



People Spot Missile: Beware of the Enemy

I have heard the discussions of spiritual warfare. In the early days of my ministry, I didn't pay much attention. Maude would say, "the devil made me do that." Then we would laugh. I assumed that some people simply blamed their incompetence on the devil as an easy out. Believe me, some may have used that excuse. There is more to the story.

Then I spent 35 years of my ministerial life assisting new churches to begin and old churches to experience a resurrection. It was not long before spiritual warfare became a reality. The words of Peter are so real, "⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.* ⁷ *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* ⁸ *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* ⁹ *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*" I Peter 5:8-9

We are indeed in a spiritual battle. We have a significant enemy. He is satan or the devil whichever you would prefer. The spell checker wants me to capitalize the S in his name. I refuse to give him that much credit. Oh, I do understand his power and his desire to defeat the church.

How does he attack? Sometimes he goes after the leader. He doesn't always attack weaknesses but goes after the leader's strength. Sometimes he attempts to disrupt the body by creating tension between people. Sometimes the enemy attempts to disrupt by reducing the assets available to support ministry.

What happens as a result of these attacks? Ministry is hindered and sometimes destroyed. It can involve the obvious sins or any of a variety of issues. One of the most tempting for Christian leaders is to forget they are servants and have no power or authority apart from Him. Peter continues: "² *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;* ³ *not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.* ⁴ *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*" I Peter 5:2-4

Peter cites tools the enemy uses such as dishonest gain and lording it over others. We are to be willing servants and eager to serve.

A Thought: “The devil doesn’t bother churches he already owns. He only bothers churches that the have the potential to make a difference for the Kingdom.” Jim Moss, Sr.

I am now available to present “Starting a New Service”, “Churches Have Personalities”, “People Spots”, “Does Your Church Really Care About People?” and “A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills.” “Stewardship and Managing Debt” jm Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4—“A History of the Civil War as Presented by the Church Advocate!” are now available. It is a history without the varnish of revision.

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