

## **Don't S.T.O.P. Moving Forward!**

2 Corinthians 2:11 - For we are not unaware (kjb -ignorant) of his schemes.

Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Job 17:9 - the righteous shall move onward and forward; those with pure hearts shall become stronger and stronger.

### **1. Steal your weapons of spiritual warfare!**

He wants to disarm you!

The first is illustrated by our text.

1Samuel 13:17-23

17. Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three detachments. One turned toward Ophrah in the vicinity of Shual,

18. another toward Beth Horon, and the third toward the borderland overlooking the Valley of Zeboim facing the desert.

19. Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!"

20. So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plowshares, mattocks, axes and sickles sharpened.

21. The price was two thirds of a shekel for sharpening plowshares and mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads.

22. So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

23. Now a detachment of Philistines had gone out to the pass at Micmash.

In 2 Corinthians 10:4, Paul mentions the weapons of our warfare.

2 Corinthians 10:4 - The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Rom. 1:16 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

## **2. Turn your focus from the eternal to the temporal!**

Psalms 73:1-2

2. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

3. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The purpose of church can be summed up this way:

To MATURE the saints

To MOBILIZE them in service

Reinhardt Bonnke - "We are here to plunder hell and populate heaven!"

## **3. Obstruct your path with worldly obstacles!**

Sins of neglect – a failure to pray or spend time in the Word.

Sinful habits – produce guilt, bring discipline, and discredit our witness

Sinful attitudes – a love of money (avarice, covetousness), bitterness and offense towards other people, prejudices, etc.

#### **4. Pierce you with many griefs!**

1 Timothy 6:9-11

9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and PIERCED themselves with many griefs.

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

The devil wants to destroy you!

2 Tim. 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. I have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped.