Fan the Flame

Zanesville, OH | October 21, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** 2 Tim. 1:6

**Intro**:

* If I told you that the strongest Christian you know in regard to their faith will forsake the Lord this time next week, would you believe me? If I told you that men who have been disciples for years, some even serving as elders, engaged in unthinkable actions and practices and handed themselves over to Satan, would you believe me? Families have been destroyed, lives ruined, and spirits broken down because sin took its course and the devil prevailed. It can happen to the strongest person in this room the same as it can happen to the weakest. We have to be proactive and **Fan the Flame** if we want to have any hope of overcoming.

**Keep the Fire Going**

1. **The Devil wants you to fail**
	1. The devil thrives on our weaknesses, pain, suffering and hardships (cf. Matt. 4:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:5). When we are down, he wants to keep pushing us down.
	2. He pretends to have our best interest at heart but it’s only a ploy to destroy us (cf. Gen. 3:1-5, 22-24). He is like a lion constantly looking for the prey (1 Pet. 5:8-9). The devil functions best by telling us what we want to hear through lies and deceit (cf. Jn. 8:44).
	3. His goal is to put your fire out. He has no interest in seeing your light shine. He has no interest in watching it go halfway out. He wants to extinguish it completely and the only person preventing that from happening is you (cf. Rev. 2:4-5).
2. **Maintain Discipline and Seek Christ**
	1. Maybe you’ve encountered the devil on multiple occasions recently. You’ve given in to the weaknesses. You’re neck deep in sin. You are battered, bruised and maybe even broken. The flame isn’t completely gone yet but it’s at the pilot light stage.
	2. The key now is what you will do with the situation at hand. There is still some fight left, and you know this isn’t what you want, and it definitely isn’t what God wants. So, with what you have left you crawl out of his grasp and you run towards God as fast as you can! Put distance between you and the devil. Put distance between you and your weakness (cf. Matt. 4:11; 1 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 4:27; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22; Jam. 4:7).
	3. Having done that, you are now on the side of the real lion! The bible says the devil is like a lion, but he isn’t the real deal. Jesus is! The devil pretends and uses a cover to lure you in, but Jesus doesn’t pretend (Amos 1:2; 3:8; Rev. 5:5).
	4. His aim, His goal is to fight for you (Deut. 3:22; Rev. 17:14). He has your best interest in mind and He wants to cover up those bruises, those scars and those painful injuries and memories (cf. Rom. 5:8-19). Jesus wants you find peace; peace that we cannot find anywhere else (Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7).
	5. **Put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18).**
		1. **Pray to Jesus**. He knows exactly what you are going through. He was tempted in all points just like us (cf. Heb. 4:15-16). If there is anyone who can help to overcome and fan the flame it’s Him.
		2. **Study His word**. It is sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb (cf. Psa. 19:10). There is a tremendous source of comfort, safety and security that we can only find in God’s message. It can motivate us and give us the strength to keep moving forward (cf. 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
		3. **Put what you’ve learned into action.** In order keep the flame going the actual fanning must be involved. In other words, we must put into action what we study and learn (cf. 1 Tim. 6:11-12; Jam. 1:22-25).
3. **Lean on your Family**
	1. While Jesus is our primary help and our primary source of comfort, He died and established a family (cf. Eph. 5:25-27). A family that is there to provide love, encouragement and strength for times such as these.
	2. We need to bear one another’s burdens (cf. 1 Cor. 12:26; Gal. 6:2). The moments where Job’s friends were best helpful during his dilemma, was when they sat down and mourned with him. They took on his burden as if it was their own (cf. Job 2:11-13).
	3. Some may not want the extra burden or the pressure of having to do such things. What if it was us going through such a hard time and we needed our family the most and they weren’t there for us. How would that make us feel?
	4. A family can’t be at its best unless everyone is doing their part (1 Cor. 12:14-26). As members of Christ’s body, we should all be applying the effort necessary to support one another so we can be unified and strengthened (cf. Rom. 15:1-2; Eph. 4:11-16). When this takes place the flame grows, and it becomes harder to put out.

**Do you want to see God?**

1. Fan the flame
2. Resist the devil; Don’t give him an opportunity
3. Run to God and put on the armor; Pray, Study and Apply
4. Reach out to your family