



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“Landmines in the Path of the Believer”

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Landmines are devices placed in war-torn countries which are designed to explode once triggered. Similarly, in our Christian life, Satan places spiritual landmines in our paths for our destruction. Without exemption, our lives will always have trials and temptations; yielding to these will lead us to spiritual death. Therefore, let us be wary of all these spiritual landmines; let us put on God's armor, and walk safely with God (Eph. 6:10-18).

1. What are some of the Spiritual landmines Satan set for us? The spiritual landmines are Pride, Jealousy, Envy, Insecurity, Compromise, Unforgiveness, Disappointment, Fear, Sexual Sin, and Laziness. While God has given us tools to overcome these landmines, Satan uses subtle means to entrap us.

2. The many faces of Spiritual Landmines:

1. Satan does not want us to have a close relationship with the Savior. God created us for fellowship, but sins block us from God and our neighbors. We will not enjoy fellowship when jealousy, envy, insecurity, and fear are in our thoughts; pride also causes us to put ourselves first before God.
2. The enemy never wants us to focus on the Lord. He constantly sows thoughts of fear, insecurity, and jealousy to distract our thoughts on God and His word. We live in a world of comparison where social media shows those ahead or behind us. We must know that God primarily wants us to focus on Him.
3. The devil's primary goal in the life of a believer is discouragement. He wants us to give up and yield to sin. Sexual sins cause shame and can destroy relationships with friends.
4. Satan wants us to succumb to doubt and fear. An anxious person is an easy target for him.

However, God teaches us to be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:9).

3. Uncovering the landmines of your life. How do you discern and uncover what the enemy has placed in your life?

1. Surrender your life to the Lord. Your relationship with God is the most important line of defense that you have.
2. Ask Him to teach you the Truth. Put on God's armor daily (Eph. 6:10-18) and use the word of God as a weapon.
3. Be committed to following Him, even in times of difficulty. All believers will pass through difficulties in life. God tested the Israelites in the past and He will test us to this day. Conversely, God will spring forth His blessings.
4. Ask the Lord to give you Godly discernment and wisdom. The Holy Spirit Himself will give you these important spiritual gifts. Pray for them; they are essential in our daily life to lead us in our path to God. He knows where the landmines are; seek His will and obey once you recognize them.

Conclusion:

As Christians, we will always face trials and temptations along the way. These are Satan's landmines; they are in our paths and will trigger our destruction. God knows all the traps that Satan set for us, and He wants us to be conquerors (Rom. 8:37). We must pray non-stop to God and ask for the grace to win this battle.

Reflection:

1. What landmines are you facing right now?
2. How do you plan to overcome these traps set by Satan?
3. How do you seek God's wisdom and discernment to quash Satan's landmines?

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