SPIRIT OF BALAAM: PART 1 (SUNDAY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2015)

Revelation 2:12-17 (message to the church in Pergamos), Jude 11-25 ("...Woe unto them! for they have gone the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward..."), Numbers 22-25 and 31 (story of Balaam)

Pray in the Spirit. The biggest part of prayer is listening. Do not compartmentalize your life by isolating parts of it or parts of yourself form the Holy Spirit.

"Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee." (Deuteronomy 23:4-5)

"Baalam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them...Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Baalam the son of Beor to curse you: But I would not hearken unto Baalam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand." (Joshua 13:22, 24:9-10)

"O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Baalam the son of Beor answered from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD." (Micah 6:5)

"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that thy understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousnes, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own decievings while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness..." (2 Peter 2:12-15)

SPIRIT OF BALAAM: PART 2 (SUNDAY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2015)

The old heart is easy to access through the spirit of Baalam. This is being double-hearted. This is also about bending the interpretation of the Word to your will rather than bending your interpretation and will to that of God and the truth of the Word.

Also, the spirit of Balaam is about choosing men over God rather than loving Him first and then your neighbor as God commands. The social gospel is all about an agenda and not about God.

PRESENCE OF GOD (SUNDAY MORNING OF OCTOBER 18TH, 2015)

People are under the influence of the spiritual world all the time, involving both angels and demons. We must choose to walk in the presence of God, and there are several ways to do so:

Prayer is often made up of adoration, thanksgiving, confession, supplication, and intercession as demonstrated in Acts 1. Prayer is one very important way of practicing the presence of God. Praying in tongues is also helpful in edification.

Relationship is another element of practicing the presence of God, even when it is relationship with people. For example, asking for prayer is often about building relationships between people.

Trusting in God, involving faith and belief, is another component of the presence of God. If we can believe God for one thing or area, then we can believe Him for all.

Worship is another way to enter into His presence. Every act should be one of worship, should give Him glory, in Spirit and in truth. This involves the acknowledgment and declaration of God's worthiness. The enemy tries to distract us from worship by making it about ourselves. The heart needs to be surrendered to God in order to totally worship Him.

Note: The Word is a vital element of His presence, around which all these other components center because Jesus is the Word made flesh.