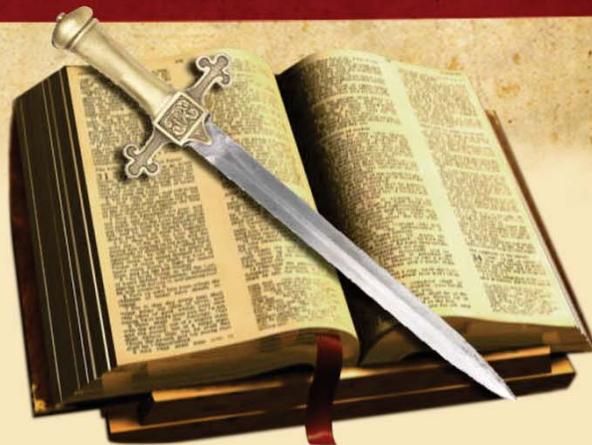


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



2 CORINTHIANS

Deadly Trap... It's Not What You Think!

(The Principle of: Staying Within Your Anointing)

2 Corinthians 10:13-18

It happened to the **Sons of Sceva**. Instead of overpowering demons, demons beat them into submission (*Acts 19:13-16*)! It happened to two kings. Instead of being blessed of God, they were cursed for doing the work of a priest; **Saul** lost his kingdom (*1 Sam. 13:8-14*) and **Uzziah** lost his health (*2 Chron. 26:16-21*)! It happened to **Korah**. Instead of gaining the priesthood, he lost his life (*Num. 16:1-35*)! And it happened to **Lucifer and his Angels**. Instead of being exalted, they were eternally debased (*Is. 14:12-15; Jude 6*)! What do all these have in common? **They fell into a trap! They operated out of their league... just one step beyond their anointing. And you'll fall too, unless you stay where God places you!**

As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he was intensely aware of the limits of his authority. **He understood the dynamics of the Kingdom of God... "Anointing Comes with God's Assignment."** He knew where he was called and where he wasn't. Within his apostolic "sphere," he had the authority to confront false apostles who opposed the true Gospel. Thus, he was ever so careful to make certain the church understood that his assignment was from God. **Paul knew his anointing was only effective "within the limits of the sphere that had God appointed to him" (2 Cor. 10:13).**

Spiritual failure...it's as easy as just one step; one step beyond God's assignment! If you try to operate outside your God-given limits, you'll run out of anointing! **In His Kingdom, it's important to know who you are, but even more important, who you aren't!** Paul said it like this: **"Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3-4).** **Herein lies the secret to spiritual success: find the season of your assignment and stay in it!** If God called you to be a **worship leader**, don't try to run the church! If you're a **deacon**, don't think you're the preacher! If you're called to **pastor** a church, don't try to oversee your denomination! Remember, even the great apostle Paul was careful not to overstep his anointing. All it takes is one step and you've entered into the trap of Satan! **Sure, God can increase your ministry sphere, but until He does, pride will press you one step too far...right into failure!**

Next: The Kingdom of God in Galatians - The War Within... Two Kingdoms Colliding!

