

Spiritual Warfare in Church Planting/Evangelism

Satan is not that upset when you pray, have nice music, help physical needs of people, attend church, do acts of kindness, or go to church. But he will unleash all he can when you get close to God and attempt to reach people with the Gospel of Christ and claim territory for Christ by starting a church.

Don't let the lack of prayer stop your work.

God's universe is ruled by authority. Demon's are under God's authority. Squeal on Satan if he is bothering you.

Plan on physical, moral, financial, relational and spiritual attacks if you are beginning a new work by sharing the Gospel of Christ.

The book of Acts shows the church grew by boldness to share the Gospel in spite of opposition and a willingness to pay the price.

Satan does not want a new church that reaches souls for Christ, and the enemy will find your weak spots to try and kill the work using that area. Why do we fight now over nothing? Learn to back up and test whether it is conflict and opposition that cause the spiritual warfare or the flesh.

Confess your sins to God to avoid fighting in the flesh and yielding areas in your life. If you fight in the flesh, you will lose. Name the sin and then try and discover the reason for the sin. For example, "I am greedy because I do not accept what God has placed in my life in the way of finances." Jesus never gave a foothold to sin, and thus, the grave could not hold Him. We want to fight with the flesh and flee the Adversary. "I just need to fight against this bad habit or opposition." No, you cannot; so flee from it. Flee from the weakness that leads to sin, but fight the deceiver in the power of Christ.

Satan will cause marital strife, rebellious kids, illnesses in your family, and he will use anything to get you to stop. Be warned: if you or your family listen to the lies of Satan then discouragement and the desire to quit are two emotions that will emerge. Recognize what is a spiritual attack by being warned and aware of the methods of Satan's goal which is to stop you.

Routes of possible entrance of Satan into your family: MODS
Meditation: Has the person been in meditative practices? Demonisation.
Occult: Ouija boards, séances, tee leaves, and fortune telling.
Drugs: Remove rational barriers and allow the irrational in.
Sex: Homosexuality, perversions, premarital.

Body Bag Theology is the way to start a church. Tell Satan the only way you will quit and return home is in a body bag. You cannot protect your wife and kids all the time, so just dedicate them to the Lord and allow Him to have the major part of that task. Satan will test this commitment, and when you do not blink at the opposition, he will back off.

Read the Gospels looking for info on spiritual warfare. Those sections of Luke that deal with demons are real today. They are too strong for you to fight in the flesh. Confront demons with the power of the name of Jesus. Command in Jesus Christ's name and utilize that power. The work of Satan is much more visible in areas like Haiti or Africa, but it is working in all areas in opposition to the Gospel of Christ. Remember: Satan cannot stop the power of the Gospel, but he can create havoc on those fighting in the power of the flesh.

The West does not tend to view disease or conflict in the spiritual realm. We say, "A virus is the cause or we just are having marital issues." But who sent the virus or conflict at this time? As your church start making progress, you must have prayer protection in place for each step of the

way. If you are starting a new work and do not have prayer support in place, you are choosing to not use the best defense against Satan and his attacks available to you. If you are functioning on training and giftedness alone, you are going in the power of the flesh which is weak. What army would advance that did not have artillery to pave the way first? Not using prayer to pave the way is about as smart.

Because the West is less aware of spiritual attacks, we see something that feels Satanic and automatically desire to flee from the situation. This is the problem. On Jesus' authority and power you must stand and confront the lies and spiritual attacks. Once you start this fight over lost souls, never forget this fight is with Satan, or you will suffer under a bad diagnosis of the problem and get the wrong medicine.

James 4 says resist the Dark Adversary and he will flee from you. The word "Devil" in U.S.'s mind is a cute fellow with horns. Thus, we lose because we underestimated our enemy or try and fight with the flesh. This is a spiritual war. Not to be fought with training, but power and authority of Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-4. The flesh wants to flee, the enemy wants to fight. Satan's back is against the furnace, and he will not back up easy. If you are not willing to fight, then go home. This is not a fight for those who do not expect to pay a price with their families. Are you and your family willing to go through this?

Despite the high cost, there will be no greater memory on your death bed as you prepare to meet God face to face than the things that will impacted for eternity. These are things done in obedience to Christ call on your life and the fruits of souls meeting you one day in the presence of Christ.

There will also be no greater regrets than not trying. Failure is not based on results, but letting fear and the lies of Satan keep you from trying.

Once you have counted the cost and know God's call on your life, then "... Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward, march!" Exodus 14:15

No turning back, no turning back.