

Taking the Battle to Satan

Comfort is a beautiful thing. We find immeasurable peace in our worship services, and with our brethren. We have to remember why we need that comfort though. We live in a fallen world. We live in a world that has been ravaged by Satan. In many ways it seem like he keeps pushing back the line. Weaving his way into our culture. Weaving his way into our homes. Weaving his way into our hearts. So, we can't live in defense mode. We need to be willing to step out in faith, leave our comfort zone and take the battle to him, if we hope to win this war.

I. Assess the Situation (1 Peter 5.8)

- A. There is a Battle in Our Hearts
 - 1. The heart is the core of our very being. Satan is not invited into the hearts of Christians but still he weasels his way in all too often.
 - 2. Jeremiah 17.9. "The heart is desperately sick." The human condition. How did it get that way?
 - 3. Matthew 15.18-20. "Out of the heart..." Jesus identifies the source of our brokenness.
 - 4. Hebrews 10.22. "With our hearts sprinkled clean..."
- B. There is a Battle in Our Homes
 - 1. The Home is the foundation of our society...all societies.
 - 2. 1 Peter 5.8. A roaring lion doesn't discriminate. He wants to destroy our families and even God's plan for families.
 - 3. Genesis 3. If he can get a foothold...he will destroy as much as he can.
 - a) Other examples; Job, Jacob, Achan, David...
- C. There is a Battle throughout the Whole World
 - 1. Since Genesis, he has been thrashing about wildly, doing as much damage as possible.
 - 2. John 3.19. The world has been shrouded in darkness.

II. Forget Your Fears (Ephesians 6.10)

- A. Satan wants to petrify you, to deny, to let go of Jesus. Matthew 26.69-70.
- B. The Things That Make us Shudder
 - 1. Fear of failure.
 - 2. Fear of missing out.
 - 3. Fear of judgment.
- C. God knows who you are...do you? 2 Corinthians 11.3 "But I am afraid...your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ." *You are of Christ.*
 - 1. 2 Timothy 1.7 "God has not given us a spirit of fear..."

III. Go on the Offense and Take Back the Line

- A. Go and Tear Down all Your Idols
 - a) King Hezekiah's example with physical idols. 2 Chronicles 29.20.
 - b) We have to confront our idols honestly. Write a list. Reprioritize.
- B. Invite God Into Your Home...Joshua 24.15 "Me and my house..."
 - a) Some admonitions from scripture...
 - b) Bring God into the conversation, teach them to love and respect the Lord.
 - c) Ephesians 6.4 Don't provoke them to wrath. Give them a place to bear their heart. Or they will find somewhere else to do it.
- C. Share Your Faith With No Apology
 - a) The Godless don't apologize, don't cower. Why should we?
 - b) Romans 1.16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel..."

What happens when we take the battle to Satan? What happens if we push back the line? We see Christ coming forth in our lives. We can't forget the faith of our ancestors and the work that they put in that sent a cultural shockwave through the first century world.