

The Broken Snare

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In our last Battle Series message, we considered prayer and its massive power against our enemy in spiritual warfare. We considered the many facets of power which we possess in the exercise of prayer: the power of the Holy Spirit, persevering power, uniting power, healing power, and saving power from sin. We can surely appreciate the wisdom found in the command of scripture to “Pray always”. Peter writes...

1 Peter 5:7–8

⁷casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. ⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Prayer provides spiritual sobriety which is crucial to avoiding the snares strategically set by the devil.

SATAN’S SNARE – the “pagis” of Satan. The thing which fastens us down, holds us securely; the imagery is seen in a net, a cage, or a deep pit. Let’s consider the different components of a snare or trap.

- The astute fowler / hunter studies his prey; their habits; their desires.
- He sets, baits, and covers the trap
 - Proverbs 1:17 “It is useless to spread the baited net in the sight of any bird.”
- The effectiveness of the snare is its element of surprise
 - Suddenly and without warning it takes its prey alive
- The purpose of the snare is to catch those who are free.
- The snare holds its prey after its capture rendering it helpless to escape
 - The intent is to “devour” the prey

We must “stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” Jesus taught His disciples to pray - “Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil,” Matthew 6:13. Tragically, despite all God provides us in His grace, the enemy is still able to lure some away into his snare.

Remember how in the safest of settings, the enemy successfully deceived Eve and then Adam. He was able to make the one forbidden tree more desirable than the large number of permissible trees God had provided for their enjoyment.

That terrible magician has the power to concentrate our gaze upon one object— power to withdraw our eyes from the pure and wholesome fruits of many trees and rivet them upon that one forbidden thing. He so intensifies our thought upon that one desire that it outgrows all desires, and perhaps life itself for the time seems stale and flat unless that one desire be gratified. That is one of the supernatural powers of the serpent to charm his victims. (R. S. Barrett.)

James 1:13–15

¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

SATAN’S VICTIMS: What happens to those who finds themselves caught in the trap of Satan?

Luke 15:4–7

- ⁴“What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?
⁵“When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
⁶“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’
⁷“I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

He pursues the wandering sheep by calling out to them through His word.

2 Timothy 2:24–26

- ²⁴The Lord’s bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,
²⁵with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,
²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

God is patient with those who oppose and/or stand in opposition to His grace. He patiently extends His mercies in hopes they will sober up and recognize their plight. As the snared bird loses its freedom to fly, they too are held captive under the control of Satan whereby, he has control over their life to work his will.

Throughout the Bible we see God’s faithfulness to His people. Many times, God protected and delivered Israel from their enemies. Many of their calamities were self-inflicted because of their sins and unfaithfulness to God. They too, fell into the snares of their enemies. However, God was faithful. He always preserved a remnant. He would not allow His people to utterly be destroyed.

Three times a year, the Jewish people were to celebrate commemorative feasts in Jerusalem. As they ascended to Jerusalem or the temple, they would recite or sing the Hallel psalms. One of those was Psalm 124.

Psalm 124:1–8 (NIV) A song of ascents – of David

- ¹If the Lord had not been on our side— let Israel say—²if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us,³they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;
⁴the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,⁵the raging waters would have swept us away.⁶Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
⁷We have escaped like a bird from the fowler’s snare; **the snare has been broken**, and we have escaped.⁸Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

The Broken Snare: God has the power to deliver us out of the snare of the enemy should we cry out for His mercy – God’s withholding from us what we deserve or should we cry out for His grace – the receiving from God of that which we don’t deserve.

Isaiah 61:1

- ¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.