse. Jealousy cause a person to behave in a very unkind manner.

5. Divisions

Many divisions are caused because on person had a root of jealousy which spread and resulted in strife and division.

6. Extreme Competitiveness

Healthy competition in certain situations (e.g. track and field event) is good. It helps bring out the best in us. However when we carry over competitiveness into our homes and church, it creates havoc.

Often competitiveness in spiritual things is caused due to a root of jealousy.

Extreme spiritual competitiveness may drive your pursue seemingly great spiritual goals. However, these are not pleasing in God's eyes because they are motivated by jealousy.

7. Strife, Contentions

Proverbs 10:12

Often, anger is birthed out of jealousy and anger produces strife.

8. Isolation, Independence, Insecurity

Jealousy creates insecurity and causes one to isolate, become independent, etc.



For example, some pastors out of jealousy instruct their sheep to isolate themselves from other ministers, ministries and even from other believers. This is jealousy at work!

9. Over protection

Some times what appears to be an act of genuine concern, can actually be an act of “over protection” and could stem from a root of jealousy.

For example, a husband could convince his professionally skilled wife to stay at home under the pretext that he will take care of all the family's needs, etc. However, this “over protectiveness” could really stem from a root of jealousy where the husband is jealous of the wife because she has to interact with other men at her place of work, or that she might earn more than him, etc. etc.

This could work the other way too, where the wife is jealous of the husband's professional interaction with other women in the workplace, etc. and becomes over protective of her husband.

10. Pettiness

Often, when little things get blown out of proportion and mountains are made out of a mole hill – the root cause could be jealousy.

What jealousy does to us

1. Jealousy kills!

Job 5:2 For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.

2. Jealousy affects our health

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

3. Jealousy blurs our vision and causes us to loose focus

Proverbs 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

4. Jealousy blinds and prevents us from seeing the Light

Mark 15:9,10

9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

5. Causes trouble

Hebrews 12:14,15

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

If the root of bitterness (or jealousy, or any other wicked thing) is not dealt with, it will soon spring up and cause trouble to the person affected by it and to all those around him!

Deal with jealousy the moment you sense it within you.

Romans 13:13

Let us walk decently, as in the day...not in strife and envy.

6. Envy and strife open the door to confusion and every demonic work!

James 3:14-16

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.



This is the most serious consequence of jealousy. Jealousy opens the door to every evil work. Satan gets a free door of entrance into our lives to carry out his evil work if we do not get rid of envying.

Very often we deal with the symptoms – the evil work that has gained entrance into our lives – without dealing with the root cause, i.e. jealousy! Only when we get rid of jealousy can we properly shut the door to the enemy.

How do we live free from jealousy?

1. Walk in love

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is not jealous.

Each one of us as believers has the ability to walk in the love of God (Romans 5:5). When you feel jealousy beginning in you – pray and determine to allow the love of God to flow through you toward the person.

Walking in God's love will eradicate jealousy out of your life.

2. Rejoice in other's blessings

Romans 12:15

Learn to rejoice in the good things which the Lord does for others! Rejoice in the God who did those wonderful things.

Galatians 5:26

Let us not become envious on one another.

3. Understand that each one is different

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Romans 12:4-6

God has called, anointed and gifted each one differently. Rejoice in the way God has made you and appreciate the Lord for the way He has made some one else.

4. See things from God's perspective.

When it is all over and done only God will receive the glory.

Is there jealousy in your life?

Is there jealousy in this house?

Come, let the Spirit lay the axe to the root of jealousy in our lives

Confess. Repent. Receive the Spirit's refining work!



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>