

A Prophetic Warning for Pastors Worldwide

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In this vision, I saw a pastor as a boxer, sitting on a stool in a corner of a boxing ring inside a large arena, waiting for the fight to begin. It was then that the Lord asked, **“Who put him in that ring? Did he just get in the ring, or did I place him in the ring?”** I responded by answering the Lord, “I don’t know.”

I understood that, over many years of ministry, the pastor and his family had suffered devastating calamity.

The Lord then revealed, **“This pastor has been involved in a series of presumptuous acts leading him to fight against a strong adversary, the devil. The darkness he has encountered has been overwhelming.”** My eyes were then opened to the menacing darkness of evil in the opposite corner of the ring.

As the frail pastor sat in his corner, I saw that, in the darkness of the opposite corner, there were multiple very powerful demonic warriors. However, the darkness stretched beyond the ropes of the ring, extending for many yards in either direction to the opposite walls of the arena. What I was seeing was the enemy army’s frontline. I then became aware that this pastor had entered the ring without a clue about how to fight the enemy.

Entering the boxing ring “without a clue” is a Biblical reference to fighting without the Spirit’s revelation, i.e., moving in presumption. A primary illustration of this can be found in Joshua 7:1, where Joshua is unaware that Achan had disobeyed the ban order set forth in Jos 6:17-19 (cf. Deut 7:24-26) during the destruction of Jericho, stealing a Babylonian cloak (cloak of Shinar), gold, and silver, burying it in his tent. The Lord labeled Achan’s sin as stealing and deception (Jos 7:10), actions motivated by the sin of covetousness (Jos 6:18; Deut 7:25-26; cf. Deut 13:17-18). The consequences of Achan’s sin were immediate and severe, as the anger of the Lord now burned against the sons of Israel (Joshua 7:1), and they were defeated in their initial attack on Ai (Jos 7:2-9).

Even though Joshua had set forth a ban order and its consequences as set forth in the law, applying the ban to everything within Jericho, neither he nor the leaders considered that a violation of the ban had occurred. Which is to say, Joshua did not have a revelation from the Lord concerning Achan’s transgressions. In addition, Joshua delegated the plans of the Ai attack to a committee of spies, rather than seeking the Lord for His plan and strategy. In Joshua’s case, he didn’t have a clue about Achan’s sin, or the Lord’s strategy to take Ai, which was only revealed in Jos 8:1-2. The Lord commanded Joshua to take “all the people of war,” totaling 30,000 men (Jos 8:3), ten times the number used in the failed attempt, as recommended by the spies (Jos 7:3-4). In addition, the Lord directed that they set up an ambush at Ai (Jos 8:2).

Joshua’s presumption is exhibited in his lack of knowledge that (1) the Lord’s anger was burning against the people; (2) he failed to seek the Lord for His strategy to take Ai. In other words, he marched forward **without a clue**, completely blind to the breach between the Lord and His people, resulting in the inability of Israel to “stand before their enemies,” because they had

become accursed (Jos 7:12). The Lord made it clear: "I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst" (Jos 7:12). Joshua had contemplated none of this when he authorized the attack on Ai. In short, he was not authorized to attack Ai because he had not received revelation from the Lord of what was crucial for success. *He was doing his own thing.* When we as ministers step out on our own without the Lord's direction, we can be assured that defeat will be our lot. The Lord's strategy leads to success, not our goals or worldly intentionality, ambition, or plans.

I then heard the Lord confirm the understanding I sensed in my heart concerning the situation, saying, "**He doesn't have a clue. Decisions based upon presumption have been his path, and he has paid the price for it. This is where the Church is – practicing presumption, and they have paid the price for it. A greater disaster is coming for those who continue to move in the sin of presumption against the wicked one.**" The enemy is bent on taking out pastors, and they will take those out who are presumptuous to wage war upon spiritual darkness without following the Holy Spirit.

In the vision, the Lord then looked back at me and said, "Remember this." In 2014, I wrote about a revelation from the Holy Spirit, in which He said, "The sin of presumption will be dangerous if not deadly in the days ahead." The Bible has a great deal to teach us concerning this sin.

These are important precepts. ***A minister of the Gospel cannot take on the enemy in presumption.*** What is important to realize is that the Holy Spirit *was not* in the ring with the pastor; therefore, disaster, defeat, and even death are the only possible outcomes. In following the Holy Spirit, we must give Him room. In Joshua 3:3-4, the leaders commanded the people to follow the ark (a type of the Holy Spirit), but they were to follow behind it 2000 cubits, which is 10 football fields or 0.56 miles. The reason: "Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before" (Joshua 3:4 NASB95).

The people were being warned not to presume which way the ark of the covenant would take to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land. They were to watch at a distance and then follow. The Lord was making a path for them, and that path was precise.

I then sensed the Lord saying that many pastors are under judgment right now. I then saw the Lord Jesus with a very serious look on His face, standing on the path in front of the pastor. It was clear that this pastor wasn't going any further; he had come to the end of the line. I was deeply impressed that the pastor was under the Lord's serious judgment.

Seeing a balance in front of me, I knew the Holy Spirit was warning me that the pastor's future hung in the balance.

It was then that the Lord commanded me that I was not to hold back from what He reveals concerning pastors.

For pastors to move in a presumptive manner against spiritual darkness, the message is clear. Either repentance must come, coupled with surrendering to the Holy Spirit's leadership, or they will suffer dire consequences. One cannot see the kingdom advance without the Holy Spirit's revelation of His strategy and timing.

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