

**Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship**  
**Pastor William Dawson**  
**Prayer Meeting 12-12-06**  
**“The Work Of The Joab Spirit”**

1. **1 Samuel 22:1-2.** There is a spirit of the enemy lurking around the body of Christ waiting to catch those called to leadership. It is a spirit with the potential to split churches, break relationships and even destroy marriages. It is a Joab spirit. Joab had been with David from the beginning. He was David's nephew and the son of Zeruah, David's sister. Joab had two brothers named Asahel and Abishai. Joab is a blood relative of the king. He is related to David by birth.
2. **The Joab spirit** is similar in pattern to the Absalom spirit and just as deadly. Joab and his brothers brought the greatest pains and frustration to David and his ministry **all his life**. If a leader does not discern this spirit and deal with it swiftly, it will cause great pain, and heartache. This spirit is a selfish, ambitious spirit in the life of a person who desires the spotlight, power and attention of a church. This spirit will do anything to get to that place of prominence, or destroy, and undermine any leader in the way. **In order to receive all the power, and prominence of position, this spirit will seek to get rid of every rival in their midst. If you have talent, spiritual gifts, and the favor of the King, this spirit will seek to destroy you or your influence.** In the Old Testament, Joab was a person. In the New Testament it is a spirit.
3. **Notice how this spirit disobeyed leadership** and created horrible tensions, and division. Notice the tone of Joab's counsel. Notice the exact words and desires of King David that were ignored and rejected by Joab. **2 Samuel 19:1-8. 2 Sam. 19:11-15, 18-23; 2 Sam. 20:4-13. 1 Kings 1:1-7; 1 Kings 2:1-6. 2 Sam. 3: 19-39.**
4. **As long as the Joab spirit** is honored, and praised by leadership, the spirit is fine. But when the focus, attention, and praise is taken away from him, or her they become offended, and take action to bring the attention back, which is a great distraction to leadership. There is usually a Joab spirit in every church, team, or business. It may be manifested in a deacon, member, elder, usher, pastor, or worship leader or your immediate supervisor on the job. Your supervisor can be working to undermine the Manager. **These are the ones who give leadership the greatest pain and headaches in serving the purposes of God.** They do not fully carry out the instruction of leadership, and do not fully honor the desire, order, and protocol established by the set-man or set-woman of the house. They make their own rules or bend the rules in a way that is not **exactly** what the leader instructed.

5. **Notice** how the Joab spirit begins. Joab in the Old Testament was connected to David. He was a blood relative of David. He was connected. He believed in David's leadership and desires to see David's vision come to pass as long as he had a central part. (Please look at that last sentence closely). Someone with the Joab spirit will do anything and everything to push the vision as long as they believe **their interests and agenda** will eventually get proper attention. They serve to get. They do not serve to serve. **Men and women with this spirit must be closely watched.** Please note: when I am talking about individuals, I am speaking of people this spirit uses. We always have to keep in mind our real enemy is this spirit and not the person being used by this spirit. We have to have solid apostolic structures in place to stop the growth of this attitude in the house of God. The desire of this spirit is to get people to push their plans and vision. And if their plans are not followed they threaten to leave rather than submit and cooperate. **This is a spirit of witchcraft. Every church must become very aware and sensitive to the presence this spirit.** It eats at the foundation of a church, and its leadership until it crumbles completely. People with a Joab spirit must be dealt with wisely because some of them may be redeemed and restored, depending on the level of corruption.
6. **Notice the differences and similarities of the Joab and Absalom spirits.** Absalom always operates from the gate of the city. A Joab spirit operates within the palace. He is connected. Absalom is not. **It wants to keep leaders on their toes constantly about its value so it will continually receive attention.** The Absalom spirit is birthed out of an unresolved offense. The Joab spirit is born out of sheer soulish ambition. Both spirits are found in the same house. When you find one spirit, you usually find the other. They both have illegal desires and motives to take the throne without going through the trials, tests, and pains of godly promotion.