

True story

ENEMY IN THE CAMP

Fear Part 2

This is a story that demonstrates 'acting out of fear' would have changed everything!

Many years ago, I worked in tele-marketing to raise money for non-profit organizations. There were many employees making these telephone calls...one of them being a woman who had been working with us for about one year.

One day a Pastor, from approximately 1000 miles away, came to our call center. He introduced himself to me, while at the same time was looking around the call center. The Pastor became very anxious and asked to talk with me 'in private'. I brought him into a Board Room, which had four other staff people in it...this was the most privacy I could offer!

The Pastor appeared very distraught and had a difficult time talking. Finally, I was able to make out what he was saying: *'I am choking! Please pray! There is evil in here.'* So, the Pastor and I prayed. It appeared that the Pastor received some relief during our prayer, and afterwards he relayed the following:

There is a woman caller in our office, whom he identified, and she is a practicing witch. He had dealt with her in the past and was upset that we had her working in our company. He said you must get her out of here!

After the Pastor left, I recalled several interactions with this woman that appeared odd to me. The first time this woman came to the call center, she refused to shake hands and straightforwardly told us not to touch her. I did think that was a little strange at the time...but who knows what someone has been through! Also, I recalled several times when there was a spiritual discussion going on among the tele-marketers, and this woman would interject with a comment like 'Oh you guys are so funny!'. She never participated in the discussions. At the time, I didn't think much of it!

The four other staff people in the Board Room had overheard the conversation with the Pastor. They all expressed fear at having this tele-marketer remain at the call center... and wanted her out of there immediately!

However, I did not feel that way, and suggested that we pray about this situation overnight and ask for direction as to what to do. I was not afraid because earlier life experiences have taught me evil can cause us difficulty, for sure; but it only has power over us if we live in fear.

The following morning, after praying about this situation overnight, I told the four staff people that we do not have a valid reason to let her go. Being an evil witch was not legal grounds to terminate her! AND, I added, she needs to be released from this, and needs Jesus in her life...God loves her too! I suggested that 'we' be the group that helps her. I prayed that we would know what to do each day to help her see Jesus.

We laid a fleece before our Lord: If this tele-marketer should not work at our company, she will not make another sale. That day, the woman made her last sale! After 30 days of no sales, she voluntarily resigned and left the company, not fully comprehending why her sales vanished. Also, in those 30 days, she heard the gospel in unique ways!

A lesson was learned by all those involved: operating in fear - getting her out of the building immediately and accusing her of being a witch, had the potential for a disastrous outcome. We must ask the Lord what to do in challenging situations, with the confidence that our request is for His heart and mind as to what to do, then He will direct us. If you do that, you will be pleasantly surprised how He will lead you! God always has our backs...if we do it His way!

Questions

- What stood out to you in this story?
- What do you think might have happened if they would have just immediately got rid of her for being a witch?
- How would you feel if you found a practicing witch somewhere in your life?
- What does this say about God?
- What does this say about you?
- Any action steps needed on your part after reading this story?
- Was there anything said in your group discussion that stood out?