

What is, today's silent killer?

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Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3: 5, 6

Introduction

Today's Message has really helped me to understand many things about my past, present and a better way for the future. I pray that through Holy Spirit God will illuminate your mind to truly understand what He wants you to know.

I wanted to start off today's Message with a few statistics that you might find interesting:

- High Cholesterol is attributed to causing 4.4 Million deaths every year!
- According to the **American Journal of Clinical Nutrition**: "Preservatives and added sugars have been linked to earlier death and higher risk of heart disease"
- According to **Medical News Today**: "GMO foods or Genetically Modified Foods have a different balance of toxins, increasing the harm to humans. Specific health concerns include an increased risk of cancer and infertility"

If you are thinking that all these things, I just mentioned are bad, well I am here to bring a Message of something far worse. Something that has the potential to kill everything in our lives.

If you thought or are thinking that today's sermon is about Health or Healthy living and eating right, you are most definitely incorrect! Trust me, I am no poster child for healthy living or eating right, but as millions of people do each year, I have also said this New Year will be different. lol

Even though these statistics are about the silent killers in foods we eat, today's Message is about something far worse. Plus, I don't think that the pulpit should be used to present things about health or politics, that is just my opinion. If it's not Christ-centered or based on the Holy Spirit, it has no place on a pulpit for the main church service. Maybe I am just old fashioned.

This Message today, with the help of the Holy Spirit will be about our HEALTH, but I will be speaking about the **SILENT KILLER** of your **SPIRITUAL HEALTH!** I pray that through the help of the Holy Spirit we can ALL live healthier Spiritually speaking. Let us pray and invite the Holy Spirit to be in our midst so that we can all learn something today.

Sermon

We are going to cut to the chase on today's Message and I am going to reveal to you what the Holy Spirit showed me "What today's silent killer is?" **CONTROL!** Perhaps satan's greatest weapon against us. Think about it for a moment, almost everything negative that has happened in our lives stems from CONTROL in one shape or another. When the Holy Spirit started showing me this it really blew my mind.

When I looked back at my life I found this to be true in so many ways and on so many different occasions. I will give you an example, one of many, that I am not proud of, but in the interest of transparency and full disclosure I will share this with you.

Over (23) years ago I worked as an Executive Chef for an Asian Restaurant, and this was very early in my Management career. I was also an Atheist at the time, trying to get my drug addiction under control when I began dating my wife. I ran my kitchen like a dictator with absolute authority. You see in my arrogance I felt because I had a Culinary Degree and a Food & Beverage Management Degree, that it gave me the right to be that way and to talk to my employees however I pleased.

On a particular Saturday night shift after closing the doors to the restaurant, I was off on one of my usual rants because one of my cooks (who were all Mexican) cut a whole case of vegetables incorrectly and we ended up having to throw out that product which infuriated me. I went off on this particular cook, insulting him with every word imaginable and then walked away and went upstairs to the office to work on paperwork.

About (5) minutes later I came downstairs to find all (10) of my cooks on that shift sitting in the dining room on the clock and I yelled “what the Are you all doing just sitting and doing nothing”? Then the cook that I had scolded five minutes earlier stands up and says, *“you see guys he just treats us like animals and has no respect for us, this is why we should all quit and never come back”*. Needless to say, that caught my attention real quick.

Looking back at it now, I see that it was the Holy Spirit that gave me a moment of clarity and I asked: “do you all feel this way?” One by one each cook gave me example after example of how I made them feel and how I belittled them. One of many humbling moments in my life, as I sat there and listened to these guys express their heart to me and some got teary eyed just venting their feelings towards me.

My dear brothers and sisters that broke me that night, I felt ashamed of what I had put those guys through. You see I was treating them the way my own father treated me when I was a kid, that physical and emotional abuse that my parents put me and my brother through were ALL BECAUSE OF CONTROL. The abuse I had put these guys through was ALL BECAUSE OF CONTROL. Holding back my own tears, because of the shame I felt, I looked at the cook in the eyes that I had scolded and that had rallied the rest of the cooks to stage the walk-out and said Thank You for speaking out tonight. I am so sorry Vidal, please forgive me.

I remember his eyes were wide open as I extended my hand to shake his, and then I turned to the other nine cooks and apologized to them. I told them “I don’t blame you for wanting to leave, I have been a complete Ogre to all of you and treated you all less than a person.” I told them that was never my intention to make them feel that way and I wanted to be a better boss to them. I asked them to give me one more chance and if they could please help me to change; and if I said something to offend them to please let me know, so that I could correct myself and apologize.

**“I learned that night, the second you think you know it all,
is the second you fail as a person and as a Leader”**

Well, they all decided to stay and they helped me become a Leader that built teams through earning respect, instead of demanding it. I learned a powerful lesson that night that I have carried with me until this day. And through the Holy Spirit and this Message, that lesson was amplified. **CONTROL IS AN ILLUSION!** Satans lie, his falsehood for us.

CONTROL is a false reality that satan wants us to be distracted by and his ultimate purpose is that we are CONSUMED by CONTROL! When Mankind continues to assert themselves as having CONTROL, they have fallen into the trap of satan. This has been the case since before our Earth was created. Ask yourself this.

Why did Lucifer birth the first sin in Heaven into existence? YOU GUESSED IT CONTROL. To the point that he wanted to be God. And from Genesis to Revelation we see this trap of CONTROL being perpetuated all through the Scriptures.

- Adam & Eve sinned because of “control”, satan tricked them into wanting to be like God.
- Abraham tried to control the Promise of God in Isaac and to this day the Arab nations are in conflict with Israel because of that decision.
- The Israelites at Mt. Sinai wanted control and built the Golden Calf.
- King Saul wanted total control and began hunting David to kill him.
- King David wanted control and had Uriah sent to the front lines to be killed.
- Saul of Tarsus trying to control the threat of Christianity, that threatened his precious Religion, set off to kill them off.
- Peter had major issues with self-control and Jesus prophesied to him that before his death he would have no control whatsoever.
- Judas tried to make a quick buck in order to control when Jesus manifested his Power as Messiah.
- Let’s not forget the epidemy of CONTROL the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus’ time. This group represents the **CONTROL THAT RELIGION** can have over you, to in turn do the work of satan.

Religion still does the same thing today; it was the hypocrisy of Religion that led me to become an Atheist at (15) years old and at (17) leave my house. Here’s another example. About ten years ago I was visiting a local church in St. Lucie County and as my friend, and I were about to walk into the church, there was a homeless man that opened the door and tried to walk in when he was stopped by the Head Deacon and told that he could not enter the sanctuary in sandals and shorts and turned him away.

That man hung his head low, turned around and walked out. In that moment my friend went to speak with the man, however he was too embarrassed to return. And in that same moment a Holy Rage came upon me and I scolded that Head Deacon with every single rebuke that Jesus had used against the Pharisees in the New Testament.

I told him how dare he turn away a precious soul from the Light of Christ, I called him a white-washed tomb, viper, blind guide. Every rebuke I could remember and at the end I told him: **“if that man is lost, that his blood was on his hands.”** I walked by him in total disgust.

Why did this happen? CONTROL! A church manual became more important than saving a soul and leading them to Christ. **Oh, my dear brothers and sisters, RELIGION will be the tool that satan uses to try and destroy the Remnant of God.** Unless we allow the Holy Spirit to truly purge us of CONTROL, we too are in danger of being blinded by Religion and the things of this World.

Christ through His entire Ministry was trying to show us the importance of a humble heart and how a True Citizen of the Kingdom should act and conduct themselves. Let's turn to: Matthew 18:2-4. Notice what it says in Verse 4: ***“Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven”***

Christ was trying to teach them the concept of his Lordship. Let me ask you all this question and lets see how you answer it. What does the word “LORD” mean? I heard many answers and yet no one knew the exact definition of it.

- **Lord** = in the original Greek it is a slave term used by slaves to address their Master or Owner. Why, because that slave was bought with a price and their life was no longer theirs. By calling that Slave owner lord they were acknowledging his power and authority along with his ownership of them. They could not do anything at all without that slave owners consent or permission.

In religious circles we throw this word “lord” around and most don't even know the meaning. When we say that Jesus is our LORD, we are acknowledging that we were bought with a price. CHURCH, WERE WE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE? **YES OR NO!!!**

That is correct, Christ paid the Ultimate Price for us on the Cross on Calvary, our lives are NOT our own! Yet most of Humanity walks around on a daily basis thinking that they are in CONTROL of their own lives. Then you have the religious folks that say, “well God is Number 1 on my list of priorities on a daily basis”. NEWS FLASH...GOD DOESN'T WANT TO BE #1 ON YOUR PETTY LIST OF PRIORITIES. **HE WANTS TO BE THE ONLY PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE!!** Do we get this church.

Until we acknowledge the LORDSHIP of Christ in our lives we are nothing and we will obtain NOTHING in the Kingdom of Glory to come. Jesus said in **Matthew 19:30**, ***“the first shall be last and the last shall be first”***.

Have you ever noticed how Paul referred to himself on many occasions in his letters to the early Church? He described himself as a Bondservant of Christ or a Prisoner of Christ. **Ask yourself, why do you think he did that?** He was acknowledging the Lordship of Christ my dear brothers and sisters. He was acknowledging that he had no CONTROL OVER HIS LIFE AND HIS STEPS WERE DIRECTED BY CHRIST ALONE.

Until you allow the Holy Spirit to wake you up from this “Somber Sleep” of Religion, we will never realize the CONTROL we have been trapped in thinking that a denomination or religion can ever save you or grant you anything in Eternity.

Control is little by little killing what should be good in our lives. Fear often drives us to falling into the trap of CONTROL. Let’s turn to **Isaiah 41:10** and see what it tells us.

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with righteous Right Hand”

What a powerful promise we find here in this text from God. It doesn’t say here that He “might strengthen you”, it says HE WILL STRENGTHEN YOU! It doesn’t say here that He “might help you”, it says HE WILL HELP YOU AND WILL HOLD YOU UP WITH HIS RIGHT HAND. Man, that is so Powerful!

Paul in his letter to Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:7** it says, ***“He has not given us a spirit of Fear”***. This brings us back full circle to our Scripture Reading for today found in: **Proverbs 3:5,6**.

“Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in ALL your ways and He will direct your path.”

If we fear then we don’t Trust God, if we don’t Trust God and put more trust in our own human CONTROL over a situation, then satan WILL CONTROL THE SITUATION!!

Through the span of the entire Bible; from Genesis to Revelation we see examples of CONTROL in one way or another. Satan has used the illusion of “Control” to gain a foot hold on Humanity. Technology while providing many conveniences, has also given satan a new form of CONTROL, in particular with our youth.

Social Media is a form of CONTROL, **a silent killer** that has trapped the majority of society. I encourage you to watch a documentary on Netflix called: **“Social Dilemma”** if you don’t believe me. Social Media marketing has developed algorithms to control what you like and where to click when surfing the internet. And these algorithms are designed to keep you clicking away on things, wasting time and sucking you in deeper and deeper by the minute.

Yet millions have fallen into this form of mind control and don’t even realize it. They even have social media detox centers now, so that people can truly unplug from the internet and the grip of the CONTROL satan has put on their time. Millions spend more time with their phones and internet browsing than studying the Word of God and spending time with Him. Yet a lot of people will say that I am the one that is wrong by having this viewpoint. We need to wake up Brethren!

CONTROL IS KILLING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- It kills our time that we could be spending with God in fellowship with Him.
- Kills our time with our families in building memories with them.
- Kills our relationships. Have you noticed people just don't sit and talk anymore.
- Kills our Peace, Joy, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Gentleness, Happiness and our capacity to Love. All of these precious attributes are lost by a lack of SELF-CONTROL.

You are probably already thinking it, **but YES "Control" WILL KILL EVERY FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** found in **Galatians 5:22-23** and in turn, it kills the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's the Holy Spirit that makes the Sacrifice on the Cross effective in our lives.

Closing

My dear friends if we allow the Fruits of the Spirit to be killed off in our lives we will NEVER experience the "Gifts of the Spirit" in our lives and we will KILL the POWER OF THE KINGDOM being manifested in our lives. **WE WILL KILL GOD IN US!!** We will become powerless Christians.

A good friend of mine: Ricardo Caraballo, who is a very gifted musician was preaching one time, he closed his sermon with these two statements and I would like to do the same and see what you think of them:

1. Let's have a moment of silence for Christ that is still in the tomb.
2. Let's have a moment of silence for our Christianity that is dead.

I am so glad that you were NOT silent and I hope and pray that you stay awakened to the fact that God has sent His Son to die for us on the Cross to pay our "debt of sin" so we can acknowledge his LORDSHIP, and HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY AND HE IS MOST ASSUREDLY ALIVE AND BECAUSE HE IS ALIVE WE HAVE A HOPE OF GLORY. **HE LIVES IN US** my dear brothers and sisters and that is what a True Christian is all about.

Altar call

If you want to declare the CONTROL of satan broken in your life please come forward.

Amen!