

The Evil Eye

Derek Prince mentioned in one of his sermons about spiritual warfare a woman who used “the evil eye” to control people. The back story was that prior to his becoming the pastor of that church, the pastors wife had an affair with an elder, and eventually both couples divorced their original spouses to marry each other, and then the couple that consisted of the pastors ex-wife and her new husband, the elder, tried to run the church, which then resulted in Derek Prince entering the picture. There were very few people left in that church when he arrived to take over that ministry, but he told about how this woman would apparently give a specific look, meant to intimidate that person into cooperation, to anyone who opposed her. It worked often enough that people would either leave the church, which is part of why so few remained in that church, or just do what she wanted.

This is an obvious example of someone involved with a ministry not having a servants heart, but instead was using the church to glorify themselves, it had become “her” church, not God’s church. This is not uncommon, and most readers could relate this story to someone they know, hopefully not to the extreme extent of this story, but we all probably know someone involved in a church who thinks they run their church, in part or in whole, and will push their agenda to an extreme, probably harming anyone and everyone they need to in order to get their way.

One of the reasons good Christians lose in their cause to this type of person is because it is Biblical to put other people ahead of yourself(Phil. 2:3-4), another reason is that people who are seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit will typically be submissive to other people out of reverence for Christ(Eph. 5:21). I believe that Godly leadership will eventually be called to oppose this person, but it doesn’t always happen, because not everyone obeys God when they should.

I have one specific example of the “the evil eye” being used on me. When I was in second grade, the teacher I had is someone I have very few good memories about, almost all of them are bad, and once I start thinking about what her class was like, more memories come to mind, and they tend to confirm what I initially remember.

I can remember wetting my pants in her class because she came up with a rule that everybody had to wait a given amount of time after lunch to use the bathroom in her class, and I didn’t always make it. When I got in trouble at home for this, and was questioned about it, they talked to the teacher who said “he must have misunderstood.” But anytime someone would stand up to go to the bathroom, she would stop you in your tracks with a very mean glaring look, which was meant to intimidate you into sitting back down. If you continued to move towards the bathroom, she would slowly shake her head from side to side(this is a proven manipulation technique), which was a further move to inform you, without actually saying anything, that you were not allowed to do what you needed to do, you had to wait until a certain time(an hour after lunch was too long for me to wait on some days).

Over time, I heard stories about this woman, and she consistently used the same line, “he/she/ must have misunderstood” which, when she was talking about a student, was her way of blaming the student, who probably wasn’t present to defend themselves, when she had been caught causing some kind of problem.

I also remember that year’s Christmas play and we sang the song “Ezekiel saw the Wheel” and she made a very big deal out of “separation of church and state” and was trying to

get the teacher who chose that song for the play fired because it was a biblical reference. This woman was adamantly opposed to any form of Christianity in the school setting, and now I can see how the spirit of witchcraft was utilized by her to intimidate a bunch of 6-7 year old children. I can also see how she used “they must have misunderstood” as an escape line so effectively because she had so much practice using it. The problem for most people is that a rehearsed lie like this one is so difficult to prove because it really can’t be refuted, the only way to really combat it is to sway the opinion of the person judging the situation in your favor, and then they may be limited in what they can do about the situation, because, again, the proof is limited.

I believe that people like her need to be opposed, and awareness of how they do what they do is one of the ways to do it, but also combating that spirit of witchcraft with the Holy Spirit given insight and the authority that Jesus gives us is necessary as well. Unfortunately, witchcraft is so prominent in our culture because we have been raised to be oblivious to many of the forms it takes so that adult to child intimidation (especially for a teacher with thirty students to monitor), is a necessary and justifiable method. There are more godly ways of dealing with students, but “the evil eye” is not just the problem for this story, it is an example of the heart of a person, this was a method and a symptom, and the story that Derek Prince related rang true to me because of how often I had been the victim of it when I was a child. The memory of that teacher had faded over time, until I heard about this woman, and all the memories of it being used against me came back, mainly because I had been subject to first hand experience with it.

There are various forms of witchcraft at work in the world today, and I do rely on the teachings of Derek Prince as a resource because of his experience, and some of his words on this subject were “it is never Gods will that one person control another” and “the three methods typically used are domination(forcing someone by abuse of authority is my description of this) intimidation(which is where “the evil eye” falls in) or manipulation(tricking people or playing on their emotions).” I contend that most people think domination is acceptable for a parent to child situation, and manipulation is used by spouses or family members as well, but intimidation is something that comes along in various ways in various scenarios, so I suggest that you learn to recognize it for what it is when it happens, and if you are a Godly person, you will probably deal with it differently than when you didn’t see it for what it was.