

From the author of  
*Smiling in Public While Crying in Private*

# *Unleveled* **Ground**

*Surviving Relationships*

**Clifford Washington III**



## Chapter Two

# Spiritual Awareness



**All your allies will turn against you.**

**They will help to chase you from your land.**

**They will promise you peace while plotting to deceive and destroy you.**

**Your trusted friends will set traps for you, and you won't even know about it.**

**—Obadiah 1:7 NLT**

**S**piritual awareness in any relationship is vitally important. This is a tool that, when shared by both parties, is a powerful weapon to possess in your relational arsenal. This tool must be sharpened continually through a daily dialogue with God, along with the reading of His Word. Absences from this divine communication will cause a vital tool such as this to become less effective. It will alert you to the wiles of the devil and the tricks of people who are trying to destroy your relationships. What if two people who have entered into a relationship have the same spiritual awareness level? What power could come from this gift! This gift will unlock the mysteries

to relationships suddenly crashing after seemingly fruitful bliss... business partners, married spouses, and longtime friends, engaged in what appeared to be a solid wholesome relationship that quickly fell apart. A heightened spiritual awareness level gives both parties the ability to discern an attack on the relationship and makes it difficult for opposing forces separate its bond. The enemy always seeks out the weaker one in a relationship to cause destruction, and this is especially true in a marriage. If you are one who likes to tell friends everything that's going on in your relationships, then it is likely at some point that this will backfire.

It's inevitable that something said will cause harm and disappointment, so it is best to not say anything that should not be repeated. We will discuss this further in the marriage chapter. How many marriages, business partnerships, and friendships would have been saved if our spiritual awareness was at an all-time high? The one common denominator that almost every one is aware of is unity. Unity in its purest form is a threat to some people. People love unity, but do not like to see unity in a group where it should be them and not you. The constant threat to spiritual awareness is jealousy and envy. These two hates any type of unity and will sneak up and grab a hold of the weaker link and devour them.

### **Pride, Jealousy, and Envy (Relationship Assassins)**

Pride, jealousy, and envy are the three forces or weapons of the enemy that usually take the lead when it comes to destroying a relationship. In all the weapons the enemy possesses in his arsenal of mass destruction, pride, jealousy, and envy are the ground forces. They hate and lash out at success among friends, family, church

members, and coworkers alike. We can choose to avoid and disconnect from any of these groups. However, we cannot choose what family we are born into. Therefore when the fiery darts from these three hit our family, we are shaken with disbelief. If our spiritual awareness level is low, sputtering, and about to run out, then this comes up on Satan's radar screen. It illuminates like a patch of light in a dark tunnel. After which, pride, jealousy, and envy is dispatched. Pride, jealousy, and envy have collectively destroyed more relationships than anyone can imagine. Like a hungry tiger in the jungle, these three relationship killers creep in slowly on their intended targets through a careful and precise line of attack, pinpointed at dividing and conquering through mistrust, deception, and even a simple misunderstanding. These three grab hold of their intended target and wrap around it until there is no life left and the relationship suffers death.

When people who don't know one another are the object of pride, jealousy, and envy, then it is somewhat understandable. But what is amazing and boggles the mind is when family and friends, who have known each other for years, fall prey to these relationship assassins. Success and increase is a magnet for pride, jealousy, and envy. There are people with whom you are connected that will support and encourage you. It's when you achieve a certain amount of success that the support and encouragement you came to expect, and in some cases relied on, has dissipated. It is a mistake to rely on another human being made of flesh and bones to keep encouraging and patting you on the back as you walk in your God-given purpose. This is especially true when it appears you are moving at a faster pace. Pride, jealousy, and envy draw close to this kind of situation, and your spiritual awareness antenna must be tuned to this fact.

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