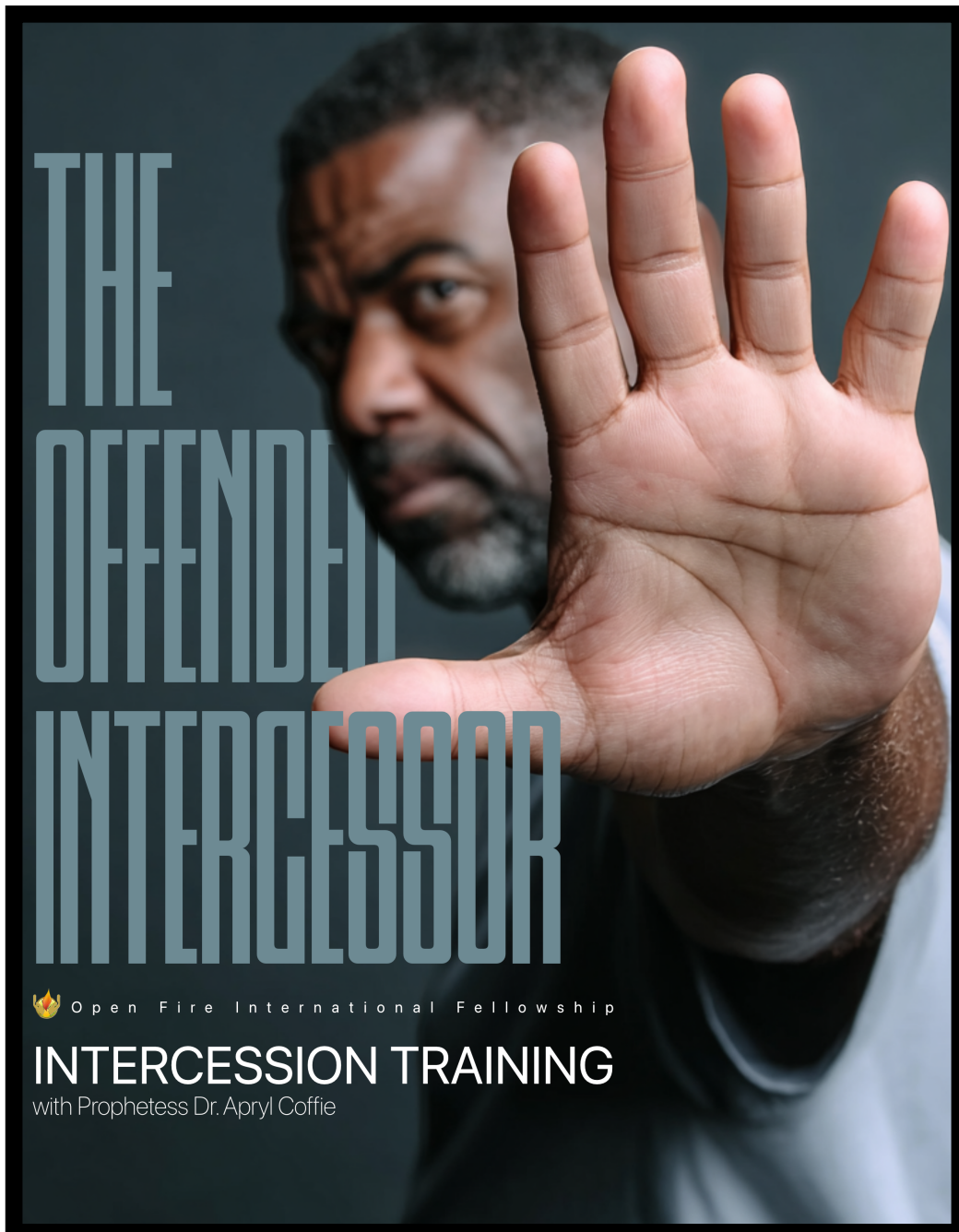

INTERCESSION TRAINING

“The Offended Intercessor”



THE OFFENDED INTERCESSOR

OBJECTIVE:

1. Define The Biblical Meaning Of The Word “Offense”
2. Look At The Dangers Of An Offended Heart
3. How To Keep A Heart That Is Void Of Offense

Acts 24:16 KJV

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Have you ever stop to think that offense is something you are **ALWAYS** going to have to guard your heart against? Well, the Apostle Paul made it his personal responsibility to commit himself to always keeping a heart that is free of offense towards God and towards others and we are expected to commit ourselves to the same practice.

WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF THE WORD OFFENSE?

In the Bible, the word “offense” carries a deep and spiritual meaning that goes beyond just being “upset” or “insulted.” It often refers to something that causes a person to stumble, sin, or turn away from God or others.

Biblical Definition of Offense

The word offense in the New Testament is often translated from the Greek word “skandalon” (σκάνδαλον), which means:

“a trap, snare, stumbling block, or something that causes one to fall.”
(Matthew 18:7, Luke 17:1)

Matthew 18:7 KJV

Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Luke 17:1 KJV

Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible** but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

So, to take an offense means to be trapped by hurt, resentment, bitterness or unforgiveness. And ultimately being trapped by an offense will eventually lead to spiritual stumbling or sin.

ANYTIME YOU ARE OFFENDED THERE IS A DEGREE TO WHICH YOU ARE TRAPPED!!! Even if it's to a small measure. Any offense that goes unchallenged or is tolerated or even justified, is a trap, a hindrance and a blockage in some way.

Mark 6:19 NIV

So Herodias **nursed a grudge against John** and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to,

The destructive plan of the enemy is for us to nurse our offenses!
If offenses are not dealt with and overcome they will eventually lead to something destructive.

Herodias nursed her offense against John the Baptist until it became a murderous poison within her. This brings us into understanding how dangerous an offended heart can be.

One of the dangers of offense is that it eats away at our hearts!

It eats away at our love, kindness and compassion!

It eats away at our honor and respect!

It eats away at our peace and mental clarity!

It eats away at our self control!

It eats away at our obedience to God's word!

It eats away at our spiritual growth!

Offense is a dangerous poison and it is especially dangerous to the heart of an Intercessor. This is because the core responsibility of an Intercessor is to stand in the gap for others so that the will and purposes of God can be realized or manifested in their lives.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT:

We cannot pray effectively and purely from an offended heart towards God or man!

1. When we are offended towards God we do not seek Him!
2. When we are offended towards others we withhold praying for them!

OFFENSE IS A STUMBLING BLOCK:

Offense is a stumbling block because an offense can cause others to sin or fall away from God's love, forgiveness and fellowship, through our words, actions, or attitudes.

Hebrews 12:15 TPT

Watch over each other to make sure that no one misses the revelation of God's grace. And make sure no one lives with a root of bitterness sprouting within them which will only cause trouble and poison the hearts of many.

We have a command from God and a spiritual responsibility to help each other guard our hearts against offense.

Offense becomes a stumbling block when our hearts chooses resentment over forgiveness and pride and rebellion over humility and submission to God's word.

OFFENSE IS A SPIRITUAL TRAP:

Offense traps us in the prison of unforgiveness and hand our souls over to demonic torments.

Matthew 18:34-35 AMPC

And in wrath his master turned him over to the torturers (the jailers), till he should pay all that he owed. [35] So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart his offenses.

OFFENSE IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT:

1. It weakens the unity of the body
2. It hinders faith (faith works by love not offense)
3. It weakens our prayers (that's why James says forgive first)
4. It can deceive the heart to pray for the wrong things (Job says he doesn't ask for the death of his enemies)
5. Offense opens us up to escapism, demonic isolation and under the influence of a vagabond spirit.
6. Offense is a cancer to our soul (sometimes it's an aggressive cancer and it can return)
7. Offense blinds our hearts and corrupts and clouds our judgements.
8. An offended heart is a sign that we lack a deeper measure of God's love.
9. Offense looks for support and in so doing we poison others.
10. Offense pulls us out of character.

HOW TO KEEP OUR HEARTS VOID OF OFFENSE:

1. Let the love of God rule your heart!!!!

Completely govern your life by the Love of God!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NLT

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud [5] or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. [6] It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. [7] Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. [8] Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMPC

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. [5] It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. [6] It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. [7] Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. [8] Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

Colossians 3:12-17 NLT

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. [13] Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. [14] Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. [15] And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. [16] Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. [17] And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.