

Introduction

1. Top 10

- (10) "Toilet Paper Anxiety" is a trending condition in your household
- (9) When you finish a sale, "Thank you for your service" **TABS**
- (8) Drug cartel next door is now dealing in hand sanitizer
- (7) You've decided that trip to Italy is lookin' pretty good after all
- (6) Bathroom = Panic Room
- (5) Went to make a phone call & out of instinct asked for the Zoom ID
- (4) Social media isn't a distraction from church, now it's how you go to church.
- (3) Family Fight Club is what you call Dinner-time now
- (2) Netflix Queue: 54 Golden Girls
- (1) You actually miss Alan Green

1. Battle for the Mind

(1) Psychiatric Times

COVID-19, the infection caused by the novel coronavirus detected in December 2019, is now affecting more than 27 countries, raising concerns of widespread panic and increasing anxiety in individuals subjected to the (real or perceived) threat of the virus. Importantly, these concerns arise with all infections, including the flu and other agents, and the same universal precautions are needed and indicated for safety and the prevention of further transmission. However, media coverage has highlighted COVID-19 as a unique threat, rather than one of many, which has added to panic, stress, and the potential for hysteria.

Pandemics are not just a medical phenomenon; they affect individuals and society on many levels, causing disruptions (especially mentally)...Panic and stress have...been linked to outbreaks. As concerns over the perceived threat grow, people may start to collect (and hoard) masks and other medical supplies. This is often followed by anxiety-related behaviors, sleep disturbances, and overall lower perceived state of health.

Studies show depression rates usually soar after infections...it is anticipated that COVID-19 will have rippling [mental] effects, especially based on current public reactions.

(2) CDC - Increases in:

- Excessive crying or irritation in younger children
- Returning to behaviors they have outgrown (for example, toileting accidents or bedwetting)
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits
- Irritability and "acting out" behaviors in teens
- Poor school performance or avoiding school
- Difficulty with attention and concentration
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past
- Unexplained headaches or body pain
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

3. Sater's Plan

Feet hold → Stronghold

Eph. 6:10, 12 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might... For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

(1) Ever feel like you
can't turn mind off

Rom. 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

(2) Stop trying to
turn off ~~of~~ start
turning towards.

I. The Neglect In Footholds

1. Neglecting the Gospel

Ephesians 4:26-27 - Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and **give no opportunity** to the devil.

(1) Opportunity = space of any size for habitation
IE = My deck

1. other translations = foothold

2. A platform to advance from

Hebrews 2:1-3 - Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, **lest we drift away** from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation...

(2) Space / Opportunity Footholds are the result of neglect

ie = weeds

Ignoring Little Foxes

2. Types of Neglect

(1) Passive = no intent = drift
Letting mind drift

(2) Distraction
is Devil's playground

Luke 10:41-42 - But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and [distracted] about many things, but one thing is necessary..."

(3) I neglect my lawn
to spend weekends
playing golf

I neglect my job
because I choose to
party

(4) I neglect my family
to focus on career.

Neglect is often a
conscious choice to
prioritize other things
of greater value

(5) Giving Ground (Platform)

1. Distracted by desires

- Relaxation → Relation (Spouse)
- Entertainment → Intimacy (prayer
word)

2. Distracted by anxieties

- Economy → Generosity

- How long → Right now
(Sabbath)

- Sick → Sovereignty

What
the
Gospel
says

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

* Now Satan has a platform
(ground) to advance from

II. The Power In Strongholds

1. Neglected Fortholds = Strongholds

(1) Neglect the Gospel, Fortholds

(2) Neglect Fortholds
Strongholds = Power

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine **power** to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the **knowledge** of God, and take every **thought** captive to obey Christ...

1. Satan can't read our minds, but can influence our thoughts

2. Pervasive & entrenched incorrect thinking patterns governed by Satan to destroy our joy

(3) Types of Strongholds:

1. Institutional (Worldview, Garrison's)

2. Personal (Specifics, Comprehensive)

2. The Danger of Neglect

- (1) If you're not careful
1. Neglect the Gospel in some area of your life (foothold)
 2. That space will turn into an entrenched pattern of thinkings
 3. You will come out of this season a different person for the worse.

(2) Examples:

1. Single Mom all day w/ Kid turns into he needs more custody
2. Baby Boomers -
3. Corona divorces

3. The Answer

- (1) Take captive - confront emerging thought patterns in opposition to the Gospel
- (2) Divine Power → In Spirit

III. How To Stay Sober

1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be **sober**-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **Resist** him, **firm** in your faith, **knowing** that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1. Resistance

Ja. 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- (1) Resist = know it will be a fight (not today Satan)
- (2) You will either learn from Coronavirus, or CV will learn you. Pre-decide what you want.

2. Confidence

Eph. 6:13 - Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Prov. 3:26 - For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

- (1) Give more weight & time to the Gospel, not less.
- (2) So you can spot the counterfeit

3. Perspective

Eph. 6:16 - In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one...

1 Pet. 4:12 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

- (1) If you're shocked by what's happening, you haven't been paying attention
- (2) Don't get distracted by the "unprecedented" narrative

APA - "...media coverage has highlighted COVID-19 as a unique threat, rather than one of many, which has added to panic, stress, and the potential for hysteria..."

Conclusion

1. Judas gave Satan the grounds to indwell him
proclivity to thievery

Jn. 12:1-8 - Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

Luke 22:3 - Then Satan entered into Judas

(1) We can't even let ministry distract us from what Jesus is doing

2. Dominion Drift

(1) Neglect

(2) Opportunity

(3) Fail to confront emerging thinking patterns

(4) Strongholds

Php. 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.