

The  
Stages  
of

Disloyalty



Dag Heward-Mills

# Stages Of Disloyalty

by Dag Heward-Mills

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Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible

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## **Chapter 1 - Becoming Disloyal Is a Process**

Disloyalty doesn't just happen overnight. Becoming disloyal is a process! Most people are unaware of the fact that they are becoming disloyal.

Many leaders do not even notice disloyalty in their associates.

In this book, I am going to outline the stages a person goes through when he is gradually changing into a rebel.

### **Learn to Detect Disloyalty**

There are two reasons why you must know these stages of disloyalty. First of all, it will help you to identify and kill any such tendency within you.

**Secondly, it will help you to detect disloyalty in any person you work with.** This applies to the ministry and even to businesses, especially smaller companies.

The Lord has shown me eight important stages that a person goes through when he is becoming disloyal. The first stage is when he develops what I call an independent spirit.

### **1st Stage: The Independent Spirit**

The independent stage is so subtle that most people do not recognize it for what it actually is - disloyalty. When a person belonging to a group, ministry or company develops an independent attitude, he sort of becomes autonomous within the set-up. The rules of the organization no longer control him. Such a person is still a part of the church but does what he wants to do, in spite of contrary instructions.

For instance, the pastor may say, "We are all fasting on Friday."

But the person with an independent spirit would think, "I've already decided to fast on Wednesday. So that's what I'll do."

### **Watch out for the Independent Ones**

Pastors, watch out for deacons and leaders who have independent spirits. You may call for several meetings, but a person with an independent spirit decides to attend only those he feels are important. Such a person obeys only certain instructions - the ones he thinks are really important.

Because Ghana is independent of the USA, whenever there is an American holiday it has no bearing on Ghana. Ghana and America are two countries in the same world, but independent of each other. When Ghana declares a holiday, America takes no notice of it because America is independent of Ghana.

If you are unfortunate enough to have choristers who have independent spirits, you may experience something like this. You would declare prayer meetings, rehearsals, and outreaches, but an independent chorister would decide, "I think I'll just attend the rehearsal." Once again this individual is doing exactly what she thinks should be done.

There is nothing wrong with being independent. I believe in independence and we thank God for independent people. **However, if you are a part of a denomination, group or company, you are not independent.**

When you begin to exhibit a spirit of independence within an organization, be it known unto you that you are becoming disloyal.

### **I Had an Independent Spirit**

Many years ago, I belonged to a group that had branches all over the country. I even founded a branch of this group. But as time went on, I began to have difficulties with the headquarters of this group.

At that time, I thought to myself that my superiors at the headquarters were out of step spiritually. You see, the group I was leading was growing. Many souls were being established every week.

The overseers or directors of the organization would call for meetings at the headquarters. They wanted the whole group to come into town for these meetings. But I never went for any such meeting; neither did I encourage any of the members to attend.

I always said to myself, "Those meetings are not important. What I am doing on campus is important. I am winning souls."

### **I Was Wrong**

But I was wrong. I had an independent spirit and didn't even know it. The overseers found me to be a successful leader in my little branch. But they could not control me within the organization. At that time, I just attributed the conflict to a lack of vision on the part of my overseers.

The point I'm making here is: **If you belong to an organization, you are not independent of that organization. Therefore, you cannot just do what you think is right.** You must comply with directives that are coming from the head. If you feel you want to be independent then you should resign.

## **Pastor Joab - The Independent Killer**

Were there independent people in the Bible? The answer is yes. Throughout the second book of Samuel, Joab is noted as someone who did what *he* wanted to do. He was part of David's army. He was part of David's ministry team, if you like. He was one of David's managers! You could say he was the Prime Minister or David's right-hand man. He was so powerful, yet he had an independent spirit. This independent spirit manifested itself many times.

The first example of the independence of Joab was in the murder of Abner, a commander-in- chief of another section of the armies of Israel. David as the head of government, decided to make peace with Abner after years of conflict. The king even called for celebrations of this peace agreement by feasting with him.

**So Abner came to David... And David made... him a feast...and he went in peace.**

**2 Samuel 3:20,21**

But when Joab heard that this man had been entertained in the palace, he was furious. He chased him, caught up with him and requested to speak with him privately. But Joab tricked him and killed him.

**And...he [Joab] sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again...took him [Abner] aside...and smote him...**

**2 Samuel 3:26,27**

When the King opted for peace, his right-hand man decided to do otherwise. Although he was supposed to submit to the wishes of the king, he went ahead with his own plan. People like this are dangerous. **Joab could have plunged an entire nation into war through his independent actions.**

There are people like that in church. The founder or head pastor is often the vision carrier. He leads the way because he is the head. All associate pastors and leaders in the church are supposed to flow with his vision. An independent "Pastor Joab" will only bring confusion and strife to the church. Take note of such people in the church, because they are only a few stages away from open rebellion.

The second incident I want you to notice is in Joab's handling of Absalom's coup d'état.

### **Rev. Joab Moves Independently Again**

Absalom rebelled and actually ousted his father David from the throne. Absalom was now in power and David was faced with the bizarre circumstance of having to fight against his own son.

In the midst of these extraordinary circumstances, David specifically instructed that the army should not kill his son Absalom. He wanted to spare the life of his son.

**And the king commanded Joab...Deal gently for my sake with...Absalom...**

**2 Samuel 18:5**

Thankfully, the battle turned in the favour of King David and Absalom had to flee. A certain man reported that he had seen Absalom hanging by his hair on a tree. Joab immediately blurted out, "Why didn't you kill him? I would have rewarded you handsomely."

But the man said,

**...Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee...saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.**

**2 Samuel 18:12**

This unnamed person was part of King

David's set-up and was obviously loyal to him. But here comes a man with an independent spirit and look at what he did.

### **Independent People Do What They Want to Do**

**...And he [Joab] took three darts...and thrust them through the heart of Absalom...**

**2 Samuel 18:14**

Independent people do what *they* want to do in spite of the instructions emanating from above.

### **Ironically, Independent People Don't Leave**

Notice that Joab never really left David's camp. Such people have not decided to leave. They will stay around but will do what they want to do! That is the independent spirit and it is a degree of disloyalty.

I always notice independent people within the congregation. Some of them are leadership material but because they are independent of me and of my vision, I cannot work with them.

### **He Was Spiritual, but Independent**

I once asked an independent church member, in whom I saw leadership potential, to join our Bible school.

Quite characteristic of an independent person, he said, "I have been in the church since it began many years ago. I have heard all of your messages."

He went on, "Pastor, what else am I going to learn in this Bible school?" That was the end of the matter. He didn't attend.

At another time, I asked him to become a fellowship (cell) leader within the church. He told me, "Pastor, I am already conducting a fellowship in my home."

I asked, "Who are the members of this fellowship? Are they members of our church? Do you consider this to be a church group?" "Oh no!" he answered. "They are my personal converts."

This brother could not be a cell leader within the church because he was building his own private cell group. He had no intention of defecting from the

church. He was within the church but independent of everything going on around him.

### **Branch Pastor Joab Threatens a Take- Over**

The next example of Joab's independence was when he fought against the royal city of Rabbah on behalf of King David. When victory was in sight he sent a warning message, "You better come and participate in the war otherwise I will get all the credit."

**Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it...**

**2 Samuel 12:28**

He wanted David to be there himself! What he was saying in other words was, "I'm no fool to do all the hard work only for you to take the glory." As is said in Ghana, "monkey dey work, baboon dey chop". (In other words, the monkey does all the hard work whilst the baboon benefits from the reward.)

### **Pastor Threatens to Change Church's Name**

Joab went on to threaten that if the king did not get involved as he was suggesting, the city could be named after him instead of David.

**...lest I take the city, and it be called after my [Joab] name.**

**2 Samuel 12:28**

How can you send such a message: "Come quickly otherwise I will change the name of the church"? Such a pastor can take over a branch church and rename it. Such a person can convert a cell group into his personal church. This is the reason why some pastors don't believe in cells or branches. They fear that they will have Joabs as leaders.

The last example of Joab's independent spirit comes at the end of the king's life. David made it very clear that he wanted Solomon to be the next king.

### **Independent Pastor Helps the Opposition**

There was another son named Adonijah who wanted to be king in the stead of Solomon. To do this he needed the help of some perfidious characters. Once again Joab, who knew David's wish, went contrary to it and helped Adonijah.

**Then Adonijah...exalted himself, saying, I will be king...And he [Adonijah] conferred with Joab ...[who] helped him.**

**1 Kings 1:5,7**

### **2nd Stage: Offence**

The second stage of disloyalty is offence. Jesus said,

**And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.**

**Matthew 24:10**

From this Scripture you can see that people begin to betray and hate one another when they are offended. The Bible says folks will betray you when they are offended.



**I have always been wary of wounded people because I know that they can turn against me. The spirit of offence opens the door to the spirit of treachery.**

### **Is Anyone Hurt?**

Dear leader, look around you and observe those who have been wounded by one event or another.

If these people have not genuinely overcome their hurts, hear the voice of the Spirit today. They are potential separatists, and they can easily become your enemies.

I believe that Absalom was grievously hurt by two important events. First of all, his half-brother's rape of his sister. He probably decided to kill his brother from the very day it happened. Secondly, his father King David did not take the appropriate action against Amnon for raping Tamar. The Bible says King David was very angry with Amnon.

However, he was under obligation to do more than just being angry. If he had done his duty, he would have fulfilled the Law of Moses.

**And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter...and see her nakedness...[he] shall be cut off...**

**Leviticus 20:17**

The penalty for incest in those days was death. But David failed to implement it. Never forget this; hurts and offences usher people down the road of disloyalty.

### **3rd Stage: Passivity**

After being offended by one thing or the other, people become passive. When a person is in the passive stage of the disloyalty process he does not involve himself in much. He sits and watches unconcerned and uninvolved. Pastors, look out for people in the congregation who are indifferent and unconcerned. They are potential deserters of the ship.

### **Watch out for the Uninvolved Members**

For instance, I consider members to be passive if they don't get involved in prayer meetings or smaller group activities. If all businessmen were called for a meeting, he is not likely to attend, even though he is a businessman. Such people may have been hurt in the recent past. They say things like, "I don't want any more trouble in this church. Let me just keep to myself."

**Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.**

**Jeremiah 48:10**

You can see from the above Scripture that God expects you to get involved when you have something to contribute.

This verse is actually teaching us that it is a curse to be uninvolved when you have something to pitch in.

Passivity is dangerous because you move rapidly into the critical stage of disloyalty.

*In order to become critical you must be uninvolved. You must have enough time to scrutinize and despise the church and its leaders.*

Don't you know that an uninvolved person more readily sees the faults around him? As they say, it is the bystander who sees that the worker is digging a crooked trench. All leaders must learn to look for this important sign of passivity among their workers. The uninterested leader is uninvolved for a reason.

### **Why Was He So Quiet?**

Remember the story of Absalom who went through this stage of passivity. Amnon had raped and disgraced Absalom's sister, Tamar. Absalom was doubtlessly angry with his half-brother but said nothing for two whole years. That is passivity! Doing nothing and saying nothing! I do not overlook silent and detached people who have nothing to say or contribute.

**And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad...**

**2 Samuel 13:22**

But notice again that this indifferent person (Absalom) quickly degenerated into a murderer and tergiversator when the opportunity presented itself.

**...Absalom had commanded his servants... when Amnon's heart is merry with wine... then kill him...**

**2 Samuel 13:28**

### **Are You Happy?**

When I talk about being quiet, I am not talking about someone who has a naturally subdued personality. I am talking about someone who is normally outgoing but is consciously subdued and detached.

One of the common questions I ask those around me is, "Are you happy?"

I want everybody around me to be happy. I am concerned when someone is unusually calm and cool. Every good leader must ensure that those around him are secure and content. *If King David had noticed Absalom's nonchalant attitude, he might have been able to prevent his son from becoming a full-fledged anarchist.*

### **4th Stage: The Critical Stage**

A disloyal person is not passive forever; he progresses into the next step of being critical.

This is the stage of noticing and magnifying faults. In church, he finds faults with the preaching of the Word and with the order of service. He analyses the building and notices all the deficiencies of the surroundings. Miriam had become critical of Moses. She had followed his leadership out of Egypt, but now she began to see his faults and humanness and spoke about his marital problems.

**And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses...**

**Numbers 12:1**



I remember early in the ministry, a spirit of disloyalty entered my church. Many of the church members became very critical of me. With eagle eyes they watched out for my faults.

Poor me!

### **I Was Frightened by My Church Members**

I was a young pastor with no theological training.

Here I was, being subjected to the critical scrutiny of these people.

“Is he really called?” they asked. “Can a medical student be a pastor?” I could virtually hear them saying, *“We know you don’t have much to say. Just summarize your message and let’s close the service.”*

### **I Dreaded Saturday Evenings**

I would become so nervous on Saturdays that I would have diarrhoea from Saturday night to Sunday morning.

Once I asked my beloved (fiancé), “Is this the dread I will have to go through every Saturday night?”

I will never forget standing before the congregation, on one particular Sunday morning. I lifted my eyes from my Bible after praying, and saw the angry and hypercritical eyes of my assistant and a host of others. I knew within me that they would never find anything good in what

I was going to preach. This critical atmosphere almost broke up my fledgling church.

Naturally, a hypercritical atmosphere does not help anyone to preach well. Some may ask why I teach so much on the subject of loyalty. This is because I have experienced the devastating impact disloyalty can have on the ministry.

### **Point of View or Viewpoint?**

Someone once told me, your point of view depends on your viewpoint. The value of a thing varies depending on the eyes with which you look at it.

**If you look at something with critical eyes, you will only see the imperfections.** However, if you look at it with an eye of love you will see something good and hope for the future.

Absalom also had begun to find faults with the king’s style of leadership. He was so engrossed with the deficiencies of David’s ministry. He could see no good anywhere. This only led to another stage of disloyalty - deception.

**And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.**

**2 Samuel 15:3**

## **[Chapter 2 - The Advanced Stages of Disloyalty](#)**

In the previous chapter, we looked at the first four stages of disloyalty: the independent stage, the stages of offences and passivity, and the critical stage. Now consider these advanced stages in the process of becoming disloyal.

## **5th Stage: The Political Stage**

When a person becomes political, he tries to involve others in his ideas and philosophies. Politicians operate on the power of people's opinions. Many politicians cannot tell the truth because they want to please people. What people think and say is what concerns them most.

When a person is becoming disloyal he tries to involve other people in his treacherous ideas. *He wants to gather a following and make people believe that he has identified a real problem that must be addressed.* This is exactly what Absalom did.

Absalom was hurt (offence stage), then he said nothing for two years (passive stage). He then became unduly analytical of David's policies (critical stage). Now he began to involve other people in his disloyal thoughts.

**And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.**

**2 Samuel 15:3**

The Bible tells us that Absalom sat at the gate of the city. When anyone came to see the king, he would ask if they had any problem. He would then listen carefully and sympathize with them. He explained to the people, "It is a pity that the king has no time for you today."

He lamented, "Unfortunately, he has not even bothered to delegate someone to attend to your problems."

### **Let's Pray for our Pastor**

Absalom went on, "Let's pray for our dear king. He's getting older and is probably finding it difficult to cope with the job." This is the mistake that some associate pastors make. Because of their work schedule, they may have more opportunity to interact with the people. The congregation begins to feel that the associate is more accessible and friendlier than the senior pastor (the king) is. The mistaken associate will allude to the senior pastor (the king) as incompetent and really just a figurehead.

The people of Israel were so impressed with the king's son for two reasons. Number one, he was very handsome and physically attractive. Two, he seemed to genuinely care for them. After impressing them for a while, Absalom won the hearts of the people.

**...so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.**

**2 Samuel 15:6**

When someone becomes political he wants to involve others in his train of thought. You see, the more people that you can involve in something controversial, the more confidence you will gain. *Disloyal people have an insidious way of discussing the shortcomings of their leaders.*

They ask questions like, "How did you find the service today? I thought it was a bit dry." They even come up with Scriptures. "As a Bible based church, don't you think we should have some miracles?"

"Do you think our pastor is as anointed as he was last year?"

“Have you noticed that a lot of people are leaving the church?”

“I think that our pastor travels a bit too much.

Don’t you?”

These questions are used as bait for unsuspecting Christians. They drag innocent members into analyses of issues that are “above” them.

**...neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.**

**Psalm 131:1**

Gradually they are able to spread their dissenting feelings to a group of gullible Christians.

### **Many People Are Saying...**

The next thing is that they approach you with reports of discontentment within the congregation. From experience I have come to learn that when a person is in the political stage of disloyalty, he has three favourite phrases:

- A lot of people are saying “so-and-so”.
- Everybody is saying “so-and-so”.
- Many people are saying “so-and-so”.

They say, “A lot of people are saying you travel too much. Everybody is saying that the church building project has taken too long to complete.” They explain, “I am speaking on behalf of many who are not happy in church.”

### **His Home Was the Centre of Discussion**

Some years ago, I had an associate just like that! He seemed friendlier than I was and more accessible. People would take their problems to him. His home was the centre for the discussions of the problems of the church. They discussed all of my shortcomings in his house. The church members became more and more discontented with my style of doing things. They said:

“He preaches too long, don’t you think?”

“He sips water while he preaches.”

“He walks up and down too much.”

With time, he began to tell me, “A lot of people are saying...Many people are saying...”

### **There Is Joy and Liberty When He Travels**

I recall one day I was at a retreat centre for a time of fasting and prayer. I came across the associate pastor of a large church in my city. After exchanging social niceties, I asked, “How is your senior pastor?”

“Oh, he’s around,” He said.

I went on, “How is the church doing?”

He replied, “We have some problems, but we are watching. You know what, *when he travels everybody is happy.*”

Confused, I asked, “When who travels?”

He smiled and said, "The senior pastor."

"Why is this so?" I queried.

He answered, "Because when he's away there is liberty and joy, and the Holy Spirit flows. The fact is that, *a lot of people are not blessed anymore when he preaches.*"

He emphasized, "Oh, many people are not happy when he is here! There is joy and liberty when he is away!"

As I listened to him, I concluded that this man was far down the road of disloyalty. And I was not wrong! Less than a year later, he rebelled and broke away from his senior pastor with a section of the church.

### **Sack Him!**

When a person gets to this political stage of disloyalty, he becomes dangerous to the unity and stability of the church. Such an individual is a threat to the security of your leadership. It is unsafe to maintain this "Absalom" personality within your ranks. In my opinion, you have more than enough grounds to get rid of him.

### **6th Stage: Deception**

One thing that I am sure about is that people who rebel are grossly deceived. If they were not deceived they would not do some of the things they did. Most people who have rebelled have ended up in destruction. And I know that no one intends to destroy his life.

I want to take you through some of the common deceptions that ministers encounter as they progress along the road of disloyalty. You must realize though, that every minister is tempted with these thoughts.

### **Many rebellious people are deceived into thinking they are greater than their seniors.**

Sometimes a son in the ministry can rise up to do greater things than his father.

Jesus did not seem to be worried about the fact that some of His disciples would do more miracles. He actually predicted that His trainees would do greater things than He had done and He was happy about it.

**...the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do...**

**John 14:12**

History has proved this to be true. Today, evangelists minister to larger crowds than Jesus ever did.

Ministers have larger Bible schools than Jesus did (Jesus had only twelve students in his Bible school).

Jesus never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born. I have travelled thousands of miles from the place where I was born.

Jesus never wrote a book but you are reading one of my books.

Jesus never had an office for His ministry, but most churches do.

Jesus never went to the university, but I did for seven years.

Jesus raised only two people from the dead, but someone like Smith Wigglesworth is said to have raised twenty-one people from the dead.

At the end of His life Jesus was ruthlessly murdered by His enemies and condemned amongst thieves. Most pastors would be given an honourable exit from this world, but Jesus didn't have that!

While He was dying, the soldiers gambled for one of the few things He had on earth - His coat. However, most ministers now own more property on this earth than Jesus did. These facts do not make any of us greater than Christ. Christ is still Christ the King. And you and I are still mortal nonentities. Without Him we are nothing. Do not be deceived by your recent promotion in the ministry. You are still you.

Jesus said,

**...The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.**

**John 13:16**

It is unfortunate that when we make little gains in the ministry, we begin to think that we are greater than anyone who has been before us.

### **Don't Despise Your Teacher**

Ministers despise their teachers just because they have acquired a little following and a new car. One of the oaths I had to make as a new doctor was to respect my teachers. You must remember that you have been helped by somebody to get to where you are. You must never forget that, in a certain sense, you have been set where you are by or through someone else.

Lucifer was appointed by God, but it seems he forgot the all-important fact.

**Thou art the anointed cherub...and I have set thee so...**

**Ezekiel 28:14**

Lucifer forgot that his perfection, wisdom and beauty had come from somewhere. It was actually created.

You learnt what you know from somewhere. Eighty per cent of what we preach and teach is learned. Lucifer was a created being. He did not create himself.

**...Thou...full of wisdom...perfect in beauty...wast created.**

**Ezekiel 28:12,13**

Some people have a little vision and go off into the deep end.

Some pastors have a few miracles in their churches and from that time they respect no one. They lay hands on one or two people who fall under the power of the Spirit and their hearts are corrupted because of their success in the ministry. Many sing their praises and young ladies approach them with admiring eyes.

## **Deceived by His Recent Success**

**Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty...**

**Ezekiel 28:17**

Many Ghanaian pastors become rebellious when they are sent outside their country to pastor churches in rich European and American cities. They walk up and down in the midst of the “stones of fire” and it goes to their heads.

I remember one minister who had been in training for some years. He was sent to pastor a branch church for the first time in his ministry.

After six months he returned completely transformed into a rebel.

### **He Said, “Give Me Six Months”**

No one could control or counsel him. He had cutting rebukes for his seniors, pointing out to them that they were not always right.

This person had become deceived into believing he was as gifted as anyone else was. In the end, he resigned, bitterly denouncing and deriding his superiors in the ministry. Out of contempt, he called his former church a cult. He even went as far as calling his father-in-the-Lord (the one who led him to Christ) a fool, for associating with the church he was leaving. To emphasize the “I’m as good as you are” attitude, he started a church a few metres away from his home church, and began to invite members from his previous denomination to join him.

That was not all. This refractory anarchist vowed to prove his ministerial gift to all and sundry within six months of his defection. However, years after this defiant separatist revolted, he has simply disappeared into obscurity. This obstinate insurgent thought that within six months he could achieve things that take many years of experience to attain.

I believe that avoidance of deception was one of the reasons why Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. It is to remind everyone that no matter what you achieve or attain you are not Christ! We need to remember our origins. We need to remember how we became what we are today.

Jesus said,

**...this do in remembrance of me.**

**Luke 22:19**

Many rebellious people are deceived because they are gifted and anointed. Absalom was very gifted but wanted to be the king. Many insurrectionists think that they have acquired all the knowledge they will ever need.

### **The Mother of All Deception**

The mother of all deception is when the mutineer thinks that he can destroy his teacher and father. He thinks he has enough clout to obliterate those who have been a blessing to him.

**The spirit of rebellion does not only lead assistant pastors to defect but also inspires them to fight against the authorities that have been set over them.**

Absalom fought against his own father and failed. Judas tried to destroy Jesus his teacher and Lord but that is the mother of all deception. You cannot destroy the Lord through your uprising. Lucifer thought he could dethrone God, but that was also not possible. What folly! What unthinkable madness!

### **He Threatened to Destroy His Own Father**

Some years ago, I sat at home fellowshipping with a Nigerian minister. This pastor friend of mine is the overseer of several large churches scattered all over Nigeria. As we chatted, I realized he had had experiences similar to mine. He spoke of one mutinous pastor who had grown up in his house as a sort of servant.

### **I Will Publish a Book about You**

This young man had graduated into becoming the pastor of one of his largest branch churches. My friend told me that this pastor had become anarchistic and had decided to fight against him. I was struck by one of the comments that he made.

He told me, "This young man rebelled, broke away and began to say all sorts of malicious things about me."

His own son in the ministry said, "I will publish a book of seditious material that will bring you down."

### **I Will Run You Out of This Town**

How interesting, I thought. I remembered a similar threat that I had received from a rebel pastor. This person had said that he was going to run me out of my own city.

You see, this is the mother of all deception.

This is the *spirit of Absalom* that  *fights against your own father*.

The spirit of *Lucifer*, is the spirit that tries to *replace and take over* rightful authority. The spirit of *Judas*, is the treacherous spirit that *betrays and turns* against its own teacher. I want you to learn right here, that all of these things are impossible. You cannot replace God. And you cannot succeed in fighting your own father. God will not help you and in fact, He will fight against you. All of nature, including the wild ravens and eagles of the air will fight against you.

The Bible says,

**The eye that mocketh at his father...the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.**

**Proverbs 30:17**

### **7th Stage: Open Rebellion**

This is the stage where deceived insurrectionists fight openly against authority. This open fight comes about because of the confidence the rebel develops over the months and years.

He gains psychological support by gaining the support of some of the people he talked to. Remember that Lucifer gained the support of over a third of the



angels. He has had time to analyze the merits and demerits of the person against whom he is rebelling.

Then suddenly, he exposes himself to be what he is at heart.

**1. Lucifer did this.**

And there was war in heaven ...and the dragon [the devil] fought...

Revelation 12:7

**2. Absalom fought against his father.**

And David said... Behold, my son (Absalom), which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life...

2 Samuel 16:11

**3. Absalom tried to become his father in all aspects, including in the bedroom.**

...and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

2 Samuel 16:22

**4. Judas betrayed and fought against his Lord and master.**

...Judas...came, and with him a great multitude with swords...Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

Matthew 26:47,48

Judas had told them to get a good hold of Christ and not to let him go.

This is the open fight against your master, teacher or your father. It is what I call the open rebellion stage of disloyalty. This leads us into the last and final stage of this drama; what I call the execution stage.

**8th Stage: Execution**

The end of all rebels is one and the same - execution. Rebellion is an essentially evil thing. The Bible teaches us that rebellion is as witchcraft.

**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...**

**1 Samuel 15:23**

The Biblical punishment for witchcraft is execution.

**Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.**

**Exodus 22:18**

God does not support rebellion in any form or fashion. Do not involve yourself in any kind of rebellion. The people who get involved in revolts are often simple-minded. Many of them do not know what is afoot.

**And with Absalom went two hundred men out of**

**Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.**

**2 Samuel 15:11**

Many people run into rebellion because of their innocence and ignorance. If Absalom's followers had known exactly what they were doing, I believe they would not have followed him.

The fruit of rebellion throughout the Bible is very clear - execution. God will divinely displace and replace you with someone else. Your seat will be taken by another who is worthier than you.

You will be banished into obscurity and oblivion. There will be a curse on you and your family. Just study the following list of executions:

### **Lucifer**

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:9

### **Absalom**

And ten young men...compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

2 Samuel 18:15

### **Ahithophel**

...Ahithophel...hanged himself, and died...

2 Samuel 17:23

### **Shemei**

So the king commanded Benaiah... which went out, and fell upon him (Shemei), that he died...

1 Kings 2:46

### **Adonijah**

And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him (Adonijah) that he died.

1 Kings 2:25

### **Judas**

And he (Judas)... went and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:5

Dear friend, avoid these stages of disloyalty at all costs!

If you find yourself already on the road to disloyalty, reverse the process immediately by genuine repentance.

I have often wondered why Judas is not considered as someone who genuinely repented. The answer is simple. Judas admitted that he was wrong, but he did not retrace his steps. Judas never changed. He did not turn around or retrace his steps. He just admitted that he was wrong, jumped out of the boat and hung himself! He did not want to see anybody or face anyone. He just excused himself.

He could not bear to look at the faces of the other disciples and admit to them that he was wrong.

I have seen pastors admit one or two mistakes that they have made. But that did not amount to repentance.

Remember what I said earlier: Admission of sins is not the same as repenting.

To repent means to turn around, and to change.

**For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.**

**For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.**

**2 Corinthians 7:10-11**

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