

November 19, 2023, Pastor Jason Smotherman

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the enemy's tricks that have been used to deter your life and how you have overcome them?
2. Study and discuss the armor of God. Why is it important to be properly equipped for battle?
3. What is the difference between a church that makes disciples and a church that collects attenders? What personal costs are there to be a part of a church endeavoring to make disciples?

SERMON NOTES:

Difference Makers – The Know How to Win

Matthew 13:25

But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds.....

CS Lewis – The Screwtape Letters

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.

Out of the **Gospel Herald**

An old deacon who used to pray every Wednesday night at prayer meeting always concluded his prayer the same way: "And, Lord, clean all the cobwebs out of my life." The cobwebs were those things that ought not to have been there but had gathered during the week. It got too much for one fellow in the prayer meeting, and he heard the old deacon one time too often. So, when the man made that prayer, the fellow jumped to his feet and shouted: "Lord, Lord, don't do it! **Kill the spider!**" That's what needs to happen.

Difference Makers – The Know How to Win

Know-how is knowledge of the methods or techniques of doing something, especially something technical or practical.

Discipleship (From Last week's teaching) is the eyes that once were used to living in the darkness are now living in the light. This process (sanctification) requires not just a taking off but a putting on.

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 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 Timothy 2:21 (The Goal produced through and by Jesus)

Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

A picture of what He wants for us:

- To be followers of Jesus.
- To be students of His word.
- To be a master of my own heart.
- To be an encourager of other hearts.
- To know I have an enemy who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy.
- To live for the eternal things
- Endeavor for sincerity, genuine, authentic, over outward prideful appearances.
- To live in such a way no one who sees us knows our name but they know HIS NAME.
- To find ourselves as the faithful servants we are called to be.
- To love the HELL out of each other.

Thomas Brooks

Know that it is not the knowing, nor the talking, nor the reading man, but the doing man, that at last will be found the happiest man.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The scoreboard of life teaches us

- You have a team you are a part of.
- You have an enemy or an opponent.
- TIME is Short and the clock is running. You must LIVE with an urgency.



Solomon wrote in:

Proverbs 23:23

Buy truth and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

The truth that causes you to WIN in life (not just temporal but eternal life) is a precious commodity. **Spend your life buying (through failures, defeats, and victories) the TRUTH and know-how that will cause you to win.**

1) You have an ENEMY.

You have an enemy who will study you and your weakness.

Whatever sin the heart of man is most prone to, that the devil will help move forward.

- If David be proud of his people, Satan will provoke him to number them, that he may be yet prouder.
- If Peter be fearful, Satan will put him upon rebuking and denying of Christ, to save his own skin.
- If Ahab's prophets be given to flatter, the devil will straightway become a lying spirit in the mouths of four hundred of them, and they shall flatter Ahab to his ruin, 1 Kings 22.
- If Judas will be a traitor, Satan will quickly enter into his heart, and make him sell his master for money, which some said would never have done, John 13:2.
- If Ananias lies for advantage, Satan will fill his heart that he may lie, with a witness, to the Holy Ghost, Acts 5:3.

Satan loves to sail with the wind, and to suit men's temptations to their conditions and inclinations.

- If they are full in prosperity, he will tempt them to deny God (Prov. 30:9)
- if they be in adversity, he will tempt them to distrust God.
- if their knowledge be weak, he will tempt them to have low thoughts of God.
- if their conscience be tender, he will tempt to offense.
- if conscience is prideful, he will tempt for a large fall.
- if bold-spirited, he will tempt to presumption.
- if nervous, to desperation.
- if flexible, to faithlessness.



Matthew 13:25

But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds....

2 Corinthians 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

You have an enemy that will study your weakness, BUT God has given us the ability to study the enemies' weakness (discernment).

- The properly applied Word of God defeats the enemy every time. (See Jesus in the Wilderness)
- Ephesians 6 teaches us that the enemy we wrestle with (VS 12) must be fought with supernatural weapons (The armor of God).

The Belt of Truth
The Breastplate of Righteousness
The Shoes of Peace
The Shield of Faith
The Helmet of Salvation
The Sword of the Spirit

Some Pastoral Insight

There are **principalities** and **powers** that come against the move of God in the regions of the world. **Over GP and the Valley** there is a war happening in the Spirit. **You, as God's representee of His move, will be tested.** Most don't even know there is a fight, you know now. This region has a unique call and purpose on it. **This purpose requires a supernatural LOVE, UNITY, and MATURITY to complete that God given task.** That is why, relationally this valley has suffered from so much discord in our families (divorce and drugs), politics, churches, and schools.

To the extent of the greatness of the move is to the extent of the greatness of the war you will face.

We are not in competition with each other, this is what happens when we compete with the wrong opponent.



Anytime a church has endeavored to “war” in the disciple making business, the relational “carnage” has been devastating not just for staff, the church, but also the community.

This happens when a church penetrates the enemy's territory while unaware or ill equipped for the battle. (My wife and I have already lived this)

Churches creating attendance is not KINGDOM advancing, and these will not face opposition.

Churches creating DISCIPLES is KINGDOM advancing and these will face opposition.

Lest Satan should get an *advantage* of us; lest Satan over-reach us. The Greek word *πλεονεκτηθῶμεν*, signifies to have more than belongs to one. The comparison is taken from the greedy merchant, that seeks and takes all opportunities to lure and deceive others. **Satan is that wily merchant, that devours, not widows houses, but most men's souls.**

We must weep in warfare over the destruction of the relationships and an intercession for the restoration of God in those relationships.

I had 2 separate but trusted people approach me on 11/5.
2024 is going to be a pivotal year for our fellowship and region.

One person told me – The door to restore is OPEN.
The next person told me – The walls that have been torn down, have created a space for the RESTORATION to BEGIN.

2024 – The year of restoration.

The enemy will have to pay back all that he has stolen plus INTEREST.

Joel 2:25-32 (NKJV)

²⁵ "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

²⁷ Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel: I *am* the Lord your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

God's Spirit Poured Out



²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. ³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. ³² And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be ^ldeliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Restoration always preceded REVIVAL.

2) You have a HOME TEAM.

Psalm 133:1

133 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore

As part of restoration, relationally healing precedes the anointing being released.

3) We are running out of TIME.

Callings and purpose have time limits.

Ezekiel 22:30

And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, **but I found none.**

There is window before us. An opportunity to SEE and GAIN all that God has promised. Parkway get ready for the YEAR OF RESTORATION.