



Demoralization- “God Has Forsaken You”

MAIN THING

Satan’s fourth tactic is to isolate you from your commander in chief

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 5:1-11

ICEBREAKER

Which is worse- drinking unsweet tea when you thought it was sweet tea, or biting into a raisin cookie that you thought was chocolate chip?

OPENING THOUGHT

An important tactic in warfare is to jam communications between headquarters and the troops in the field. If soldiers can be isolated from their commanders, they will be ineffective in fighting. Satan employs this tactic constantly. He constantly interferes with our times of prayer, flooding our minds with urgent tasks and random memories and songs and whatever he can to distract us from concentrating. His goal is evident- he wants us to feel disconnected from God, which makes us more likely to believe that God has forsaken us.

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. Verse eight tells us to “alert and of sober mind.” What does that look like in the everyday life of the American Christian? What does the opposite of “alert and of sober mind” look like?
3. The sermon identified five things to fight demoralization: 1) Watch over each other, 2) Submit to each other, 3) Throw your anxiety at God, 4) Be Alert and Resist the Devil, and 5) Allow God to restore you. All of these things emphasize the importance of Christian community. Which of these things do we do well? Which of these things do we need work on?

LIFE APPLICATION

It is easy to get demoralized in this world. It is easy to lose focus, lose hope, and get discouraged. Satan understands that a demoralized army won’t put up much of a fight, so he tries to take away our very source of strength- our connection with God. If he can get the body of Christ to believe that God is distant, not listening, disconnected, doesn’t care, etc then he can get us to throw in the towel. The best way to fight this demoralization attempt is to be disciplined in prayer, consistent in study, and prioritize meeting together. Remember that a lion doesn’t charge the pack. A lion picks off the stragglers and ones outside the herd. Share with the group how you have had success in connecting with God and with others in the recent months.

CHALLENGE

Constant contact with God and with each other is essential to the Christian life. Without both of these, Satan can demoralize us into thinking that we are all alone, that God has forsaken us, that He doesn’t care. How can we as a church take our connection with 1) God and 2) each other to the next level this year?