

Remnant Life Church  
March 18, 2018  
**When the Enemy Strikes**  
2 Cor. 5:1-10

- We talked about dealing with our giants last week
  1. Those things that seem to always best us
  2. The things that can knock us down hard and are hard to recover from
- While giants are most often easier to see the plans of the enemy are usually much more subtle but just as dangerous
- **Eph 6:10-11** - *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*
  1. Schemes (KJV – wiles) – deceit, trickery, to lie in wait
- What are the schemes of satan?
  1. Draw you away from God
  2. Draw you away from God's will for your life
  3. Deny God the glory and honor due Him in your life
  4. Destroy you at all costs
- **IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER** – the holier your walk, the more intense the spiritual attacks on your life will be.
  1. This truth is why so many Christians are willing to live marginal lives
  2. It's just easier to give in to the flesh
  3. But as we talked about 2 weeks ago, the easiest way is rarely the best way
- Two types of attacks the enemy brings
  1. Those from without – done to us by others
  2. Those from within – what we do to ourselves
- Attacks from without
  1. While craftedseeded and instigated by satan, attacks are carried out and accomplished through people
  2. **2 Cor 4:4** - *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
  3. Those who come against you who do not know the Lord live in blindness
  4. In the original Greek (τυφλόω...too-flah-oh)
    - Blunt or dull the mental capabilities
    - To darken the mind
  5. What about other Christians?
    - They will face God's judgement for their actions (**2 Cor. 5:10**)
    - Discipline of the church

6. **Eph. 6:12** - *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
  7. We have a responsibility, as followers of Jesus Christ, to hold our tongues, harness our tempers, and forgive immediately!!
    - Proverbs speaks about our tempers 7 times
      - **Prov 19:19** - *A hot-tempered person must pay the penalty; rescue them, and you will have to do it again.*
      - **Prov 22:24** - *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,*
      - **Prov 29:22** - *An angry person stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered person commits many sins.*
    - A temper is not defined by how many times you explode
    - There are many people with very bad tempers who never raise their voices
    - It is when your anger effects your demeanor to anyone around you
      - It is also what takes place in your spirit
    - Only a person desiring and committed to living in humility will be able to harness their temper
- Attacks from within
    1. These are the thoughts, ideas, impulses, doubt, jealousy, pride, envy that we allow, not only to occur, but to become planted in our minds and hearts
    2. Also bad, habitual patterns that we allow to rule and dictate our behavior
      - What are bad, habitual patterns?
      - Things that cannot be allowed to simply come and go at the enemy's pleasure
    3. **2 Cor 10:5** - *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
      - 2 parts – take it captive then make it obedient to Christ
      - Take the wrong thinking and turn it into right thinking
  - Temptations will come!
    1. If someone tells you or says they are never tempted they are either lying or do not understand what temptation is
    2. **I Cor 10:13** - *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*
      - Temptation is not an if but a when
      - We must expect them to happen so we are not unprepared or caught off-guard
      - Why does God allow temptation to come?
        - Because it tests your faith and that builds perseverance
        - To persevere means to push through
        - (v 4) God giving us everything we need to live a godly life...

*2 Peter 1:5-7 - For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.*

- How does satan attack us?
  1. Meets our needs or desires through means other than by God's way
  2. He will cleverly choose the time of attack and he is willing to wait
    - That time is almost always our most vulnerable
  3. He will lie
  4. He will sow doubt into your thinking about everything and anything
    - He hates confident, assured Christians
    - *Jer 29:1 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
  
- What are some signs that you are under attack?
  1. He will utilize people to distract or lead you away from God
  2. You will begin to work hard at justifying what you are doing
  3. Your emotions will begin to get the best of you and act excessively
  4. You will blame God and then other people for difficult circumstances
  5. You will have no peace, no joy, no contentment
  
- So what do we do?
  1. Submit your whole life to God (circumstances, emotions, fear, temptations...)
    - *Jas 4:7 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
    - You cannot resist the devil without first submitting to God
    - The Bible does not tell us to flee from the devil and his attacks (*1 Cor 10:14* – idolatry) because then they are never dealt with
  2. Stand firm – 3 times in *Ephesians 6*
    - In the original language “stand” means to establish, make firm, and bring into balance
  3. Use the sword which is the Word of God – *Eph 6:17*
    - *1 Cor 10:13* – I can bear this, I can endure
  
- Prayer when under attack:

Dear God, please deliver me, defend me, protect me, strengthen me, and help me, in and through your strength, to overcome this attack