

## Chapter Nineteen

“Learn a Lesson from the Devil”

When God created Lucifer, it was for a reason, his sole purpose was to be the worship leader of Heaven. He was one of the top three angels in the kingdom of Heaven. I don't know what he looked like, but I imagine that his rib cage resembled some kind of stringed instrument like a harp or some kind of awesome sounding classic Les Paul guitar turned up to 11. Every time Lucifer breathed in, his rib cage would produce beautiful music. Every time he breathed out, his body made a sound of gorgeous music. His very essence and being was beautiful and produced a sound that was good enough to compliment the singing voices of angels. He was appointed as the choir director of Heaven. Every thing about Lucifer was made to accompany the voice of angels numbering

praise to God. I

In Isaiah, we the reason God 14:12 – 15: *"How shining star, son of thrown down to the nations of the world. For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High'. Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths."*

*The only person to ever get kicked out of heaven was a worship leader.*

thousands upon thousands to give would've loved to have heard it.

read how Lucifer saw himself, and kicked him out of Heaven. Isaiah *you are fallen from heaven, O the morning! You have been earth, you who destroyed the*

In summary: Lucifer got kicked out of Heaven because he was prideful and wanted the glory of God. He said, *"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God"* and *"I will be like the Most High."* This is a great lesson for all of us. Some people become very knowledgeable – even to the point that they think they are better or smarter than God. Instead of trying to be better than others, we should be humble and teachable. Contrary to popular belief, there is power in being humble. Being humble doesn't mean that we are submissive and weak; it means that we recognize our dependence on God and desire to submit to His will.

But instead of doing what God had appointed him to do, Lucifer let his own pride get the best of him. Pride comes before a fall. Like a lot of worship leaders – Lucifer got an ego and started to think he should be in charge, so he started drumming up support among his choir members. Soon they began plotting how they could be in charge of Heaven. They came up with a plan to get rid of their pastor so the church could move forward. That sounds familiar, doesn't it? Let me go on record by saying to all worship leaders – God did not call you to your current church so you can change your pastor! You are under his authority. God put you there to compliment the leadership of your pastor, together you are on a team. If you can't play on the team, you need to

get out. In fact, if you feel God is calling you to start a church or to be the lead-pastor, it is not in the town that you are currently in. If you feel like you are supposed to start a church in the same town as your pastor, it's probably because you think you have enough support from your current church to go with you. This would put you solely responsible for splitting a church. Take a lesson from the history books of Heaven. The Bible says that God kicked Lucifer and about a third of the angels out of Heaven. Lucifer did a pretty decent job of getting a good number of angels on his side. Probably starting off with simple conversations about God's leadership styles and asking others, "aren't you frustrated that he doesn't do things the way everyone wants it done around here?" Slowly but surely turning other angels (or a congregation, if you will) against their own leader. If that didn't work, he probably started rumors and lies about God so other angels would start talking.

It's a very humbling fact that the only person to ever get kicked out of Heaven was a worship leader. That literally scares the hell out of me, but also keeps me in check. If you are involved in your worship ministry or you're a creative person in any way, you might not want to admit it, but you have an ego. We all have a deep desire for people to like us. Sometimes we get our feelings hurt when we've practiced and prepared and no one notices all the work we've put into something. We get upset when someone else gets the solo or gets recognized for something they did, and we get no recognition at all. Then there are times when people tell us how much they enjoyed something and we say stupid things we don't mean like, "oh that's not me, it's a total God thing, I give Him all the glory." Then we walk away with our head a little higher, proud that someone finally noticed that we are the best musician or singer on the planet.

We have to ask ourselves why we are involved in the worship ministry in the first place. Is it for our own artistic development? Are we using the church as a stepping-stone for something bigger and better? Are we waiting on our ship to come in and just "doing our time" in a local church music ministry, hoping that someday, someone important in the music business will notice us? Or are we involved to support the ministry of the church and lead others to the throne of God through our gifts and talents that God has given us? Do you worship God when you're not in front of people? If the only time you ever give God praise is when other people are watching you – you are a Pharisee. You're just an actor on a stage. Do you want to be recognized for your own talent? Do you do certain things on stage so others will notice you? Do you practice a certain lick over and over and then get ticked off when you perform your fancy lick and no one noticed? Do you threaten to quit because the soundman didn't turn you up as loud as you wanted to be? If someone else gets to sing the song you really wanted, do you hold a grudge against that person? Every time they do the song, do you quit leading worship and just sing the song cause you're pouting that you didn't get it? If you were given a solo, do you think it's now "your song" and no one else should sing it except you? If we're honest with ourselves, we can relate to a lot, if not all of those questions.

I'm not saying that worship teams shouldn't work on perfecting their sound, practice to improve their skills or work on improving their stage presence. In fact, all of that is extremely important. But the bigger issue is your motives for why you do what you do. I will be honest enough to admit, at times I get extremely frustrated with the pastors I have served under. I start to think – “why don't they ever take my ideas seriously?” or “if he'd let me preach a few times, I'd change this whole place.” When that happens, I'm acting just like Lucifer himself. He and I are wired a lot alike. We have lots of similar characteristics. If you're a worship leader or involved on a worship team, you have a lot of those same characteristics as well. Be careful. Keep your ego, your attitude and your motives in check. Make sure you do what you do to bring glory to God and not elevate yourself.

All of that being said, there is nothing wrong with wanting to “make it” in the music world. I just don't think you should use your local worship ministry as a stepping-stone to achieve stardom. Do everything you can to get your music or talent out there to the public in hopes of making a living at it. But don't bring those same goals and methods of making it in the music business inside the worship ministry of a church.

I have been asked through the years – would you be a worship pastor if you didn't get paid? There are definitely times I wouldn't even go to church unless they paid me because I get so frustrated with dealing with people. However, the truth is, I would do what I do on Sundays for free. I feel like I live my making instead of make my living. I think that's what God has created me to do. I'll take the money cause I have to deal with opinionated, egotistical, religious church people through out the rest of the week!

Watch your ego, keep it in check, and die to yourself and your own will every day of your life. Bring honor to God and point others to Him through your life, your actions, and everything you do. Not just on Sundays, but also all the other days of the week, when no one notices and when no one is watching.