

The Tactics of the Enemy

Ephesians 6:10-11

INTRODUCTION

A couple of weeks ago I gave a talk on Spiritual Warfare, and please notice the word Warfare. That is exactly what the Christian believer will be in when they are committed to following Jesus as their King. We should not be surprised at the fact that Satan will come to do battle with us when we step up in our faith and take a stand for God's Kingdom here on Earth.

This past week I saw a statement that is sadly too true. It says...

The early church wanted to know “What must I do to be saved?” Today's church is asking “What can I do and still be saved?”

We find too many “Christians” who rarely take the life we are called to live seriously. We have come to think of sins in regards to how bad a sin is in comparison to our own sinfulness and forget sins are measured by God's holiness. Listen to Charles Spurgeon...

Charles Spurgeon

When Satan cannot get a great sin in, he will let a little one in, like the thief who goes and finds shutters all coated with iron and bolted inside. At last he sees a little window in a chamber. He cannot get in, so he puts a little boy in, that he may go round and open the back door. So the devil has always his little sins to carry about with him to go and open back doors for him, and we let one in and say, 'O, it is only a little one.' Yes, but how that little one becomes the ruin of the entire man!

Satan can let the unbeliever be free of attack to try to find pleasure in self, worldly idols, etc. without great persecution, because there is no danger in the unbeliever pushing God's agenda, but there is danger in the believer living God's agenda. It is to this reality we must see the rub and importance of living Christianly.

Dallas Willard

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as ‘Christians’ will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.”

John R. Stott

“We should not ask, ‘What is wrong with the world?’ for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, ‘What happened to the salt and light?’”

Questions around **Christian commitment and faithfulness come about because too many believers have fallen subtly into the attack of Satan.** This happens because too many don't recognize his tactics. How many here in this church find church to be a past time when there is nothing “better” going on.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil.

I. Deception

John 8:42-48

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn’t come on My own, but He sent Me. Why don’t you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to My word. You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Who among you can convict Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why don’t you believe Me? The one who is from God listens to God’s words. This is why you don’t listen, because you are not from God.”

Genesis 3:2-6

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’ ”

“No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it

II. Delusion

John 15:26-16:4

“When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father —the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

“I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or Me. But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, because I have promised you in marriage to one husband—to present a pure virgin to Christ. But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a complete and pure devotion to Christ. ***For if a person comes and preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you had not received, or a different gospel, which you had not accepted, you put up with it splendidly!***

Now I consider myself in no way inferior to the “super-apostles.” Though untrained in public speaking, I am certainly not untrained in knowledge. Indeed, we have always made that clear to you in everything. Or did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by taking pay from them to minister to you. When I was present with you and in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. I have kept myself, and will keep myself, from burdening you in any way. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. Why? Because I don’t love you? God knows I do!

But I will continue to do what I am doing, in order to deny the opportunity of those who want an opportunity to be regarded just as our equals in what they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. *And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their destiny will be according to their works.*

III. Doubt

Alister McGrath

Doubt is the halfway house between faith and unbelief

Charles Spurgeon

There is nothing so deluded as feelings. Christians cannot live by feelings. Let me further tell you that many feelings are the work of Satan, for they are not right feelings. What right have you to set up your feelings against the Word of Christ?

Matthew 4:3

Then the tempter approached Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths. Don’t consider yourself to be wise; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. This will be healing for your body and strengthening for your bones.

IV. Distractions

John 21:20-22

So Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them. That disciple was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and asked, “Lord, who is the one that’s going to betray You?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord—what about him?”

“If I want him to remain until I come,” Jesus answered, “what is that to you? As for you, follow Me.”

C.S. Lewis

He (the devil) always sends errors into the world in pairs--pairs of opposites...He relies on your extra dislike of one to draw you gradually into the opposite one. But do not let us be fooled. We have to keep our eyes on the goal and go straight through between both errors. We have no other concern than that with either of them.

V. Division

1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

Romans 16:17-18

Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause dissensions and obstacles contrary to the doctrine you have learned. Avoid them, for such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words.

Titus 3:10

Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a person is perverted and sins, being self-condemned.

VI. Discouragement

Joshua 1:9

Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

1 John 4:17-19

In this, love is perfected with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, for we are as He is in this world. There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because He first loved us.

VII. Destruction

John 10:10

A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him and be firm in the faith

Revelation 20:10-15

The Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Then I saw a great white throne and One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books.

Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

CONCLUSION

C.S. Lewis

Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good - above all, that we are better than someone else - I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil.

"Onward Christian Soldiers"

(On next page)

"Onward Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian soldiers
Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!

Christ the royal master
Leads against the foe
Forward into battle
See his banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers
Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!

Like a might [army](#)
Moves the church of god!
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod!

We are not divided
All one body we

One in hope and doctrine
One in charity!

Onward, Christian soldiers
Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!

Onward. Then, ye people!
Join our happy throng!
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song!
Glory laud and honour
Unto Christ the king
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing

Onward, Christian soldiers
Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!

Amen