



December 14th, 2025

Pastor Adam James

"THE ART OF WAR"

## "HOW SATAN WANTS TO DESTROY YOUR CHURCH"

*"Spiritual **immaturity** is the **ticking time bomb** in **every church**."*

*"Do not allow a **sweating box of dynamite** to lie in the **basement of your soul**..."*

*Invite Jesus to come in and **sweep the house clean**."*

## **SATAN HATES THE CHURCH:**

*..because Satan hates Jesus, & the Church IS the Body of Christ.*

## **THE GOOD NEWS:**

*Satan can destroy **a** church but he cannot destroy **THE** Church.*

*"On this rock I will build my church and **the gates of Hell will not overcome it**." -Matthew 16:18*

## **2 ATTACK ANGLES:**

*1) From WITHOUT: Persecution/Intimidation*

*2) From WITHIN: Infiltration*

**TRUTH:** Satan tries **intimidation**, but his aim is always **infiltration**.

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### 3 KINDS OF BOMBS:

- 1) *Grace Bombs*
- 2) *Tragedy Bombs*
- 3) *Sin Bombs*

### SCHEMES OF SATAN / SIN BOMBS:

He comes in through: false teaching, false teachers, false accusations, ungodly attitudes, gossip, lies, slander, critical spirit, unforgiveness, jealousy, pride/arrogance, factions, division, controversies, compromise, comfort/sleep, cowardice, hypocrisy, laziness, idleness, stubbornness, disobedience, rebellion, fear, self-righteousness, dead religion, loss of first love, dissension & discord, bitterness, sexual immorality, and selfish ambition.

## 4 STRONGHOLDS WE MUST DIFFUSE & DESTROY:

### STRONGHOLD #1: DECEPTION

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, **savage wolves will come in among you** and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and **distort the truth in order to draw away disciples** after them. 31 So **be on your guard!** Remember that for three years **I never stopped warning each of you** night and day with tears. (Acts 20:28-31)

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits** and **things taught by demons**. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron." (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

#### SCHEMES:

False Doctrine/Teaching  
False Teachers  
Another gospel  
Lies/Accusation  
Cultural compromise  
Deceiving spirits

### STRONGHOLD #2: DIVISION

"If you bite and devour each other, watch out or **you will be destroyed by each other.**" (Galatians 5:15)

"What causes **fight**s and **quarrels** among you? Don't they come from **your desires that battle within you?** 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you **quarrel and fight.**" (James 4:1-2)

#### SCHEMES:

Factions  
Pride/arrogance  
Critical spirit  
Ungodly attitudes  
Gossip/slander  
Attacks on leaders  
False accusations  
Controversies  
Distrust  
Lies  
Sowing discord

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## **STRONGHOLD #3: DISOBEDIENCE**

"You **adulterous people**, don't you know that **friendship with the world** means **enmity against God**? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." (James 4:4)

"To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 19 **I know your deeds**, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. 20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You **tolerate** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into **sexual immorality** and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling." (Revelation 2:18-21)

To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 **Wake up!** Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for **I have found your deeds unfinished** in the sight of my God." (Revelation 3:1-2)

### **SCHEMES:**

Immorality  
Immaturity  
Rebellion  
Hypocrisy  
Cultural compromise  
Sexual Immorality  
Tolerating sin in the name of being gracious  
Incomplete obedience

## **STRONGHOLD #4: DRIFT**

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands...Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love**. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place." (Revelation 2:1-5)

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth...Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:14-20)

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### **SCHEMES:**

Grown Cold  
Dead Religion  
Asleep  
Mission Drift  
Comfort/Lazy  
Lukewarm  
Forsaken First Love



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## **THE BATTLE PLAN:**

- 1) Destroy Deception with **TRUTH**: Identify The Enemy's Lies.
- 2) Destroy Division with **UNITY**: Guard the Lines.
- 3) Destroy Disobedience with **OBEDIENCE**: Hold the Standard.
- 4) Destroy Drift with **LOVE**: Stay on Mission.

## HOW TO DIFFUSE SIN BOMBS?

### **DON'T BE A PAWN OF SATAN**

1. Pre-Commit to Honor The Body of Christ
2. Pre-Commit to Submit to Spiritual Authority
3. Pre-Commit to Hold Fast to Sound Doctrine

#### **3 FINAL TAKEAWAYS:**

- Sin management leads to Sin magnification
- Sin mortification leads to Christ magnification
- Spiritual Immaturity is the ticking time bomb in every church



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## THE GRACE BOMB OF CHRISTMAS:

**Hell** builds strongholds to destroy **the Church**— But **Heaven** sent **Jesus** to build **the Church** to **destroy Hell**.

*"The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the work of the devil**."* -1 John 3:8

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because **he will save his people from their sins**."* - Matthew 1:21

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### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **Getting to Know Me**

1. How has the "The Art of War" series encouraged you so far? In what ways is this series a timely word for Christmastime?
2. Christmas approaches! What are some things you do to intentionally keep Jesus at the center of the celebration?

#### **Into the Bible/Sermon**

1. Why do you think Satan aims much of his attack at churches? What sort of things can make a local church vulnerable to infiltration from the enemy?
2. Pastor Adam outlined 4 Strongholds in his sermon: (deception, division, disobedience and drift). Where in our nation & culture do you see the enemy working hard to establish these strongholds? What about in your own life?
3. Review "The Battle Plan" at the end of the sermon. How can we work towards maturity as a church? What does it look like for you personally, and us collectively, to walk in (Truth, Unity, Obedience, and Love)?
4. What is the good news we stand on regarding the battle between Satan and The Church? What does it look like for churches to tap into the power of this good news in the campaign against the gates of hell?

#### **Application**

1. What is one word you'd use to describe how you experienced the sermon this week? (Encouraging? Sobering? Convicting? Strengthening? Weighty? Equipping?)
2. Describe how the "Pre-Commitments" Pastor Adam taught (1. honor the Body of Christ, 2. submit to spiritual authority, and 3. hold fast to sound doctrine) can keep you from becoming a pawn of Satan. How can they empower you to diffuse potential "sin bombs" in your life?
3. Fighting Satan's attacks on the local church requires each of us to take personal responsibility for our own sin and work towards the unity & building up of the body. After listening to this sermon, where do you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to be more vigilant, defensive, or aggressive against the strongholds mentioned in the sermon?
4. How does the "Grace Bomb of Christmas" encourage you to continue in making good battle against the evil one? How does the reminder of Christ's birth & ultimate victory bolster your hope for our church, state, and nation?
5. Where do you sense God leading you to respond? Where do you need God's help to obey? What does it look like for you to close the spiritual gate towards deception, division, disobedience, and drift?