

The 72

Equipping-Discipleship for Real World Ministry

Focus: The Bewitching of the Saints

February 18, 2025

1 Introduction

- The 72 is a layer in Jesus' approach to discipleship.
 - The 1-3-12-72

Luke 10:1 (CSB)

¹ After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

- **OUR MISSION:** SHOW-UP WHERE JESUS WANTS TO SHOW-UP.
- **OUR VISION:** EQUIPPING DISCIPLES OF JESUS TO REVEAL THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM IN REAL LIFE.

- The Spiritual Battle Over the Gospel

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- The enemy works to deceive the saints from tapping into the true power of the Gospel.
- Our Problem: we tend to make our issues about "flesh and blood."
- If the Gospel is the "good news," then the spiritual war that comes against us seeks to make the Gospel feel burdensome.
 - **Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV)**
 - ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

2 The "Bewitching" of the Saints

- One of the primary strategies of our enemy is to bring a "witchcraft spirit" against the Church.

Galatians 3:1–5 (ESV)

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—

- "Bewitch" = (originally) to cause harm through unfavorable words; put a spell on someone; cast an evil eye upon; (figuratively) cunningly deceive.

- “Suffer” = to experience (in this case, experiencing the works of the Spirit)
 - Paul is pointing to their experience of the miraculous moves and revelations of God.
 - Paul’s question: What was the source of that power?

- Deception in the Galatian Church
 - The church moved away from the reality of Jesus’ crucifixion.
 - The church moved away from the message of Grace.
 - The church moved away from the true source of power to a false power.

- Paul is calling the Church back to the principle of “hearing by faith.”

3 How does the “bewitching” of the saints happen?

- Repeating the *Fall of Humanity* in the *Garden of Eden*.

James 1:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Sin was not the cause of “The Fall” but the product of it.
- The cause of “The Fall” was our self-will and our desire to control *the flow of knowledge*.
- Whoever controls the knowledge controls the narrative.

- Introducing an Alternate (False) Gospel to the Church

Galatians 1:6–8 (NIV)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!

- “Bewitching” happens because there are alternate messengers.
- The deception always begins with an *alternative message of power*.

Galatians 2:4–5 (CSB)

⁴ This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us. ⁵ But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.

- The goal of alternative gospel’s is to enslave you.
- Other gospel messengers arise because of fear.
- The “bewitching” always binds you to a spirituality through human endeavor submitted to another’s interpretation of the “Laws of God.”

Galatians 3:10–14 (CSB)

¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written, **Everyone who does not do everything written in the book of the law is cursed.** ¹¹ Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because **the righteous will live by faith.** ¹² But the law is not based on faith; instead, **the one who does these things will live by them.** ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, **Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.** ¹⁴ The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith.

➤ Leadership Gets Deceived

- Even the original Apostles are susceptible to false gospels. (See also **Galatians 2:11-14.**)

- The “fear of man” will always bring compromise and open a door of deception.

Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

4 **The True Power of the Gospel**

- “*Hearing with faith.*” (Review **Gal. 3:1-5**)
- Power does not rely upon ourselves.

- “*Hearing by faith*” comes alive by our personal crucifixion—*dying to self*.

Galatians 2:19–21 (NIV)

¹⁹ “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

- “*Hearing with faith*” introduces us to a life of Spirit rather than a life of Law.
- Law points out what’s wrong, but Spirit leads us into life.

Galatians 5:16–18 (CSB)

¹⁶ I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are

opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- "*Hearing with faith*" creates true opportunities for miracles.
 - Law looks for absolution, while faith is introducing intervention.

- "*Hearing with faith*" engages true spiritual enemies.
 - Law seeks the impossible goal of controlling humanity, while faith grants me victory over every demonic attack.

- "*Hearing with faith*" creates intersections with real revelations from the Lord.
 - Without faith, there is no room for fresh revelation.

- "*Hearing with faith*" brings me into alignment when God changes operational orders.
 - The testimony of scriptures points to the regularity with which God changes His mind; only faith can prepare you for such moments.