

Don't Get Disconnected

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant (**level-headed, be on your toes, Stay alert!**); because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Recap

Being connected to God is like being connected to a power source.

Being connected to the Body of Christ is like being connected to a network.

It takes being connected to both God and the body to be a successful Christian.

I think it goes without saying, but you have to have a prayer life and be connected to God to be a Christian but as we have already established it takes being connected to the Body of Christ through a local church as well. There are over 100 commands in the Bible that you aren't able to obey without belonging to a local church.

You need to be connected to both: God and the body.

Part 3 - Don't get disconnected.

I've seen my fair share of friends, family, and fellow church members walk away from God. Somewhere along the way they got distracted by the things of this world and allowed themselves to get disconnected. My heart aches for those people. I'm quite sure Paul felt the same way:

2 Timothy 4:10a

10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;

Paul knew what it was to feel forsaken by a friend; to watch a close companion walk away from God.

Demas was not some random acquaintance. Demas was someone who did ministry with Paul. In Philemon Paul calls him a "fellowlabourer" and in Colossians we learn that Demas was even imprisoned with Paul, but obviously he was a shallow-rooted Christian because despite all they had been through together, Demas forsook Paul and he forsook God.

He allowed himself to get disconnected from the things of God and become entangled with the world, and we never hear about Demas again.

This world has nothing for you!

You might think that you can be connected to God and indulge in worldly pleasures at the same time. No!

1 John 2:15

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

James 4:4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

- 1 John 2 says a “love” for the world puts us in wrong standing with God, but James 4 says just a casual “friendship” with the world puts you in opposition to God.
- Just a **casual** connection to the world disconnects you from God.

Don't get disconnected!

You have an adversary and his goal is to disconnect you. The reason he wants to disconnect you is because ultimately he wants to devour you.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may **devour**:

God caused Peter to write those words because God wanted to tell us something about our adversary!

God wanted you to know that the devil is not just trying to throw a few obstacles in your way. He is not wanting to just make life a little difficult for you. His purpose is to **DEVOUR** you! He wants to absolutely destroy and demolish your life.

We often talk about God, and we ought to, but once in a while we need to talk about the devil and be reminded that we have an enemy of our souls that seeks to destroy us.

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

We are in a battle for our souls and it's against the devil. It's called spiritual warfare!

Ephesians 6:11-12

11 Put on the whole **armour** of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- How many contemplated wearing armour tonight? Of course you didn't! You only wear armour when there is a **battle** going on!

12 For we **wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

There is a battle raging, it is for your soul and the devil is playing for keeps.

Although there is a very real battle for my soul going on, I don't have to worry because I know that if I have the Holy Ghost and I am following after God:

1 John 4:4b

4b Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Your only responsibility in this battle for your soul is to stay closely **connected** to God and he will fight for me.

Romans 8:31

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

The enemy can't devour us if we are connected!

The problem is that the enemy is so strong, it's that sometimes we **DON'T** stay connected to God. We slack off in prayer, the Word, church attendance. We dabble in sin and when we do that, two things happen:

1. We grieve the Spirit of God (Ephesians 4:30 - grieve not the holy Spirit of God).
2. We give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27 - Neither give place to the devil).

Sin gives the devil a foothold. When you sin you willingly disconnect from God and step within the devil's reach and he begins devouring you.

- That's why the devil puts the world and sin on a silver platter and says, "Go ahead, try it!" because he needs to disconnect you in order to devour you.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, **as a roaring lion**, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

It's no wonder that the Bible compares the devil to a lion.

When a lion hunts its prey, it always pursues the one that is separated from the herd. It focuses on the one that's on the fringe and falling away from the rest of the pack. Just a handful of lions can startle a herd of dozens of buffalo and begin a chase. As long as the buffalo stay close to each other they will be fine, but as soon as one begins to fall away and get separated the lions will leave the herd to go in and devour the one that is disconnected.

The devil works the same way. He knows he is no match for the body of Christ so he does what he can to disconnect you because the only way he can devour you is if he disconnects you.

Don't get disconnected!