

Introduction:

Purpose of this teaching:

- To equip intercessors and spiritual leaders how to discern a spirit of divination.
- To equip leaders and intercessors in successfully responding to such attacks.
 - *And the Lord has a word for you (Pastor Tim) right here, the Lord says for you, "I am going to grow my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." The Lord shows me that you have been targeted by those in the occult, and that your church has particularly been targeted. I don't know anything about your church, but I see some disruptions that have happened, and I see a python just like almost wrapped around the church trying to squeeze it financially and every which way, but I bind and I take authority over that python spirit of divination and I say you will not rule and you will not crush this church. And Lord we pray that you will roar over that church. And the Lord says you are going to expand, enlarge the place of your tent. The Lord said don't give up on the dreams I gave you because the economy went south. Don't downsize your dreams, I'm calling you to upsize and not downsize. For you are going to have a move of God of signs and wonders and miracles, I am going to pour out my Glory, and the Lord says particularly on the youth of your church. The Lords says, "I'm going to call them to be treasure hunters, and they're going to go hunt for souls, and they're going to do signs and wonders and miracles." And the Lord says "I am going to move by my Spirit in an astounding way. And there will be a day the church will double and then it will double again--because it's harvest time says the Lord! Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Come on, lets give a shout!" Cindy Jacobs, 090815 Eagles Gathering*

I. Pythons In Nature

- A. Pythons are a type of snake.
- B. Pythons ambush their prey. They use fork tongue to detect and ambush. (Lies)
- C. Pythons kill by suffocation. It kills by constriction. It constricts around its prey and with each breath gets tighter until the prey can no longer breath.
- D. Pythons swallow their prey head first. (Go for the authority.)

II. What is a Python Spirit?

- A. The ancient serpent.
 1. We are introduced to a serpent in Genesis 3:1. It is not called a python just a serpent. SAME FAMILY! *"The serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field..." NKJV* The serpent was there in the beginning to oppose the movement of God in the earth..
 2. We also see the serpent at the end of the Book. *"This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels."* (Revelation 12:9, NLT) The serpent is again after the movement of God in the earth.
- B. Πυθωνα, python,
 1. *"One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future (πυθωνα). She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." This went*

on day after day until Paul got so exasperated (worn out) that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her. Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace." (Acts 16:16-19, NLT)

- a) This is the first place in the Bible that the term pythona is used.
 - b) In our passage the spirit of python is translated - the spirit of divination.
2. *"pýthōn is the name of the snake that guards the Delphic oracle, and it is also used from the early imperial period for a ventriloquist, through whom, as many think, a god is supposed to speak, and who is thus regarded as a soothsayer.* Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 973). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
- a) An oracle is a person through whom a deity is believed to speak. *"It is also a shrine in which a deity reveals hidden knowledge or the divine purpose through such a person"* Merriam Webster.
 - b) This is why the word pythona became to be used of ventriloquist. It is someone who is speaking through another, such as this girl who is following Paul and Silas.
3. Spirit of Divination -
- a) Its goal is to stop your holy activity, choke the spiritual life out of you and cause you to abort your purpose. You go through the motions but you are dead on the inside.
 - b) "Divination, the art of obtaining secret knowledge, especially of the future, is a pagan counterpart of prophecy. Careful comparisons of scripture will reveal that inspirational divination is by demonic power, whereas genuine prophecy is by the Spirit of God. The biblical attitude toward divination is distinctly hostile. In Deut 18: 10-12, the prophet of Jehovah is contrasted with diviners of all sorts and is set forth as the only authorized medium of supernatural revelation. (Unger's Bible Dictionary)
 - c) pneuma - spirit of divination. We would call this a demonic entity. It is a spirit that has as its source hell itself.
 - d) Deut 18:10-15 commanded to have no part in divination. But that God would raise up prophets.
 - e) *"Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."* (1 Samuel 15:23, NLT)

III. How does it operate?

- A. The python spirit or spirit of divination is a spirit that coils itself around its prey and squeezes out the breath (Holy Spirit) and cuts life lines to God.
 1. It marks people for demonic pressure and squeezes out any unwanted and threatening ministry in a city or region.
 2. It especially marks apostolic and prophetic level authority. (Whether in business or ministry)

3. This spirit especially resists and opposes worship, prayer, prophetic intercession, apostolic anointing, authority, awakening and true revelation. It seeks to create lethargy, prayerlessness and an inability to worship.
- B. It manifests
1. Through spiritual attacks designed to cause hopelessness, weariness, dullness of spirit, unbelief, loss of creativity
 2. These attacks can be:
 - a) Witchcraft - hexes, incantations, spells, curses (Nu 22:7), the occult. Bob Jones to Kelly and I: *"You have a big bulls eye in the center of your chest. They know who you are."*
 - b) Sexual perversion - designed to take out those in authority.
 - c) infirmity - sickness and physical pain cause weariness.
 - d) offenses - which result in and reveal pride, stubbornness, grief, bitterness and unforgiveness.
 - e) accusation Rev. 12:10 (Accusations always separate and divide) Separation and division cause grief, emotional pain, stress and undo pressure expending energy to repair.
 - f) Weariness - *"Then the people of Judah began to complain, "The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.""* (Nehemiah 4:10, NLT) Complaining, tired, too much rubble, half way done.
 - g) Poverty - discouragement and hopelessness through lack of resource. Creates a 'we can't' system of thought.
 - h) Pettiness - (car repairs, torn dress, broken computer, etc) anything that causes loss of passion to worship and pray, and cause those to be replaced with stress, pressure, overwhelmed, helpless and hopeless. A barrage of circumstances that know the wind out of you.
- C. It speaks.
1. Witches, wiccans, tarot readers, sorcerers, psychics, fortune tellers all speak but from a different spirit. They may even speak correctly. In Acts 16:16-ff, the girl who spoke, spoke truth. *"These are servants of the most High God who have come to show us the way of salvation."* Acts 16:17. It was an accurate word but it was from the wrong source and it troubled Paul. Just because something is correct or good does not mean that it is coming from a good source. The word of God is very clear about us staying away from such things. Dt. 18:11-14
 2. Hebrew word 'nachash' means serpent and refers to that which hisses; whisper, magic spell. When the python wraps itself around its prey the head of prey is usually by the head of the snake. The snake can feel the breath of the prey with its tongue. It hisses by the head.
 - a. Spells
 - b. Curses
 - c. Words of others-back biting, lying, division

- ii. If we don't cut off the head, the speech center and authority of python (words), than we to will come under the spirit of apathy and despair closely linked to depression and the spirit of heaviness.
 - a. The devil always attacks us with words like in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 the great question. "Has God indeed said?" That creates doubts.
 - b. The devil is always casting doubt and suspicion on God's word, and if we listen long enough we to will be deceived of our inheritance lose heart and give up.
- D. It conspires with:
 - 1. Jezebel - spirit of control. Anti-prophetic. Occult
 - 2. Leviathan - pride. It bites down and twists. Ie. Crocodile death roll. Twists words, motives, ability to understand others. and other ability to understand you. Twists communication.
 - 3. Absalom - selfish ambition camouflaged among believers as selfish ambition self promotion, betrayal.
 - 4. Accuser of brethren - Rev 12:10, divides teams, friends, family sheep from shepherd.
- E. It Targets: It targets and seeks to destroy.
 - 1. Redemptive purposes of a people, region, business, etc.
 - 2. Apostolic
 - 3. Prophetic
 - 4. Worship
 - 5. Intercession
 - 6. Money
 - 7. Government - apostolic, prophetic, local

IV. How To Overcome Spirit of Python

- A. Get the sin out!
 - 1. Proverbs 26:2 **Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight.** NKJV
 - 2. Num 23:8 **How can I curse those God has not cursed? Or how can I [violently] denounce those the Lord has not denounced?** AMP. Numbers 22 & 23, the only way Balaam could curse Israel was to have them commit immorality (sin).
 - 3. The devil is looking for something to eat, don't feed him. 1 Peter 5:8-9 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.** NKJV
 - 4. If we want the curse off our state we have to get the sin out, same with our nation and our lives.
- B. Get your Praise on! Paul and Silas refused to be silenced. They sang what they believed!
 - 1. After midnight they began to sing and praise. Get your praise on! You gotta do what you don't feel like doing!
 - 2. When you feel the coils of Satan tightening around your situation, when you feel like you can't move to the left or to the right, just lift up your head, pray your prayer and sing your praise because your redemption draws near. God is on the way and the enemy is in a heap of trouble.

- a) Ps 149 Praise shackles him!
- b) Ps 8 Praise silences the enemy!
- c) Amos 9:11 Praise lets us possess what is rightfully ours!
- 3. Proverbs 15:13,15 **A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.** NKJV
- C. Get the Word out! Confess the word! What can I say that God has already said! Agree with the Word.
 - 1. John 6:63 **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.** NKJV
 - 2. Psalms 119:105 **Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.** NKJV The word dispels darkness and gives us hope.
 - 3. Hebrews 10:23 **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.** NKJV 1 John 5:4 **and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.** NKJV
- D. Pray without ceasing. Especially in the night.
- E. Trust in the justice of God.
- F. Fight like your life depends on it. 2 Cor. 10:4-5. Dream where I couldn't speak and woke Kelly.
- G. Turn off 'whispers' in your speech and in your hearing.