

Foundations 5

Three Victorious Attitudes

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As Christians we are called to be fishers of men, but there is something that I think we don't realize sometimes and that is the fact that Satan is a fisher of men also. He would love nothing more than to lure you in and hook you. We have all been bombarded with temptation and even Jesus was tempted. The difference is, Jesus was not hooked.

As a fisherman, I have learned several things concerning fishing.

a. First, always fish where you know there are fish and know the conditions of the place where you will be fishing. b. Second, find out what the fish are biting. c. Third, be persistent.

Satan is a good fisherman and he also uses these tactics when he is out fishing. a. Satan is not omnipresent, meaning that he is not everywhere at the same time, so he has to decide where and when he is going to go fishing. b. Once he gets to his location, he figures out what lure will work and he goes to work. c. Satan is always persistent.⁴ Let's look today on how to have victory over temptation and not become one of Satan's trophy catches.

THREE ATTITUDES THAT SET YOUR MIND ON VICTORY RATHER THAN DEFEAT.

1. BEWARE

A couple of young boys were fishing at their special pond off the beaten track. All of a sudden, the Game Warden jumped out of the bushes.

Immediately, one of the boys threw his rod down and started running through the woods like a bat out of hell. The Game Warden was hot on his heels.

After about a half mile, the young man stopped and stooped over with his hands on his thighs to catch his breath, so the Game Warden finally caught up to him.

"Let's see yer fishin' license, Boy!" the Warden gasped.

With that, the boy pulled out his wallet and gave the Game Warden a valid fishing license.

"Well, son," said the Game Warden. "You must be about as dumb as a box of rocks! You don't have to run from me if you have a valid license!"

"Yes, sir," replied the young guy. "But my friend back there, well, he

don't have one."

Like the Game Warden we need to be alert and aware and not take anything at face value. The Bible gives us two powerful pictures to help us to be alert and aware:

- We live "**BEHIND ENEMY LINES**" (I John 5:19)

We Know that we belong to God even though the whole world is under the rule of the Evil One. I John 5:19 GNT. When a soldier gets dropped behind enemy lines, he becomes hyper alert! He cannot grow comfortable in his surroundings because in every encounter there is the potential for spiritual disaster in every circumstance conversation. Some deal with this truth by hiding out from the world as much as possible. But that is like going spiritually AWOL! In John 17:15-18 Jesus prays for us, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. . . As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world John 17:15-18 So bottom line you're behind enemy lines. Stay alert.

Satan is a "ROARING LION" (I Peter 5:8)

Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. I Peter 5:8

Remember what I said last week. . . To walk in victory we must Know your enemy... Lions attack the sick, the young, the lone rangers who are alone and not alert. We are safest when we are in the herd and next to our Chief Shepherd Jesus!

Does any one here know the first rule of a lion trainer? Never-ever turn your back on the Lion! By God's grace and strength we as believer can face this great lion without fear , and we must face him. WE must be aware of the fact that Satan is attacking us in an attempt to defeat us. As he attacks you may have noticed that Satan usually doesn't show up personally, pitchfork and all. There is a second attitude that leads us to victory.

2. BE HUMBLE.

I have Found Fishing to be the most humbling sport of all. It is found In A Fisherman's Philosophy

A sure way to get a bite on a slow day is:

Talck about changing spots

Prepare another rod while one is out

Lay your rod down unsecured

Go for a sandwich

Start to pull the boat anchor

Use the worst fly you own

It's amazing how powerful an attitude of humility is in defeating evil.

As Proverbs 16:18 tells us, "Pride goes before destruction" One of the greatest and most famous military defeats in American history is that of General George Custer at Little Big Horn, the youngest man to ever be given the rank of general in the U.S. Army, serves as an example of the dangers of human pride. The day after his defeat, these words appeared in the New York times:

So far as an expression in regard to the wisdom of Gen. Custer's attack could be obtained at headquarters, it was to the effect that Custer had been imprudent, to say the least. . . The movement made by Custer is censured to some extent at military headquarters in this city. The older officers say that it was brought about by that foolish pride which so often results in the defeat of men, it seems that few days before Gen. Terry had offered four additional companies to Custer, but that officer refused them. New York times, July 6, 1876

That foolish pride which so often results in the defeat men." Pride is even more dangerous on the spiritual battleground, where it always results in defeat. We need recognize that we do not have power in and of myself to defeat evil. Don't be a spiritual General Custer, pridefully wanting the credit and honor for yourself and so losing the battle. Look at what God has to say to us in James 4:6-7: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:6-7 (NIV)

In every case: you start resisting Satan by **SUBMITTING** to God. In every case! You can either go against Satan on your own power or submit to God and rely on His strength and power. On your own power-It's like going against a battleship in a Paddleboat! It's like going fishing with out bait! It's like trying to use 5lb test line to land a whale. Try to battle Satan on your own strength-I have two words for you -Your Sunk! Your fish bait! But in God's strength an entire fleet of ships protects your paddleboat-and Satan flees in the face of inevitable defeat! What is the armor in Ephesians 6 called? The armor of God! It is putting on what God provides that assures victory!

Submitting to God is not a complicated process. It's simply a matter of admitting before him that you do not have the strength to handle something on your own and humbly asking for his help-it is the first step in putting on the Armor of God. So be Aware and humble . And then the next attitude is. . .

3. BE CONFIDENT

Bill and Frank rent a boat and go fishing. They catch a lot of fish and return to the shore. Bill says to the Frank, "I hope you marked the spot where we caught all those fish." Frank replies, "Yes, I marked an 'X' on the side of the boat to mark the spot." Bill says to Frank sharply, "You idiot. How do you know we'll get the same boat?"

Just as confident Bill and Frank are of finding the right spot-we should even be more confident!

How can you be humble and confident at the same time? You are humble because it's not about your strength but his! You are confident because of the God's promises to never leave nor forsake you!

In fact being humble in self allows us to be confident in God's promises!

We are confident because of God's presence!

The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. I
John 4:4

We are Confident because of God's promises

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace
of our Lord Jesus be with you. Romans 16:20

We are Confident because of Prayer

Jesus told us to pray with faith for personal victory over evil.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:13

Look at Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6:13 closely. Can you imagine Jesus
lying to his followers? Of course not! Jesus taught us to pray
victoriously about evil. Jesus would not have taught us to pray this
way if it were not possible to overcome.

His Leadership and his deliverance are to bring about an entirely new
direction and a completely different atmosphere in our lives. Even
though we can not see fish underwater—we are confident they are
there! Jesus is the reason for the new atmosphere of confidence!

Conclusion: One of Satan's favorite fishing lures is as old as Adam
and Eve. It is this lie. . . For God knows that when you eat of it your
eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:5 How many watched Thursday's Nightline the debate on whether Satan Exists or not? What I found interesting about the debate was those who did not believe in a literal Satan-believe man and specifically themselves were like God and could overcome Evil on their own power!

The truth of history and scripture is that Mankind cannot handle the knowledge of good and evil. God can. He can know that there is evil and yet choose not to do it. We cannot. When we know that it exists we choose to do it. This is exactly why Every man and woman needs the Savior Jesus-to overcome evil on a daily basis. If you are at a place where you are resolved to reject Evil and embrace the bgoodness of the Savior Jesus come up front as we stand to sing.