

ESCAPE FROM THE TRAP OF THE DEVIL

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II Timothy 2:26

The enemy moves to and fro seeking to destroy whom he can destroy. The devil is still real. Where God erects a house of prayer the devil finds a chapel there. He is trying to take you out. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy because Timothy would have to come to the forefront and become an effective minister when Paul was gone. He warned Timothy that the devil will use traps to keep him from becoming an effective minister. The enemy is trying to get us to do the will of the devil so that we cannot do the will of God. He is using traps against us. He uses these traps to keep us from accomplishing the will of God.

One of the traps he uses is **arguments**. **II Timothy 2:14** We are always arguing about our differences. Instead of coming to church to get correction and direction from God, we come to church to get ammunition to fuel our arguments. Therefore, we win the argument but lose a soul, a family member, or a friend.

Another trap the devil is using is **accusations**. He accuses us by causing us to remember what we did in the past. The devil accuses us day and night causing us not to do what God wants us to do because we are tripping over the accusations. We focus on our past rather than being more productive in the present. Most the accusations are true but they are things you have done in your past. It is a trick of the enemy. The next time the enemy tries to get you to sit down and not participate because of what you have done in the past, stand on the blood of Jesus Christ that has forgiven you and do what God called you to do.

You get out of the traps with the enemy with the truth. No matter what you are trapped in, truth will get you out of it. **II Timothy 2:15** You shall know the truth and the truth shall liberate you. How do you get to the truth? You have to “study and show yourself approved.” In the text, study means to put forth your best effort. Study means be earnest. You have to stop being indifferent when it comes to the things of God. God is tired of us being nonchalant about His work. God is looking for someone who is going to put forth his or her best effort. He is not asking you to be like someone else. He is just asking you to use your gift to the best of your ability and give it all you got. Put forth your best effort to show yourself approved. You shouldn’t be trying to please people. You should be trying to please God. Most of us are so concerned with others’ opinions about our service we cannot put forth our best. When you are trying please people, you are not pleasing God. When you are trying to please God, you are not pleasing people. Which one would you rather please?

God is testing us. When God puts you in a heated situation, He is trying to burn the hell (impurities) out of you. He is not forsaking you. The next time you go through a heated situation, understand God is trying to better you. Don’t be ashamed because you will then be in the position to rightly divide the Word of truth. If you don’t know how to rightly handle the Word of truth you won’t be able to recognize when someone is wrongly using the Word of truth. Study the Word for yourself. Learn the Word for yourself. Don’t use the excuse you don’t understand it. The power is not in your understanding; it is in the Word of God. Read the Word anyway. The blessing is in your reading it. The Word always goes to the area in your life where it is needed.

II Timothy 2:20 We have been dealing with truth, not lies. The truth will get you into the house God wants you to be in. God is not against prosperity. You get to that big house with the Word. You don't have to reject the Word to get wealth. You can't get wealth without work. Don't listen to the false prophets who say you don't have to work to obtain wealth. God wants you to work. Work is honorable. All of us are instruments of God. We all are on the same level. **II Timothy 2:22** When you get a big house and you have purpose, you need to stay away from "youthful lust." When you are successful and clean, youthful lust will run after you. You don't have to run after it. Flee from youthful lust and run after righteousness, faith, (agape) love, and peace. It is not easy being a Christian. It is not easy trying to do right by people who are not trying to do right by you. But if you stop running towards the right things, there are some things that are going to catch up with you. Keep running after righteousness even when others stop. You have to keep on going. Don't negotiate with youthful lust. You are flirting, emailing, and texting with youthful lust. You can't play with sin. **II Timothy 2:23** If sordid sin catches up with you, the consequence will be "stupid questions." "Do you love me know?" "Are we going to get married now?" "Are you going to take care of my kids now?" "Do you respect me?" "Are you going to move in?" "Are you going to leave your family now?" Those are stupid questions. Conversations should come before connection. Most men don't like questions. If a brother cannot handle normal questions, he sure can't handle stupid questions. Maybe it is not the stupid questions they can't handle. Maybe it is the honest answers we cannot handle. If they aren't already what they are supposed to be before you connect with them, your kissing them will not change human nature. If anyone be in Christ (not in you) he/she will be a new creature. If they are not your prince up front, your kiss will not change them into one.

No matter what you are trapped in, you can be transformed. Understand no one else can change you but God. **II Timothy 2:25** You have to repent to be transformed. Repentance is the changing of mind. When you change your mind, you change your ways. When you change your mind, you can escape from the traps of the devil. It is time for you to be set free. God knows all who call upon Him. He has already given you what you need to be set free. **II Timothy 2:19** When you got saved, God gave you a code word so that no matter what you are trapped in God can come in and set you free when you use that code word. What is the code word? It is the name of the Lord. There is power, deliverance, and freedom in the name of Jesus. The Lord will set you free. Just call on His name.

Peace.

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