

Church Leader Guide

Recognizing and Addressing the Jezebel Spirit in Ministry

As a church leader, you are responsible for protecting your congregation from spiritual manipulation and abuse. This guide provides practical wisdom for identifying and addressing Jezebel spirit influence in your ministry context.

Recognizing the Threat

The Jezebel spirit does not announce itself. It infiltrates through charm, spiritual giftedness, and apparent devotion. Watch for these patterns:

- **Targets leadership:** Seeks close relationships with pastors or elders, often through excessive helpfulness or spiritual flattery.
- **Builds a faction:** Creates an inner circle of loyal supporters while subtly undermining established leadership.
- **Uses spiritual gifts as leverage:** Claims prophetic insight or special revelation to gain authority.
- **Generates confusion:** Where this spirit operates, there is chronic conflict, misunderstanding, and division.
- **Resists correction:** Responds to legitimate concerns with defensiveness, counter-accusations, or victimhood.

Protecting Your Congregation

- **Maintain clear authority structures.** Ensure all ministry positions have defined accountability.
- **Require transparency.** Private meetings, secret communications, and exclusive relationships are red flags.
- **Slow down leadership placement.** Do not rush people into positions of influence regardless of their apparent gifts.
- **Address concerns promptly.** When multiple people express worry about someone, investigate rather than dismiss.
- **Document everything.** Keep records of concerning incidents, conversations, and patterns.
- **Teach your congregation.** Equip members to recognize manipulation tactics themselves.

When Confrontation Is Necessary

If you must confront someone operating under a Jezebel spirit, prepare carefully:

- Never confront alone. Have at least one other leader present as a witness.
- Document specific incidents. Vague concerns are easily dismissed or twisted.
- Expect deflection. They will likely blame others, play victim, or counter-attack.
- Set clear consequences. Vague warnings are ineffective; be specific about what will happen.
- Follow through. Failure to enforce consequences teaches them your boundaries are negotiable.
- Protect the vulnerable. Ensure those who have been targeted receive care and support.

After Removal or Departure

- Expect an extinction burst. Manipulation may intensify before it stops.
- Support those who were deceived. Many will feel foolish or betrayed; offer grace.
- Address the damage. Public acknowledgment (without unnecessary detail) brings healing.
- Strengthen systems. Evaluate what allowed the infiltration and close those gaps.
- Remain vigilant. The Jezebel spirit often returns in new forms or through new people.

A Word to Leaders

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." — 1 Peter 5:2-3

From "Breaking Free from the Jezebel Spirit" by Dr. Johnathan Hines, DCC | breakingfreefromjezebel.com