

SUMMER 2022

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

WHEN SATAN ATTACKS

When Satan attacks we need to remember, it means we have gotten his attention, and we are an important vessel to God. Satan has been known as a liar since the beginning and the father of lies. His mission is to steal us away or keep us from coming to God. He is jealous of God, and he wants to destroy God's kingdom. He is searching for those that he can deceive or hold back from receiving the blessings of God. He does this many times through our emotions. He knows how to use our strengths and weakness against us. If he can burden us or weigh us down with regrets, worries, and fears to the point that we forget about the love, mercy, and peace of God, then he has us in a weakened state and can try to go in for the kill or keep us so weak that we don't enjoy the goodness of God. If he weighs us down with false accusations, worries, regrets, condemnation, and fears, then we will not have what it takes to win lost souls to the kingdom or to spread the love of God. In this state we are unhappy and probably grumpy. Why would anyone who is not sanctified want what you have? An unhappy Saint is not a good advertisement for the Kingdom of God. As I write this I can just picture Satan in my mind using this against those of us who are feeling burdened to add more guilt or burdens and to needle them by saying, "See, you are a failure and worse than useless," "You are actually hindering God and the Church," and many other false accusations. Again, Satan has been a liar since the beginning: everything he says is a lie, or twisted, or not the whole truth. Take the story of Adam and Eve as an example, since Satan is the father of lies, he has years of experience in deceiving God's most precious creation; he knows how to make lies seem very real and accurate. Again, take Adam and Eve as an example. If you are still saying to yourself, "But it still feels like he is right." Please keep reading.

Earlier I said that Satan will use our strengths against us, and I want to explain that a little better. We all have a desire to please God and do what is right. We want people to have confidence in us and see Jesus in us. I consider this a strength. What Satan wants to do is use that against us by saying things like, "You don't measure up," "Look what you did or what you said," "If you were truly sanctified, then this or that." Because we are so eager to please God, this kind of rhetoric works well against us. I first want to say that is not the way God works with us. God does chastise us for our good to help teach us and to help us not stray away. Although this doesn't feel good to us at the time, it later allows us to flourish and be fruitful. In my experience, what Satan does is quite the opposite. He needles, pounds, and adds more and more guilt and pressure to us. He weighs us down with condemnation. God does not weigh his children down with condemnation. On the night of August 9, 1988, I was not sanctified, and I knew it. It was not Satan that told me this, in fact, he would have liked to have told me the opposite or distract me from the truth. God did not replay all my misbehaviors, tell me how bad I was, or lay out all my sins in front of me. Yet I knew I was guilty of sin, and I felt the love (so important to understand this) of God calling me. This feeling that I was receiving from God was much different than what Satan uses when he tries to work on me.

A few months ago, I woke up on a Sunday morning and from the very moment I opened my eyes, Satan started in on me. I had a responsibility at church that morning, and I feel like Satan was trying to weigh my spirit down. Although I don't remember the exact accusations from him (I do remember the feeling very well), it was something like this: "If you really loved Jesus like you say you do, then you would have knelt down when you were talking to Him this morning." "If you really were taking your responsibility seriously, you would have put much more time into studying the Bible this past week."

"At church Friday night, you had your mind on work situations and didn't focus on God." Even if it were true, there is no way I could go back and fix these situations. That's where Satan thrives. The last accusation he threw at me, he went too far. He said, "If you were truly Sanctified..." I don't remember what he said after that, but I said to myself "this is enough. God is love, compassionate and merciful. I know how to fix this." I fell on my knees, feeling like I was sanctified, but I prayed to God. I knew that if there was something not right between me and God. He would reveal it, and we would get it straightened out, but if not, this would put an end to that. Either way, I would have a victorious spirit. I went to church that morning feeling so strong and confident. This was not the first experience I have had like this, and it will most likely not be the last. I love the verse to the song that says, "and thus by frequent little talks (with Jesus) I gain the victory and march along in cheerful song enjoying liberty."

There are other times when Satan attacks us by weighing us down with negative “what if” scenarios or by constantly reminding us of negative situations in our life, especially things that we feel like we have no control over. During these attacks, we must remember that God has a plan for everything. Our life story is still being written and all things (big and small) work together for good when we are serving God. We must trust the promise of God and not trust our feelings and emotions because they are too fickle and they are unreliable.

If we will do all we know to live a Sanctified life, be submissive and obedient to God's word, then we will have better ground to stand on and will be more confident when Satan attacks. If we frequently give our personal experience testimony both in church and outside of church to all that will listen, it will affirm to you and Satan that you are in this way to stay! Brothers and Sisters, let's band together, help one another out, and fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life.

- Brother Todd Curry

Are You Guarding Your Heart?

If I only had one chance to talk to the newly sanctified, what would I tell them? If I only had one chance to say some words of encouragement to those who have been on this way for a good while, what would I tell them? I would say, “Guard Your Heart!” This has been on my heart for quite a while now and prayerfully God will take the lead.

You may ask, “Why is guarding your heart so important?” The scripture tells us in Romans 10 verses 9-10, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Exhortation can be found in Proverbs 4:23, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Yes, we have a responsibility to help guard our hearts! Remember God has given us a new heart and has taken away the stony heart. The enemy would love nothing more than to put a little wedge of doubt, confusion, bitterness, anger or strife into our new hearts. Oh! How quickly our hearts can change and deceive us if we are not vigilant. Thankfully, we are taught by God's word how to do this.

Through my experience I have found this verse very helpful. Ephesians 4:27, “Neither give place to the devil.” Don't even entertain the idea of discussing or arguing with the devil. Turn it over to God and the enemy will flee. Remember the battle has already been won! If our conversations, whether they be thoughts in our head or spoken are not edifying to our relationship with our heavenly father; then they are in vain. We have a choice on how we react to emotions or conflict as they arise in our lives. If we commit our thoughts to God, he will lead us in the right paths.

Another way to help guard our hearts is to stay focused on God. Matthew 6:19-21 reminds us to, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

The following is borrowed from different sources: Ask yourself, “Where am I spending my time, energy, and money?” Also, practice consistently **CPR** - (attending **C**hurch, **P**raying, and **R**ead your bible). A dear sister taught me to look for God moving in my life. She was so right! The more that I look, the more that I see, the more thankful I am. There are so many verses in the bible about coming before our father with thanksgiving. Let's put up a wall of thanksgiving around our hearts!

Lastly, meditate and stand on God's promises. Philippians 4:7-8, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Another verse I reference frequently, Psalms 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Only by the Holy Spirit can we have this new heart, and God has promised to keep our hearts. Now let's do our part of guarding our hearts by neither giving place to the devil, staying focused on God, meditating and standing on his promises. Then we can with God's help bring to fruition Ephesians 4:32: “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Life can be difficult and we all face trying situations, but read Ezekiel 36:24-28 for additional promises from God. Let's let God do his work, do our part, and encourage others to guard their hearts.



- Sister Marsha Reese

...we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. (Luke 17:10)
Go ye unto all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

I have been thinking about these two verses a lot lately, wrestling with them to determine what this means in my life. It is interesting to me that God has given us all the same scripture to read, the same instructions to follow, and yet through the divine gifts of free will and creative thought you and I can each take scripture, preaching, exhortation, or answer to prayer and implement them differently in our own lives. My dad mentioned last night that in marriage if both husband and wife were exactly the same it would be a boring marriage. In our marriage with Christ if we were all exactly the same we would not be able to have an effective church. With that in mind, I'll share my thoughts on these scriptures and you determine what they mean to you.

I believe that these two scriptures complement each other. In each of them Jesus is giving instruction to the disciples (and to us) what our mission is as Christians. As Christians we must DO something, it is not a passive walk but it is one of action.

In the reference above to Luke it is the culmination of the verses 7-10 discussing the actions of a servant. The servant is indebted to the master and takes care of the needs of the master's household, working the field and preparing the supper to insure that he has done the things which are right in the master's sight. And at the end of this the servant isn't looking for some high honor or praise for this work... he just receives his meal after he has finished his work. Then Christ says that we should be like this servant.

What has God called on me to do today, and did I listen? Did I perform it to the best of my ability? These are questions that I ask myself, and want the answer to be yes at all times. I'm afraid that sometimes I can grow complacent in the love, mercy, peace, and grace that God affords and forget that there is action in salvation. Not just an action of worship, but an action of service as well. This service may take sacrifice... I may have to work in the fields and after a full day of that come in and prepare the meal before I rest.

I think we must also consider the positions available and our capabilities to perform them. Not all of us are preachers, not all of us teachers.... What can I do in the service of Jesus that is beneficial? And am I using the skills that I possess?

When we worked on the new Bible School Chapel I remember there was a lot of work to be done. In that work they needed one more person the roof to help and they hollered for me to come up. I've been on a roof, it isn't my thing, and I'm definitely not skilled at it. I was willing to go up there, but Brother Garth told them they'd be better to find someone that was comfortable on a roof.

I think our work with Christ is similar. There are times that we jump in and work on things with which we are not comfortable, but we excel if we do those things that we have some skill at. That isn't to say we shouldn't stretch ourselves or help others when needed, but what am I good at? What has God given me to do? I should focus on that. That doesn't mean that what I do will be easy, but it can be effective.

Looking at the second verse we see that Jesus gave a charge to us to bring the Gospel to others. In Matthew 28 it is written as well and is called "The Great Commission". The wonderful thing about telling others about Christ is it actually blesses me to tell someone else about something that can bless them. I'm wrestling with how to do that myself. At one time it was tents and travel and boats. Now what is it? We use YouTube and FaceBook and websites and newsletters. But how do I fit in, and how do I tell someone I meet that "I Have Good News to Bring, that's why I shout and sing"? This is the struggle for me. Lynn and I have found some ways through small group and volunteering. But that way may not be your way. Your path may be different.

I mentioned above that the differences in a husband and wife make the marriage successful. Expand that to our marriage to Christ. We are all married to Christ and our differences make that marriage successful. We must embrace the skills, the experiences, and the knowledge that we each have to spread the Gospel. My efforts may not be the same as yours. We must support each other in our endeavors, but we may approach things differently. We may have different fields to harvest, and use different tools to plant, to grow, and to harvest those fields. But let us each embrace the field God has given us and work so that at the end of the day when we sit to eat we can say we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

- Brother Drew Norman



"Born to Serve the Lord"

**From the dust of the earth
God created man,
His breath made man a living
soul:**

**And God so loved the world
He gave His only Son,
And that is why I love Him so.**

**I was made in His likeness
Created in His image,
For I was born to serve the
Lord**

**And I can't deny Him,
I'll always walk beside Him,
For I was born to serve the
Lord**

**My hands were made to help
my neighbor,
My eyes were made to read
God's Word,
My feet were made to walk in
His footsteps,
My body is the temple of the
Lord.**

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**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always
to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the
hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**

1 Peter 3:15



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