

RELATING to our Enemy  
2019-8-18 Dave Geldart

1. My stories:
  - a. Demonic / terror/pressure dreams?
    - i. Was this real spiritual attack?
    - ii. Or just subconscious psychology manifesting thru dream state?
  - b. Dread/terror (irrational) episodes prepping for relating to Sexuality talk
    - i. What about this? Real? Or just psychological?
  - c. What about when the sound system didn't work right a couple wks ago when I was on vacation?
  - d. How about last week when Jenn got sick on a Sunday?
  - e. Or this week in a difficult conversation Ben and I had with a fellow leader?
2. Great confusion! – and rightly so
  - a. In our culture:
    - i. Because of the influence of scientific naturalism (science is the only path to knowledge, and the physical world is the only real one),
  - b. and in reaction against discrediting religious fanatics (who see a demon under every rock)
    - i. Most in our culture have drunk the juice and live as practical naturalists
    - ii. Spiritual stuff is personal, but not necessarily real
      1. Even Xians
      2. Live as if there is no spiritual battle, or at worst, it's far removed from my real everyday life
    - iii. So that far from having a WARTIME mentality, we practically live like we're in peacetime,
      1. Pursuing our own lives and preferences, unhindered practically by some sort of greater spiritual cause!
    - iv. We all tend to live like practical peacetime naturalists!
    - v. CAN YOU RESONATE WITH THAT, like I can?
3. But The Bible teaches us that angels and demons are real
  - a. That satan is real
  - b. And great cosmic spiritual warfare IS REAL
    - i. And that humans are right in the midst of the warzone
    - ii. Whether we realize it or not
  - c. And that Satan's main goal is to keep people from defecting to Jesus' side by any means necessary.
    - i. And to keep those already on JC's side distracted and drowsy, anything to keep ineffective in their fight ag him and his kingdom.
    - ii. Because, as we've learned before, the church should be on the offensive, attacking him and rescuing ppl from his kingdom.
  - d. And perhaps his most successful tactic is to convince the world that he doesn't exist.
    - i. Giving him FREE REIGN to work unopposed behind the scenes.
    - ii. If you're like me, many of you even now are struggling not to think this is just weird.
      1. Embarrassment
      2. Not real.
    - iii. This is perhaps the most important talk you'll ever tune out of. Ever get bored with. Dismiss.
      1. Because if it's TRUE, it changes EVERYTHING.
4. Tonight we're going to be studying how we should RELATE to our enemy

PRAY!

5. Today we're going to build on this foundation about the reality of satan, demons, and spiritual warfare.
  - a. Won't be an exhaustive study
  - b. We're going to build on some of the topics we've taught on previously

- c. For more on these:
  - i. Talks: Battleground, Battle Plan (Luke study, March 3 and 10)

1) How SHOULD we relate to our enemy?

- a. Focus in today on how WE are to relate Individually, personally to our enemy
  - i. 11Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.
  - ii. Defensive strategy!
    - 1. Armor of God (Eph 6) they're all defensive (even sword short, in context of individual defense)
      - a. It's the church, us TOGETHER, that's on the offensive
      - b. Individually defensive
    - 2. God wants us, on our own, to defend ourselves well
    - 3. **Many of us have taken some sort of self-defense course**
      - a. Who knows how you would defend yourself against a frontal assault?
      - b. What about if they have a knife?
      - c. What if they grab you by the neck?
    - 4. Terrence, you've gone thru army training, right? Have you been taught what to do if you come under enemy fire?
    - 5. Basic wisdom about how to operate behind enemy lines?
    - 6. What about how to defend yourself against PSYCHOLOGICAL warfare?
      - a. Propaganda and other psychological warfare tactics can be extremely effective. Often more effective and larger in scope than bullets and bombs.
  - iii. But how many of us know how to defend ourselves against Satan?
  - iv. Most, even Christians, have no actionable idea.
  - v. Tonight's supposed to help change that!!!
    - 1. Lean in brothers, sisters. Spiritual self-Defense 101!
  - vi. Satan's main weapon
    - 1. We do see in scripture that our enemy does have the power to influence our physical lives
      - a. From illnesses, to mental health, to disasters and calamities
    - 2. But his main weapon is lies
    - 3. Yes lies
      - a. John 8:44 ...there is no truth in him [Satan]. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
    - 4. as the father of lies, is to get us away from believing the truth, and get us to believe ANYTHING else
    - 5. Get you believe lies
      - a. Just like he did with Adam and Eve → and it's worked ever since.
      - b. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
      - c. Not every thought that enters your head is your own.
    - 6. PSYCHOLOGICAL/PROPAGANDA WARFARE !
      - a. Lies about ourselves
      - b. Who we are
      - c. What live's about
      - d. Where the good life is found

- e. And at the root of it all, lies about who GOD is
      - i. What he's like
      - ii. And how he thinks about us
    - f. All, So you don't pose a threat
  - 7. Most of spiritual warfare happens between your ears.
    - a. Say that with me
  - vii. SO the first step in defending ourselves is to recognize LIES
    - 1. SITUATIONAL AWARENESS
  - viii. AND THEN, to FIGHT THEM with truth
    - 1. Appropriate counter attack!
    - 2. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, ... <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
    - 3. It's not enough to just ignore lies, we must COUNTER them with truth
      - a. Resistance w/o Replacement is Futile
        - i. Must replace lies we weed out with the truth we find in the WORD of God
      - b. Additionally, we have to choose to believe it
    - 4. Taking Thoughts Captive (2 Cor 10:5)
      - a. <sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ
    - 5. A couple lies I've been tempted by for many years, much of my adult life, are
      - a. 1) that I'm a fraud just one false step away from being found out.
        - i. There's nothing special about me. I'm not really lovable.
        - ii. I have to choose to counter this with Psalm 139 – I am fearfully and wonderfully made
        - iii. **God shows his love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - [Romans 5:8](#)
      - b. 2) this one is more complex, lie mixed with truth that makes it FAR more insidious
        - i. The world I live in is harsh and unsafe and chaotic
        - ii. It's up to me to keep everything in control, or everything will crumble
          - 1. Even more, buried under this lie about myself is a lie about God
            - a. He's not ultimately good, and I can't trust him with my life
        - iii. Here, when I find myself anxious and sleepless at night, I've learned to recite the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm as a counter claim.
          - 1. No, actually the LORD is my shepherd
          - 2. He takes care of ME
          - 3. He even lovingly will make me to lie down and rest in good places
          - 4. He is able to restore my soul
          - 5. And he is with me in the valley where I'm afraid to death
          - 6. And my future is the live with him forever
    - c. What about you?
  - 6. **STOP AND ASK/WRITE:**

- a. **We'll just give a couple minutes, so you'll need to answer somewhat quickly (strategically!)**
- b. **What lies to you notice Satan trying to get you to believe? (ab yourself, God, life)**
  - i. **Over many years?**
  - ii. **In recent days?**
- c. **What truth(s) does GOD want you to choose to believe tonight?**

- ix. This is a complex task – recognizing lies and fighting them with truth
  - 1. Sometimes it means countering thoughts with thoughts
  - 2. Other times there's more going on
    - a. connected to lies we've agreed with satan on
- x. Learn about Footholds

## 2) FOOHOLDS

- a. Our enemy is powerful, determined, numerous, intelligent, committed.
- b. But our enemy Cant do whatever they want (or wed be dead?)
  - i. God is still sovereign!
- c. Satan is a created being, and amazingly he and his demons seem to need permission to act
  - i. There seems to be rules in the spiritual warfare we only partly understand.
  - ii. EXAMPLES IN BIBLE:
    - 1. Satan had to get permission to attack Job (job 1-2)
    - 2. To Sift peter like wheat (Luke 22:31)
    - 3. Demoniac, spirits asked JC permission to go into pigs (rather than pit) – Luke 8
    - 4. In future, God will give Satan permission to war w/ Christians and overcome them (Rev 13:7) – for a limited amount of time
- d. Satan and demons need permission to oppress people or rule territory
  - i. Sometimes he gets this from God
  - ii. Other times, Satan can get permission to act in People's lives because of choices they make that they make to give him footholds in their lives
    - 1. Eph 4:26-27 - <sup>26</sup>Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil.
    - 2. 2 Tim 2: 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
- e. So that brings us to the natural next question
  - i. WHAT ABOUT XIANS?
  - ii. CAN A CHRISTIAN BE OPPRESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS?
    - 1. Often arises from misunderstanding text
      - a. Oppressed =/POSSESSED
      - b. "POSSESSION" not in original bible text
    - 2. KJV translated the word DAIMONIZOMAI to "possession/possessed" instead of creating English word DEMONIZED
      - a. Possession is about OWNERSHIP – Christians are clearly owned by Christ
        - i. BOUGHT us with a price!
      - b. So Xians can't be POSSESSED in that sense
    - 3. But it's clear Christians CAN BE DEMONIZED – influenced and oppressed by demons
      - a. By opening up a place in their lives for demonic activity
      - b. THESE VERSES refer to CHRISTIANS being demonized!
      - c. *Also see in Ezekiel 8-10 where occult practices were being done in the temple of God where his shekinah glory also dwelt!*

- d. We also see this implicitly throughout the scriptures.
  - iii. Yes our enemy can oppress and demonize anyone who gives him footholds and permission to act in their life.
    - 1. It's like letting them lease your spare room.
      - a. Not about ownership, but definitely increases their influence!
    - 2. This goes for people, believers, and I believe, for churches
    - 3. This is far more important than most of us realize
  - f. WHAT DO YOU THINK THOSE CHOICES might be, that create footholds?
    - i. We'll focus on 2 of most common:
    - ii. Sin
      - 1. Believing Lies
        - a. The most powerful open door to the enemy is agreeing with satan
      - 2. Or actions that flow from them
    - iii. Unforgiveness
  - g. So what are we to do?
    - i. We must remove the footholds before we can command the enemy to flee
  - h. And to do this, we must learn more about the authority of the believer
- 3) AUTHORITY OF BELIEVERS:
- 4) What does it mean to do something IN THE NAME OF \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Representative of higher authority
- 5) We do not stand against demons in our own name or power, but in the name and power of Jesus
- 6) Demons have MORE POWER than we do
- a. So if it's a contest of power, they'd win every time
- 7) But when I operate IN JESUS' NAME, they're really up against the power and authority of Jesus, God Almighty
- 8) Authority of Believer NOT SPIRITUAL GIFT (all have it!)
- a. Authority rooted in Jesus and his finished work on the Cross
    - i. Colossians 2: 15 <sup>15</sup> [On the cross,] He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
    - ii. Matthew 28:18-19 - <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in <sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
    - iii. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. – James 4
    - iv. (LUKE 10, disciples given authority over evil spirits)
- 9) Using Our Authority
- a. Far too few believers are utterly ignorant about how to engage in the spiritual battle, that they have no idea how to use the authority we've been given
    - i. It's like being Thor and having no idea you could use your hammer to fight!
  - b. Commanding Demons to leave -> EVICTING
    - i. We are to use the authority of Jesus to help set ppl (including ourselves) free from demonic oppression
    - ii. Sometimes we can simply command evil spirits to leave from people or places in the name of JC
      - 1. Sometimes we are being oppressed not because of our sin, but as a spoiling attack, intimidation to get you to back down from ministry!

2. In these cases, exercise your authority to command our enemy to leave in JC's name.
  3. But often we must first remove the foothold before we can evict
- c. REMOVING FOOTHOLDS
- i. Sin → confession/repentance
    1. "In the name of JC, I confess my participation in \_\_\_\_\_. I renounce my participation in this sin and hereby cancel the ground in my life claimed by the enemy. In the name of Jesus, I now command any and every demon who took advantage of this legal ground to renounce their claim on me and leave now. You must go where the Lord Jesus sends you."
  - ii. Unforgiveness → Forgiveness
    1. Remember, a choice not a feeling
    2. Cancelling a debt owed you by an offender
    3. NOT the same as reconciliation – takes both ppl
    4. General steps:
      - a. Ask God to help you think about that person in the way which they're most offensive to you
      - b. Reflect on the negative emotions and consequences you've had to bear because what they've done
      - c. Declare out loud: In the name of Jesus, I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ (be specific)
      - d. Ask JC to help you see them the way He does and help you even learn to love them too
      - e. Pray a blessing over that person and ask the Lord to bring them true Good (perhaps repentance that leads to life!)
  - iii. If you're unsure if an eviction is needed, just pray IF
    1. Lord, IF the enemy has claimed a right to harass me because of this sin, then in the name of JC I command them to leave and go where the Lord Jesus sends him.
  - iv. Need to be done by the person who has been demonized
    1. Even if they repeat your words/prayers
    2. All of us called to minister – so even if you don't personally experience this, those you minister to likely will.
    3. And we need to know what to do.
  - v. **Stop and Write:**
    1. **What sin or unforgiveness might be giving a foothold to the enemy in your life?**
      - a. **If Sin, what sin?**
      - b. **If Unforgiveness, who do you need to forgive?**

#### 10) Cleansing Places/Property

- a. Neh 13:7-9
- b. Again, we don't necessarily need to assume we need to do this anywhere, but we'd be foolish to think we'd never run into territorial demonic issues.
- c. Simple as renouncing what may have taken place here in the past, command any evil spirits laying claim to that place to leave in Jesus' name, and inviting Jesus to fill the place with his presence
- d. I've done this!
  - i. early days of planting TG
  - ii. Dealing with prolonged time of great discouragement and anxiety internally, strife in our marriage. Something was wrong. And I was about out of gas.
  - iii. Mowing lawn while fam gone, had overwhelming sense that I needed to stop, go in and pray this over every room.

1. Felt super weird. I was extremely skeptical. But I was also desperate, and I had clearly sensed some direction with this.
2. SO I DID
  - a. Confessed whatever footholds could have allowed the enemy in
3. Later on prayed honestly with Jenn about footholds in our lives
4. And I kid you not, things have moved up from there. Markedly.
  - a. As much as my scientific mind wants to deny it

11) Let's revisit those scenarios I shared at the beginning

- a. Demonic / terror/pressure dreams?
  - i. Was this real spiritual attack?
  - ii. I wasn't sure, I'm pretty skeptical. But ultimately I thought so. Seemed to go far beyond my normal experience.
    1. I didn't sense it was connected with any foothold in my life, more likely intimidation associated with considering stepping out and planting tallgrass
    2. So Jenn and I prayed together. Commanded any demonic spirits to leave me alone in the name of Jesus Christ.
    3. And the dreams stopped. Immediately.
- b. Dread/terror (irrational) episodes prepping for relating to Sexuality talk
  - i. What about this? Real? Or just psychological?
  - ii. Again, wasn't sure. So Jenn and I prayed together.
    1. Asked the Lord that IF there was any spiritual attack or intimidation going on related to these episodes, that God would command them to leave me alone. And that he'd fill my heart with his peace and confidence.
    2. Felt some emotional relief immediately. But not tons.
    3. However, instant relief when done preaching.
- c. What about when the sound system didn't work right a couple wks ago when I was on vacation?
- d. How about last week when Jenn got sick on a Sunday?
  - i. Doubt it.
- e. Or this week in a difficult conversation Ben and I had with a fellow leader?
  - i. Not sure. Could go either way. So we prayed together. Asking for unity of heart and protection from the evil one against division.
- f. I've talked to ppl with stories of encountering seemingly clearer more direct demonic opposition or presence.
  - i. But I've not had that personally.
  - ii. And I'm naturally one of the most skeptical ppl you'll meet when it comes to this stuff!
  - iii. But I'm learning more and more to consider seriously the possibility of spiritual warfare impacting my real life.
- g. If we hold to a Biblical worldview, we must live in a world in the middle of a cosmic spiritual war!
  - i. And we need to know how to DEFEND ourselves!
- h. Far better to be too prepared than too ignorant
- i. Knowing, in our culture, this will likely mean learning to discern spiritual attacks MORE than we would have naturally.
  - i. If we guess wrong and something wasn't actually spiritual warfare, danger is minimal.
  - ii. But The danger is FAR GREATER if we DON'T exercise our great authority in the spiritual battle we're in, don't learn how to fight, how to defend ourselves, protect our families, release our neighbors from captivity

- iii. FAR worse to miss real spiritual attacks, to let it happen unopposed WHEN WE COULD HAVE PREVENTED IT. COULD HAVE protected our friends, our marriages, our children.
    - iv. We must teach our kids about spiritual warfare and how to fight!
      - 1. Because they're walking in these woods too. Only the most negligent parents wouldn't teach their kids about this stuff.
  - j. FINALLY, Keep the end in mind
    - i. We have not been left alone, defenseless.
      - 1. God has given us his very spirit to aid us in our fight.... To fight FOR US
      - 2. We've not been left alone in our plight!
      - 3.
    - k. We know how this war will play out!
      - i. The outcome is certain!
      - ii. Eventually will reach a head, Jesus will return
      - iii. And our enemy will be defeated and destroyed forever
    - l. WE WIN!!!!!!
      - i. Heaven and earth will merge
      - ii. We'll be resurrected finally fully free from sin and death,
        - 1. No more evil in ourselves, no more evil in our world.
        - 2. Everything made new
        - 3. And then ..... then ..... the real adventure
  - m. If you're here tonight and you don't know for sure that you're on Jesus' side,
    - i. Now's the time, run for your life and defect to the side of the Great lover of your soul
    - ii. Who's moving heaven and earth to seek and save you.
    - iii. Simply tell him you believe he is your only hope for life and freedom and hope. And you want in.

12) Resources for further study

- a. Satan and his Kingdom (library)
- b. What Every Believe should know about Spiritual Warfare (couple for sale)
- c. Screwtape Letters (library)

13) Q&A

- a. What's something from this talk that has STUCK out to you?
- b. Where do you sense God leading you to recognize spiritual warfare in your life?
- c. Perhaps a next step you're feeling called to take?
- d. What questions remain?

14) By 559pm - PRAY! – band comes up

## Chopping Block:

### 15) Using Our Authority – 3 basic uses (seen from scripture)

- a. Binding, Loosing, and evicting
  - i. Mat 12:29 - <sup>29</sup>Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.
  - ii. Mat 16:19 <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed<sup>[a]</sup> in heaven.”
- b. BINDING
  - i. Tying back prisoners – with ropes or chains
    - 1. We have the authority to bind back DEMONS in JC's name
  - ii. Bind back enemy so the person we're trying to help can function enough to express their will
    - 1. Sometimes person unable to complete prayers or verbalize renouncing legal ground in their lives
      - a. Until enemy bound in the name of JC so they couldn't interfere
    - 2. Otherwise very smart person suddenly gets stupid every time we talk about the bible
    - 3. Or mental blocks or foggy occur when were helping someone process or pray through forgiveness or confession
      - a. I've had this happen to me!!!
        - i. My otherwise sharp mind would get extremely foggy whenever we tried to think about or pray through a specific area of my life where I'd been agreeing with Satan!
        - ii. Not until a sister prayed over me to bind back satan's hindering influence here was I able to think clearly and move on with renouncing that lie!
          - 1. CRAZY!
  - iii. If you ever encounter these in your own heart, or with someone you're meeting with, simply stop and pray that Jesus would bind back the work of Satan
    - 1. If you're unsure, that's fine, just pray that IF there's any interference of the enemy here, they'd be bound back from interfering.
- c. LOOSING
  - i. Undoing bonds
  - ii. We BIND demons but we LOOSE people!
    - 1. From bonds demons have used to keep people in bondage
  - iii. Removes the legal ground the enemy uses to operate in our lives
  - iv. We do this through things like
    - 1. Forgiveness
    - 2. Renouncing lies we've believed
    - 3. Or canceling soul ties – demonic bonds that connect people together
      - a. Because of sin, abuse, especially sexual in nature
- d. EVICTING
  - i. Sometimes we can simply evict evil spirits from people or places in the name of JC
  - ii. But often BINDING and LOOSING are required first to allow legal ground to be removed
  - iii. Then we can evict
  - iv. Often times simply having someone confess sin and forgive those who've wronged them is sufficient.
  - v. Other times, a specific act of eviction is necessary
    - 1. Esp in cases of occult, violence, long-time/generational sins
  - vi. If you're unsure if an eviction is needed, just pray IF

1. Lord, IF the enemy has claimed a right to harass me because of this sin, then in the name of JC I command them to leave and go where the Lord Jesus sends him.
- vii. Sometimes Binding, Loosing, and Evicting still doesn't seem to work.
  1. Esp if still obvious demonic presence -- interfering or manifesting
  2. Then usually there's MORE legal ground that needs to be surrendered
  3. Pray covering all the bases
  4. Lord, please show us if we've missed anything.
- viii. Loosing and Evicting need to be done by the person who has been demonized
  1. Even if they repeat your words/prayers
- ix. Remember the 3Cs of Eviction – CONFESS, CANCEL, COMMAND
  1. Sin → confession/repentance
    - a. "In the name of JC, I confess my participation in \_\_\_\_\_. I renounce my participation in this sin and hereby cancel the ground in my life claimed by the enemy. In the name of Jesus, I now command any and every demon who took advantage of this legal ground to renounce their claim on me and leave now. You must go where the Lord Jesus sends you."
  2. Occult → renunciation
    - a. "I renounce my involvement with \_\_\_\_\_ ..."
    - b. We will encounter more and more ppl who are or have been involved in occult practices.
      - i. Don't gloss over this one.
      - ii. Even here in the west, Satan using power tactic, and perhaps increasingly so in coming days
  3. Unforgiveness → Forgiveness
    - a. Remember, a choice not a feeling
    - b. Cancelling a debt owed you by an offender
    - c. NOT the same as reconciliation – takes both ppl
    - d. General steps:
      - i. Ask God to help you think about that person in the way which they're most offensive to you
      - ii. Reflect on the negative emotions and consequences you've had to bear because what they've done
      - iii. Declare out loud: In the name of Jesus, I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ (be specific)
      - iv. Ask JC to help you see them the way He does and help you even learn to love them too
      - v. Pray a blessing over that person and ask the Lord to bring them true Good (perhaps repentance that leads to life!)
  4. Lineage → cut off
    - a. We don't often think about this one in our culture
      - i. Individualism
      - ii. But generational sins and susceptibility to the evil one are real!
      - iii. Follow 3 Cs, but confess sins of ancestors, as specific as you can
        1. And cancel ground claimed by enemy because of that sin, specifically cancel claims on future generations
- x. Stop and Write:
  1. Which of the SOUL acronym do you resonate with currently?
  2. What do you wonder might be giving a foothold to the enemy?
    - a. If Sin, what sin ?

- b. If Occult, what practices?
- c. If Unforgiveness, who do you need to forgive?
- d. If Lineage, what generational sins?

16) Relating to our Enemy in our churches: Churches (corporately)

a. Understand the mission

i. Wartime mentality (NOT peacetime)

1. Satan knows that the church is a great army advancing on HIS territory.
2. But if he can convince Xians that there really is no battle, and that they don't need to fight, he can get them to lay down their arms, quit advancing, and go to sleep.
  - a. Or chase butterflies
  - b. Or their career
  - c. Or money
  - d. Or their comfort
  - e. Or their kids happiness
3. ANYTHING that can get them to move from a wartime mindset, to a peacetime one.
  - a. He knows that this cripples the church
  - b. He's seen it time and time again
  - c. When Christians and churches forget they're in a war, they quickly and ultimately begin pursuing their own pleasures .
    - i. Church becomes about ME.
    - ii. What I want, prefer.
    - iii. Without any higher vision or calling, sacrifice for church stuff doesn't make sense
    - iv. Instead church becomes a social club, a flashy fluffy set of programs to keep me and my kids amused and comfortable.
    - v. And I'll go if I can. Unless I'm busy. Or tired.
      1. These churches can't get their people to commit, to keep meeting together.
    - vi. BECAUSE there's no urgent reason why I would if it doesn't meet my immediate felt needs.
  - d. These churches quickly get boring. And ppl move on to the next thing.
4. What a tragedy, when we're actually a giant army on the doorsteps of the enemy, on the CUSP of victory

ii. Offensive strategy!

1. We're raiding SATAN's house
2. And carrying out HIS TV out the front door.
3. Together stealing back people and places from his clutches. Rescuing them in the name and power of Jesus Christ.

iii. Go on the offensive in our relationships/neighborhoods