

The Leviathan Spirit: Why You Cannot "Love" a Narcissist Into Change Biblical Warning

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

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There is a dangerous misconception in the modern church that says unconditional love can fix anything. We are taught that if we just love harder, forgive more, and endure longer, even the hardest heart will eventually melt. We apply this to our marriages, our families, and our friendships. But then you meet a specific kind of person. You pour out love, and they drink it up like water in a desert, yet the ground remains dry. You offer grace, and they use it as a license to abuse you further. You try to "love them into wholeness," but instead of them getting better, you start dying. You are exhausted, confused, and spiritually drained. And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because you need to know that you are likely dealing with a spiritual entity that cannot be tamed by human affection.

The Bible identifies a spiritual force that is the king over all the children of pride. It is an ancient, twisting, impenetrable monster known as Leviathan. While many think of Leviathan as just a mythical sea creature, Job chapter 41 describes a spiritual reality that perfectly mirrors the behavior of what psychology calls "narcissism." This spirit is characterized by scales so tight that no air can get between them, a heart as hard as stone, and a nature that cannot be negotiated with. God Himself warns Job that you cannot make a covenant with Leviathan. You cannot make him a servant. And most importantly, you cannot defeat him with conventional weapons.

This message is a warning to every believer who is trapped in the cycle of trying to save someone who refuses to be saved. It is a call to stop casting your pearls before swine. It is a revelation that some spirits do not respond to "nice"; they only respond to authority and distance. We are going to walk through the biblical profile of the Leviathan spirit, understand why your love is fueling their pride rather than breaking it, and learn the only biblical strategy for dealing with a heart that is sealed shut. It is time to stop fighting a spiritual dragon with emotional flowers.

Number 1: The Profile of Leviathan - The Scales of Pride Job 41:15-17

To understand why you cannot "love" a narcissist into change, you must first understand the spiritual armor they wear. In Job 41:15-17, God describes Leviathan: "His rows of scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. One is so near to another that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered." This is the most accurate spiritual description of the narcissistic defense mechanism ever written.

The "scales" represent a protective layering of pride. Notice the Bible says "no air can come between them." In Scripture, "air" or "wind" often represents the *Ruach*—the Spirit of God. This

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spirit is so tightly wound in its own self-righteousness, so sealed in its own false narrative, that the Holy Spirit cannot get in. There is no gap for conviction. There is no opening for correction. When you try to bring a "word of truth" or a "loving correction" to a narcissist, it bounces off. You aren't hitting their heart; you are hitting their scales.

This explains why your love doesn't work. Love requires an *opening* to be received. Vulnerability requires a *gap* in the armor. But Leviathan's armor is "shut up together." They view your vulnerability not as an invitation to connection, but as a weakness to be exploited. They view your love not as a gift to be cherished, but as a supply to be consumed. Because their scales are sealed with pride, they cannot admit fault. To admit fault is to open a scale, and to a Leviathan spirit, that feels like death. Therefore, your love cannot penetrate the armor; it only polishes the scales. You are trying to hug a creature that is designed to be impenetrable.

Number 2: The Impossibility of Covenant - "Will He Make a Covenant with You?" Job 41:4

One of the most heartbreaking questions God asks Job about Leviathan is found in verse 4: "Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him for a servant forever?" The rhetorical answer is a resounding "No." This is the spiritual reason why relationships with narcissists are always one-sided, broken, and transactional. A covenant requires mutuality. It requires two parties laying down their lives for one another. It requires humility, service, and loyalty.

Leviathan is incapable of covenant. This spirit operates on a system of *conquest*, not *covenant*. The narcissist does not want a partner; they want a puppet. They do not want a spouse; they want a subject. God is warning us here: You cannot bind yourself to this spirit and expect it to honor the terms of the agreement. You promise to love, honor, and cherish; they promise to take, control, and dominate. You are playing by the rules of a Covenant God; they are playing by the rules of a Conquest Spirit.

When you try to "love them into change," you are attempting to fulfill your side of a covenant that they never intended to keep. You pour out more love, thinking, "If I just give enough, they will feel safe enough to reciprocate." But Leviathan does not reciprocate. Leviathan consumes. God warns Job that this creature cannot be tamed or made into a "servant." You cannot "serve" a narcissist enough to make them want to serve you back. It is against their nature. The more you serve, the more entitled they become. The more you give, the less they respect you. You are trying to make a covenant with a spirit that is designed to break covenants.

Number 3: The Twist of Truth - "He Beholds All High Things" Job 41:34

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The defining characteristic of the Leviathan spirit is found in the final verse of the chapter: "He beholds all high things; he is a king over all the children of pride." This speaks of a spirit that is obsessed with status, superiority, and being "above" others. But the name "Leviathan" itself comes from a root word meaning "twisted" or "coiled." This spirit twists truth. It twists communication. It twists reality.

This is the phenomenon of gaslighting. When you confront a person operating under this spirit with a fact—"You hurt me"—they twist it. Suddenly, **you** are the one who hurt **them** by bringing it up. "You're too sensitive." "That never happened." "You're crazy." The Leviathan spirit coils around the truth and squeezes the life out of it until you are disoriented and confused. You cannot "love" someone into clarity when they are committed to twisting reality.

Your love is based on truth 1 Corinthians 13:6. But their operation is based on lies John 8:44. When you bring love into a twisted environment, the love gets twisted too. Your patience is twisted into "permission." Your forgiveness is twisted into "enablement." Your silence is twisted into "agreement." You cannot have a rational, loving conversation with a spirit that is twisting the very words coming out of your mouth. This is why the Bible warns us to avoid foolish arguments 2 Timothy 2:23. You aren't arguing with a person; you are wrestling with a twisting serpent. The only way to win a twisting game is to stop playing.

Number 4: The Heart of Stone - "His Heart is as Firm as a Stone" Job 41:24

We like to believe that everyone has a soft spot. We watch movies where the villain is redeemed by the love of a good woman or the innocence of a child. We project this narrative onto the narcissist. We think, "Deep down, they are hurting. Deep down, there is a soft heart." But God gives a terrifying diagnosis in Job 41:24: "His heart is as firm as a stone; yes, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone."

A millstone is used to crush grain. It is unyielding. It is heavy. It is destructive. God is saying that the nature of this spirit is hardness. It lacks empathy. It lacks compassion. It crushes whatever gets underneath it. You cannot "melt" a millstone with a hug. You cannot soften a rock by crying on it. In fact, if you throw yourself against a millstone, the stone doesn't break—**you** break.

This is the warning: Your love is soft; their heart is stone. When soft meets hard, the soft always sustains the damage. By trying to "love them into change," you are throwing your soft heart against their hard heart over and over again. You are bruising your soul. You are traumatizing your spirit. And the stone remains a stone. Ezekiel 36:26 says that God alone can remove the "heart of stone" and give a "heart of flesh." **You** cannot do it. Your love is not the Holy Spirit. Your kindness is not

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the power of regeneration. Only God can perform a heart transplant, and He usually does it through judgment and breaking, not through your enablement.

If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. You must accept the reality of the stone heart so you can stop expecting it to beat for you. It saves you from the disappointment of going to a dry well looking for water.

Number 5: The Reaction to Correction - "Lay Your Hand on Him, Remember the Battle, Do No More" Job 41:8

What happens when you try to confront this spirit? What happens when you set a boundary or call out the abuse? God gives a very specific warning in verse 8: "Lay your hand on him; remember the battle—you will do it no more!" God is essentially saying, "If you try to fight this thing in your own strength, or if you try to handle it like a normal conflict, the backlash will be so severe you will never want to do it again."

This is "narcissistic rage." The Leviathan spirit cannot handle correction. Because its scales are "pride," any attempt to remove a scale results in a violent, disproportionate explosion. They will attack your character, they will smear your name, they will threaten you, or they will punish you with a cold, terrifying silence. The goal of this reaction is to train you. They are training you to never "lay a hand" on them again. They are teaching you that the cost of speaking truth is too high.

This is why "loving confrontation" fails. In a healthy relationship, confrontation leads to repentance and intimacy. With Leviathan, confrontation leads to war. God warns us: "Remember the battle." Don't go into this naïve. Don't think a gentle conversation over coffee will fix a demonic stronghold of pride. You cannot "love" them out of their rage; often, your love just makes them angrier because it highlights their own lack of it. The only way to deal with this reaction is not to engage in the flesh, but to war in the Spirit and to remove yourself from the line of fire.

Number 6: The Danger of False Mercy - Enabling the Dragon

There is a trap that empathetic, loving Christians fall into. It is the trap of "False Mercy." We think that by staying, by tolerating the abuse, by covering up their sins, and by giving them "one more chance" for the hundredth time, we are being like Jesus. But we are actually operating in disobedience. We are feeding the dragon.

In Psalm 74:14, it says God "broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces." God does not negotiate with Leviathan; He breaks it. God does not coddle pride; He opposes it James 4:6. When we show mercy to a spirit that God has declared war against, we are aligning ourselves with the enemy. We

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become an "Ahab" to their "Jezebel." We become an enabler.

The Leviathan spirit *needs* an enabler to survive. It needs someone to feed it "narcissistic supply" attention, reaction, service. When you keep giving your love to a black hole, you are not filling it; you are sustaining its ability to destroy. You are financing their rebellion with your emotional capital. True love sometimes looks like a locked door. True love sometimes looks like walking away. True love allows the person to hit rock bottom so that the stone heart might finally crack. You cannot be their savior; you must get out of the way so *the* Savior can deal with them.

Number 7: The Only Strategy - The Sword of the Lord

So, if we can't love them into change, what do we do? Is it hopeless? For us, yes. But not for God. Isaiah 27:1 gives us the final strategy: "In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish Leviathan the piercing serpent, even Leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea."

Only the Lord can slay Leviathan. Only the "sore and great and strong sword" of God's Word and God's Judgment can pierce those scales. Your job is not to be the sword; your job is to *call on* the Swordsman. Your battle is not flesh and blood. Your strategy is prayer and separation.

1. Pray: You must pray for the breaking of pride. Do not pray "bless them" prayers; pray "break them" prayers. Pray that God would remove every prop, every enabler, and every comfort until they are face-to-face with their own emptiness. Pray that the scales would be ripped off, no matter how painful it is.
2. Separate: You must remove your "supply." Starve the spirit. Stop feeding the monster with your attention, your arguments, and your tears. Leviathan thrives in the turbulent waters of drama; step out of the water onto the dry land of peace.
3. Trust: You must trust that God loves them more than you do. Your departure might be the very thing God uses to save them. But even if they never change, *you* must be saved. You must protect the temple of the Holy Spirit that is *you*.

Conclusion

The Leviathan spirit is a formidable foe. It is the king of pride. It is twisted, hard-hearted, and dangerous. God has warned us in His Word that this is not a creature to be played with, petted, or "loved" into submission.

We have seen the Scales of Pride that block connection. We have seen the Impossibility of Covenant. We have understood the Twisting of Truth, the Heart of Stone, and the violent Reaction

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to Correction. We have exposed the danger of False Mercy.

Stop trying to do what only God can do. Stop trying to love a demon out of a person. Love the person by refusing to partner with the spirit that is destroying them. Lay down your burden. Pick up your sword of prayer. And let the Lord deal with the dragon.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.