

Keep Moving Forward!

As Christians, we have an enemy that is ruthless!

Every day, he executes carefully crafted plans aimed at making us stop shy of the manifestation of God's promises for our lives!

2 Corinthians 2:11... For we are not unaware (kjb -ignorant) of his SCHEMES.

Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 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.

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.

14 STAND therefore, having fastened on the belt of TRUTH, and having put on the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS,

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the READINESS given by the GOSPEL OF PEACE.

16 IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES take up the shield of FAITH, with which you can EXTINGUISH all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of SALVATION, and the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the WORD OF GOD,

18 PRAYING AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, KEEP ALERT with all PERSEVERANCE, making supplication for all the saints,

Throughout the centuries, the enemy has launched countless attacks aimed at crippling the Church of Jesus Christ!

Job 17:9 - the righteous shall move onward and forward; those with pure hearts shall become stronger and stronger.

1. The enemy wants to REMOVE your weapons of spiritual warfare!

1Samuel 13:17-23

17. Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three detachments. One turned toward Ophrah in the vicinity of Shual,

18. another toward Beth Horon, and the third toward the borderland overlooking the Valley of Zeboim facing the desert.

19. Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!"

20. So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plowshares, mattocks, axes and sickles sharpened.

21. The price was two thirds of a shekel for sharpening plowshares and mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads.

22. So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

23. Now a detachment of Philistines had gone out to the pass at Micmash.

2 Corinthians 10:4 - The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

When Jesus Christ organized His church, he equipped her for battle!

Rom. 1:16 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2. The enemy wants to REFOCUS your attention from the eternal to the temporal!

He wants to distract you!

He has relentlessly tried to neutralize the church!

Firstly, He will try to get you focused on the wrong things!

Psalms 73:1-2

2. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

3. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

The second way he will try to distract you is by trying to get you to forget exactly what your purpose on this earth is!

Ephesians 4:11-16

11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

What is the purpose of the Church?

To MATURE the saints

To MOBILIZE them in service

So that the we can MULTIPLY our effectiveness to fulfill the great commission!

Why does this church exist in our community?

Why do we meet together as a local body of believers?

The reason God established the local church is so that we can come together to be matured in our faith...

And be equipped to serve God...

For the purpose of bringing life to a dead world!

Reinhardt Bonnke - "We are here to plunder hell and populate heaven!"

3. The enemy wants to RESTRICTURE your path with worldly obstacles!

Sins of neglect – a failure to pray or spend time in the Word.

Sinful habits – produce guilt, bring discipline and discredit our witness.

Sinful attitudes – a love of money (avarice, covetousness), bitterness and offense towards other people, prejudices, etc.

God designed the church to be distinctly different from the world in which it exists...

"In the world but not of it"!

We are supposed to love the people of the world, but not the ways of the world!

4. The enemy wants to RUIN you with temptations and traps!

1 Timothy 6:9-11

9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and PIERCED themselves with many griefs.

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

The devil wants to destroy you!

“We are WELL ABLE to stand against the schemes of the Devil...”

“We must be sober and vigilant because our adversary walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.”

The devil will NEVER stop trying to make you stop moving forward!

2 Tim. 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. I have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

You CANNOT keep moving forward without the armor of God!

Galatians 3:26-28 (ESV)

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, THROUGH FAITH.
27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have PUT ON CHRIST.
28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Romans 13:14 (ESV) - But PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and make NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, to gratify its desires.