

Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship
Pastor William Dawson
Prayer Meeting 11-21-06 It Cost To Be Connected

1. As we have studied, in **2 Samuel 17**, Absalom ran from responsibility and authority. He did not want to be accountable for his actions, yet he felt good blaming King David for all of his failures. Absalom's running away from accountability is like church members running from church to church. Often Pastors will welcome a new member in their church and immediately place them in a position of responsibility without checking to see if they are running from a problem they caused in another church. This new person may have been a nightmare in their last church and are carrying the seeds and spirit of division into the new church. If the past issues have not been resolved with leadership they are carriers of a deadly virus. They will infect weak Christians who fellowship with them. If you leave a place correctly you will be able to enter a new place correctly. If you leave wrong you cannot enter right. If you leave a marriage, job, church or friendship incorrectly, it is going to affect the next place or person connected to you.
2. It means something to be a member of the church. One of the requirements that need to be enforced is that God has to speak to your heart and connect you as well as plant you where you are supposed to be. If you are not planted in that church by God, they will have to beg you to stay when times get hard. You don't join church because of the building, friends, family members or the way the praise and worship team sound. If you join a church for any other reason, when the praise doesn't sound well you will leave. You must connect and join to a fellowship because God has called you there. Your joining a church must not be a decision you make in the natural, which would be choosing a church in your flesh. If you choose like that as soon as you are offended you will leave.
3. You also have to recognize that God has a governmental system of authority in the Kingdom. There are Pastors, Elders, Deacons and other leaders in authority who need your help and godly cooperation. Honor those who rule over you. That is Biblical. That is kingdom. That is the right thing to do. You don't honor them because you like them. You honor them because God has commanded it. Absalom's refusal to honor David set him on the path of death.
4. **2 Samuel 14:25-27**. Notice that the Absalom spirit is spiritually attractive. This spirit loves to attach itself to those who are moving up in leadership. If you have ministry gifts of singing, praying, encouragement, support, helps, leadership, etcetera, this spirit is drawn to you. Your spiritual gifts make you appealing. They give you visibility. They put you out in front and that visibility gives you some measure of authority. They enemy seeks you because if he can get you he will have a platform to work from. This Absalom spirit targets those people who are out in front of the church because the desire to be in front is the driving need of this spirit.

- Remember Lucifer? He was the covering Cherub. He was the leader of the angels and the heavenly choir. He was the shining one. He was like Absalom in heaven. He was the most beautiful one. . Absalom had long hair and was very handsome. The hair ***speaks of power and anointing***. Remember Samson. His hair was a sign of his anointing.
5. **2 Samuel 14:29-31**. Notice that the Absalom spirit is manipulative. It will do anything to control people. There is godly control that God's servants are required to exercise; this was not godly control. This was a negative control that produced witchcraft. Absalom set Joab's field on fire to make Joab come to him. This spirit must have attention. ***Do you know anyone like this? They thrive on attention, and if they do not get it they get upset and try anything crazy to change the focus.***
 6. **2 Samuel 15:1, 2**. Self-promotion is the first sign of betrayal and a disloyal spirit. When what we do has to be about you and not about God you have stopped serving in the kingdom. In the Kingdom, promotion comes from serving. As you serve, God promotes you. That is the kingdom way. Absalom got how many horses and chariots? Here comes Absalom's ministry. This spirit rose up in the house of another man. People with this spirit begin by taking important documents of the church, photocopies of church documents that will benefit them, stealing mailing lists, and telephone numbers of special contacts, secretly designing their own letterhead, all in the house of their father. By the time you realize what they have done; they have horses, chariots and fifty men running before them. **Don't miss this** – fifty is the number of Pentecost. There were 50 days between Passover and Pentecost. The Absalom, self-promoting spirit runs wild in churches that are trying to walk in the full anointing of Pentecost.
 7. **In some respects, Absalom** had a righteous complaint. David did nothing after Tamar was raped. Anytime your daughter gets raped and you do nothing, it is revolting. Any normal father would have tried to revenge the rape. Absalom was right in his anger, but he was wrong in how he allowed his anger to lead him into rebellion. If you have an honest complaint about a leader or with a leader, take that complaint to that leader. Take it up with David. Now you may say that David was too busy to respond to Absalom but business was not the issue. What Absalom missed was both he and David were being tested and tried. Just as God sent Nathan to wake David up after his affair with Bathsheba, God would have done the same had Absalom approached David with respect and honor.
 8. **When leaders are not on track** God does not leave them like that. He will change them, help them or kill them. You don't have to do God's killing of leadership for Him. He takes that as His personal responsibility.