



Tactic #1: Discouragement

MAIN THING

Satan's First Tactic is to try to get you to leave the battlefield before you ever fight

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 20:1-24

ICEBREAKER

The thing I like LEAST about the holiday season is

OPENING THOUGHT

The most powerful spiritual warfare tactic that Satan uses is discouragement. It is his #1 go-to weapon against us. He uses six very powerful words against us constantly- "You don't have what it takes." He constantly whispers in our ear, telling us to quit, that it isn't worth it, that we are wasting our time, that things will always be this way. Sound familiar? The reason he does this first and foremost is his desire to discourage us into leaving the battle before we ever fight. Satan knows that he cannot defeat God nor the people who walk in his power, so he tries to get us to leave without fighting. Unfortunately, many of us fall for it every day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. 2 Chronicles 20:1-24 shows us five steps to defeating discouragement in our lives: 1) Pray and fast, 2) Come Together As A Community, 3) Approach God in Complete Faith, 4) Wait For God's Answer, and 5) Do What God Tells You. Which of these steps is the easiest for you? Which is the hardest?
3. Think about a time when you faced crushing discouragement in life. How would things have been different if you had followed these five steps outlined in the Bible?

LIFE APPLICATION

Spiritual warfare is a real thing. It happens to everyone. It happens to your pastors. It happens to your children. It happens to you. Discouragement is one of the most powerful forces you will ever face in life. Discouragement can cause marriages to fall apart, careers to end, and worse. Discouragement in your walk with Christ will affect eternity for many people. When you are facing discouragement, immediately go to step one. Pray and fast. Go straight to God. If you only learn one thing this week- learn that. GO STRAIGHT TO GOD.

Pastor's note: discouragement is the number one danger to people in full-time ministry. I would say that in my 23 years of ministry, I've spent more time discouraged than encouraged. Satan's hand of discouragement is heavy on pastors. Make sure you are praying for those of us who lead churches and ministries, because chances are every person you see in ministry is in a season of discouragement. Seasons where we are NOT discouraged are few and far between.

CHALLENGE

Many of us simply don't recognize that we are in a war. Understand that discouragement is a battle tactic and respond appropriately. No, it isn't haphazard. No, it isn't random. How can we as a group encourage one another so we don't fall prey to Satan's first tactic of discouragement?