



No Growth - Discord 1

A man went on a trip with a group of friends. During that trip, they met a local man who gave each of them souvenirs. Now, this particular guy took those souvenirs without knowing these items were a part of a ceremonial practice that was evil and occultic. When he arrived from his travels, he placed these ornaments in his home. That very night, things started to change, and things began to happen.

The man opened a spiritual door wide for the devil to walk straight into his home. He started to experience unusual things. The man experienced unrest in his heart, felt weighted down, oppressed even, like a massive weight on his shoulders. The sleepless nights and nightmares started, and he became a man filled with fear. He became fearful of everything and anything.

The man started to experience all sorts of things that were not from the Lord simply because of a lack of knowledge and vigilance. A combination that left him spiritually open. So he confided in his father, that brought the pastor into his home. While in conversation with this pastor and his father, the ornaments caught the pastor's eye.

"Where'd those come from?" The man explained, "they were a gift from a local" when he was on his travels. Pastor replies, "Did you ask what those items

were?" The man shook his head. Pastor responds, "Do you know anything about the man who gave you these?" The man shook his head again.

The pastor took the items and said, "We need to burn these things. These items are the cause of all the unrest you have been experiencing. You, my son, were under spiritual attack." So they started a fire and threw the items inside. Ten minutes passed, twenty minutes elapsed, and these items were not burning. They added more fuel and gave it another ten minutes, but nothing. No signs of those things burning.

So both the pastor and the father began to pray and praise the name of the Lord. They started to call on the name of Jesus. The pastor and the father began to speak the blood. They started to talk about the Word of God, and those things began to melt and burn.

The lesson is that the Bible says, "my people perish because of a lack of knowledge." Do not be in the category of people who perish because of a lack of knowledge. A lack of knowledge that if you give the devil an inch, he will take a mile. People lack the understanding that the devil will dress as something harmless. There couldn't possibly be anything wrong with a souvenir.

There is nothing wrong with accepting a gift from someone while traveling the world. Be vigilant, be watchful. Do you know where that object, that souvenir previously came from last? Do you know what spirit, atmosphere, or what you're inviting into your home when you're watching that film?

Deuteronomy six verses six through nine, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And you shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou

shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of your house and gates."

In this passage of scripture of Deuteronomy chapter eleven, God instructs the children of Israel to keep the Word of God in a prominent role in their household. Now the home plays an intricate part in the life of a believer. As Christians, our homes should be, they should be the homes where the name of God and the presence of God are always resident. The house should be a sanctuary, a holy place, a place of peace and serenity, and joy. It should be a place where God's Word is elevated and lived out.

Now that is all good and well to be read but in a practical sense. If the home is indeed a sanctuary, a place where God's presence should abide, then we should not allow certain activities, practices, and forms of entertainment in the home. The warning indicates that we should be more vigilant in the things we allow in our homes. We need to be aware that just as we close and lock the physical doors of our homes, we need to do the same thing spiritually.

Be sober, well-balanced, and self-disciplined. Be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, fiercely hungry, seeking someone to devour. That is the word of God according to First Peter chapter five, verse eight. There is an old saying, "when it rains, it pours."

Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever felt something happening that is more than your eyes can see? Have you ever felt something in your family or household that doesn't seem natural? Like some other force at work because it is one thing after another. It's attack after attack, battle after battle.

From another perspective, have you ever felt like when things are wrong at home, they carry out into other areas of life? Or something occurs with your kids at home and affects your work? Or when something happens in your marriage and influences your interaction with your kids. Or if something is going on at work and affects all of the above. It quickly becomes apparent that all of these things are interconnected.

And it also reminds us that if the devil can get a foothold in one area, then he has gained a foothold in all of these areas. The devil is trying in an unprecedented way to destroy families today. He wants to disrupt the family system and order. Satan knows that if the Christian family is intact: and in one accord, it is one of the principal weapons against his deceptions.

From the day Satan spun his lies to Eve, he was in the process of disruption. To maximize his deception, he approached Eve when she was alone. Satan solicited her when she was away from the family unit. And he did this because a divided family is easier to conquer. The devil is in the business of sowing discord and division in our homes.

The devil is in the business of causing senseless fights and conflicts. He is in the field of causing husbands' hearts to stray away from their wives and vice versa. The devil wants the hearts of wives to stray away from their husbands. The enemy is in the business of causing children to be rebellious and to have a complaining spirit. Satan wants to destroy our households because he knows that a spiritually weak home is the easiest way to take us away from God.

The devil is not new at this: he has been doing this for a long time. The strategy of Satan is to attempt to divide and conquer the family. Immediately after that, he instigates destruction between the same family members. And the Bible is full of stories of dysfunctional families that fell to

the disruption of the enemy. If Satan was disrupting the families of the giants of the faith, such as Abraham, Jacob, David, and Solomon, then we should be aware of the enemies' schemes and prepare to defend our homes.

The first question is, how does the devil gain access to our homes and minds? How does he try to gain access to disrupt our family and our lives? One of the prime ways that the devil gains a foothold in our families today is through media. Music, movies, and social media are big access points for our families.

Music accesses our brains and bodies in a way that few mediums do. The messages in music today are ripe with sinful themes like lust, sex, violence, and rebellion, among other things. Music is one of the easiest ways for Satan to access our minds and souls. We listen to lyrics with this content and become desensitized to it. Before we know it, we begin to think that these sinful themes are not so bad, and lust, fornication, violence, and rebellion have taken root in our hearts and homes. Along these same lines, movies and television are perfect pathways for the enemy to take root in our homes.

We constantly watch things full of violence, sex, cursing, and all kinds of other images that lodge themselves in our brains and hearts. Studies have shown that by fifth grade, the average child has seen eight thousand murders on television. Think about that. How does Satan use that to gain a foothold in our households? In addition, all the blatantly demonic content in television and movies. There are movies and shows about demons, spirits, and evil spiritual forces that we readily let into our homes. We are opening the door for Satan to come in and dwell in our place. The same goes for social media, which has all of these same elements but also has the added seduction of obsession with self-image and other people's opinions. The question

for us now is how do we resist the devil within our families? How can we close the door through which the enemy can enter? First, we can be much more vigilant about the entertainment choices we allow in our households. We need to monitor all the content in our homes in one way or another. An additional strategy when it comes to safeguarding our homes and families is that we should cultivate family worship and devotional time together. However, if a family is starting and ending their days in prayer, worship, and Bible study, it is more difficult for the devil to gain a foothold in that family.

That family has girded themselves with truth and the breastplate of righteousness. They apply the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit. Taking up this Armor of God in our families will guard them against the deceptions and temptations of the enemy. Let us put on the armor like spiritual warriors. Let us protect our homes against the enemy. Let us resist the devil, and he will flee from us.