

The Christian's Situational Awareness Pt. 2

October 21, 2018

Situational Awareness:

- **Perception** - *giving strict attention to observe*
- **Comprehension** - *understanding the meaning of what is happening behind the circumstance(s)*
- **Projection** - *to know in advance what will happen if this continues*

#1 - Satan's Strategy - Wear Down the Saints

Daniel 7:25 ESV

25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out (*běla'* - Aramaic, wear away, harass constantly, wear out) the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

#2 - Satan's Strategy - Vicious Attacks by Satan Targeting Our Weaknesses

2 Corinthians 2:11 ESV

11 so that we would not be outwitted (*pleonekteō* - get an advantage, make a gain) by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs (*noēma* - mind, device, thought).

- *We are not warring blindly. Satan has clearly defined battle strategies which are exposed in the Scriptures. We can learn what to watch for, how to prepare ourselves for warfare, how to fortify and protect our weaknesses.*
- *Like any commander or general at war, Satan will viciously target our weaknesses, failures and sins.*

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful (*grēgoreō* - be vigilant, watch, be cautious, give strict attention to, be awake). **Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

- *Satan is not omnipresent nor omniscient. He cannot read our mind nor discern our motives. But he does observe and note our weaknesses, our sins and the pattern of our choices.*
- *Satan's battle strategies have been exercised, honed and proven effective throughout the history of man.*

Genesis 4:7 NASB

7 [God speaking to Cain] "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

- *Like a prowling lion, Satan is watching and waiting for just the right instant to strike.*
- *We put on the full armor of God every day every hour, never relaxing our guard.*

- We must “master” sin - not by the flesh or self-discipline (that is impossible), but by the Spirit and power of God.

Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV

11 **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able (dynamai - to be capable, strong, powerful) to stand (histēmi - to make firm, fix, establish, uphold, sustain) against the schemes (methodeia - cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery, wile, lie in wait) of the devil.**

- As with Eve in the garden and Jesus in the wilderness, Satan's baseline scheme is to entice and inflame the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

Genesis 3:6 ESV

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Matthew 4:1-11 ESV

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple

6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Matthew 26:36-38 ESV

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

Luke 22:41-44 ESV

41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be

done."

43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Matthew 26:52 ESV

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

Matthew 16:21-23 ESV

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

- *Satan knew exactly how and when to strike at Jesus when Jesus was the most vulnerable.*
- *Jesus could see the schemes of Satan at work behind the conversation and the circumstances.*

Proverbs 5:22-23 ESV

22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare (*lakad - to capture, seize, catch in a net, trap or pit*) him, and he is held fast (*tamak - to grasp, hold, seize*) in the cords of his sin.

23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

- *Recurring sin is very different from occasional sin.*
- *Occasional sin:*
 - *caught and momentarily overcome in in the heat of the moment, or the surprise of the moment, or the stress of the moment, but there is no recurring pattern*
 - *there is genuine grief and godly sorrow afterward, with a clear and determined intent for it to never happen again*
- *Recurring sin:*
 - *a repeating pattern*
 - *the sin is less and less repulsive*
 - *A diminishing resistance to the sin (it's easier and easier to commit the sin)*

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

6 **being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.**

- *Areas of recurring failures and sins are strongholds in our hearts, minds and lives which Satan repeatedly targets.*
- *Recurring sins not only exposes the weakness in our flesh but an area where Satan has established a stronghold.*
- *Areas of recurring failures and sins which are not cleansed, fortified and transformed by God's sanctification are doors left open for Satan to enter and leverage against us.*
- *Areas of recurring failures and sins not only give Satan access, but are strongholds from which Satan can capture more territory. Sin not confronted will only and always spread.*
- *Recurring sins that are not weakening or crucified are growing in strength and in scope.*

Proverbs 25:28 ESV

28 A man **without self-control** is like **a city broken into and left without walls.**

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 ESV

25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

26 So **I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.**

27 **But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.**

2 Peter 2:20-22 ESV

20 For if, **after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

21 For it would have been **better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment** delivered to them.

22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

Proverbs 26:11 ESV

11 Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

How to Stop Recurring Sin

1. **Confess Your Sin** - *don't hide, deny or excuse sin*

1 John 1:9-10 ESV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

James 5:16 ESV

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

2. Target the sin in your heart and conduct - surrender the sin to God for mortification

Colossians 3:5-8 ESV

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

3. Give God's Word an abundance of space and time - study, meditate, pray

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

4. Draw on God's limitless grace - the ability is not in you to walk from sin

Galatians 5:16-18 ESV

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

5. Embrace God's chastening - He chastens us to purify us

Hebrews 12:10 ESV

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.