

Lesson #7 - The Devil's Yard Sale - Be ready!

One day, the devil decided to hold a yard sale. Spread across a long table were all the tools he had used for centuries to destroy lives, break spirits, and pull people away from God. A man walking by stopped, curious about the strange collection. One by one, he began picking up the tools.

The first was a screwdriver. "How much for this?" the man asked.

"\$3," the devil replied with a grin. "It's one of my simplest tools, but very effective. Over time, I slowly drive screws into people's minds and hearts—fear, bitterness, shame, insecurity, offense. The deeper the screws go, the harder it becomes for them to break free. Eventually they feel trapped, helpless, and stuck."

The man nodded and picked up a hammer. "And this?"

"That one is \$5," the devil said. "The hammer is powerful because it creates pain. I use it to pound people with disappointment, suffering, loss, and discouragement. Blow after blow after blow. Eventually the pain becomes so constant that all they can focus on is their suffering. They stop seeing hope, purpose, or God's goodness."

Further down the table, the man noticed a pair of pliers. "What about these?"

The devil's eyes lit up. "Those are \$15. They're even more useful. With pressure, I can make people compromise. I squeeze them with stress, anxiety, financial burdens, temptation, and the need for approval. Under pressure, people often do things they never thought they would do. They make fearful decisions, abandon conviction, and lose peace. Pressure weakens them."

The man continued looking until he noticed an old crowbar sitting by itself at the far end of the table. It looked worn from constant use.

"How much for the crowbar?" he asked.

The devil immediately answered, "\$500." The man stepped back in shock. "Five hundred dollars? For an old crowbar?" The devil carefully picked it up and held it close. "That," he said quietly, "is my greatest tool."

"A crowbar is designed to separate things. If I can separate a person from God, I already have them. Separation is my ultimate goal. If I can convince someone to stop praying, stop trusting, stop believing, stop reading God's Word, stop fellowshiping with other believers—then little by little, they drift away from the very source of life."

He smiled darkly "Because separated from God, people lose sight of His power, His peace, His grace, His mercy, His wisdom, His protection, and His love. Once isolation

sets in, fear grows stronger, lies become believable, and hopelessness begins to take over.”

The devil leaned forward and whispered:“That crowbar has opened more doors for me than any other tool on this table. That’s why it costs the most.”

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” – 1 Peter 5:8

The Bible is filled with encouragement and with every answer we need to stand against the enemy. God has not left us defenseless in the battle against Satan, the temptations of our flesh, or the spiritual forces of darkness that seek to separate us from Him. Through His Word, He continually reminds us of three powerful commands: **Be strong, Don’t grow weary, Don’t lose heart**

1. Be Strong

God calls us to stand firm, not in our own strength, but in His power. The battle is spiritual, and victory comes when we remain rooted in Him.

Joshua 1: 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” – Ephesians 6:10

Remember Lesson#1 preparing your equipment and putting on the full armor of God

Call to Action

I must start the day by filling myself and not facing the world empty.

Meditate on God’s Word first thing in the morning, then continue returning to it throughout the day. Biblical meditation is not emptying the mind like eastern philosophies teach. It is filling the mind with the truth of God until His thoughts shape your thoughts, your words, your decisions, and your actions.

Continual meditation on Scripture is how the mind is renewed and aligned with the mind of Messiah. Remain faithful even when I cannot yet see results.

2. Don't Grow Weary

The enemy wants us exhausted, discouraged, and ready to quit. But God promises that in due season, perseverance produces a harvest if we refuse to give up.

Isaiah 40: 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint

Galatians 6: 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Call to Action: I must wait on the Lord and not grow anxious but to continue sowing truth, discipline, kindness, and obedience without growing weary, trusting that God's timing is perfect and that the harvest will come if I do not give up

3. Don't Lose Heart

Trials, suffering, and attacks may weaken the outer man, but God is strengthening us inwardly every day. Even in hardship, He is working for an eternal purpose greater than what we can see.

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

Call to Action:

I must stop being consumed by temporary struggles, distractions, and discouragement, and instead fix my eyes on God and His eternal promises. I must renew my mind daily through Scripture, remove habits and influences that weaken my endurance, practice faithful obedience in small daily decisions, and

continue moving forward even when life is difficult. True endurance is built by continually focusing on Yeshua, trusting God's timing, and refusing to give up when circumstances try to pull me away from faith

Be Ready!

The enemy is very crafty. He constantly tries to disguise his work as God's will, bringing confusion, fear, and discouragement. When facing a battle as serious as pancreatic cancer, my prayer is that God would guide me, give me wisdom and clarity, and clearly open and close the doors that I should or should not walk through.

Every single day, Satan comes at me with a crowbar, trying to discourage me and separate me from God. He uses the overwhelming complexity of navigating the medical system, the endless flood of supposed cures and false hope across social media and the internet, and the fear that comes from hearing countless stories and opinions.

But most of all, he tries to twist the stories of healing and miracles in the Bible into lies —trying to convince me that I'm somehow not worthy enough, faithful enough, or important enough for God to heal me.

But I do not believe those lies. I know how the crowbar works.

I know the enemy's goal is separation from God, and I refuse to let him pry me away from the One who gives me life, peace, strength, and hope. I know God's character. I know His heart. I know His love for me is real.

No matter what happens, I will continue to trust Him, walk with Him, and hold tightly to His promises.