Keys To Resilient Faith Part 2

Introduction: During the first part of this message we identified four enemies of faith that are exposed in the parable of the Sower. These enemies are: Lack of Understanding, Affliction , Persecution, and Offense. We then identified three Keys to overcoming these enemies which are: Exercising Biblical Humility, Remembering Past Victories, and Recognizing Who Our True Enemy Is. Tonight we will identify three more enemies to our faith and reveal Keys to overcoming these enemies.

Main Text: *Mark 4:14-20 NLT*

*The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others. [15] The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. [16] The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. [17] But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word.* ***[18] The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, [19] but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.*** *[20] And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”*

**Enemy Number Five is The Worries of This Life**

This enemy can be a trickery one to get a handle on. Because in our pursuit of trying to be responsible people we can easily get out balance if we allow fear to produce worry in our heart.  **(Emphasize this statement)** **We can take a Godly Mandate and mix it with fear and that word that was meant to give direction and guidance can turn into a condemning taskmaster that leads to death.** An example of this could go like this:

**Each of the following earthly responsibilities and relationships can drive us to worry if we trust in their own strength to fulfill the God given mandate.**

*2 Thessalonians 3:10 NLT (Responsibility to provide for our family)*

*Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.”*

*Ephesians 5:1 NLT (Relationship with God)*

*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.*

*Ephesians 5:21-26 NLT (Relationship with our spouse)*

*And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. [22] For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. [23] For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. [24] As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. [25] For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her [26] to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.*

Each of the verses above represent Godly mandates, but if we trust in our own strength to fulfill these Godly mandates then it will lead to worry, which will choke out the life giving power of God’s Word.

**Key Number Four: Resting In God’s Promise To Care For You & Live Through You**

*Matthew 6:24-33 NLT*

*“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. [25] “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?*

*[26] Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? [27] Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? [28] “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, [29] yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. [30] And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?* ***[31] “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ [32] These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. [33] Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.***

**(Illustration)** Following the Holy Spirit versus trusting in my own strength to receive guidance is like the difference between using a map to get a destination versus using a GPS system.

*Philippians 2:13 AMP*

*For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure*.

\***As we spend more time with God (practicing His presence) we will increasingly reflect His image through our thoughts and actions without us relying on willpower, but simply through the transformation that happens through fellowship\***

**Enemy Number Six is The Lure of Wealth (Deceitfulness of Riches)**

The Attraction of Wealth can be very deceptive, because the reality is that you can do a lot of things with financial provision. In the world system it represents power and is the ultimate goal of many people living in the natural world system, however those of us who are Kingdom citizens (Born Again Believers) are warned to not look at money as our source, but simply as a resource or tool to be used to serve God and mankind.

God warns us of the dangers of trusting in wealth throughout His Word:

*Proverbs 11:28 KJV*

*He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.*

*Matthew 19:16-26 NLT*

*Someone came to Jesus with this question: “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” [17] “Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.” [18] “Which ones?” the man asked. And Jesus replied: “‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. [19] Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” [20] “I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?” [21] Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”* ***[22] But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. [23] Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. [24] I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” [25] The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. [26] Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”***

(Trusting in money will blind us to the riches that can only be found by living in intimate relationship with Jesus)

*1 Timothy 6:9-10 NLT*

*But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

**Key Number Five is Remembering Jesus is You True Source**

When we realize that God is our One and Only True Source then we can be in a place where we can possess physical wealth without it possessing us. And a practical way to exercise this is in the area of giving. Paul gives us an illustration of this in his letter to Timothy:

*1 Timothy 6:17-19 NLT*

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. [18] Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. [19] By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

**Enemy Number Seven is the Desire (Lust) for Other Things**

The one thing all of the enemies we have talked about have in common is that they are all means of distraction. Anxiety and an Inordinate desire for physical wealth were both identified specifically. But this last enemy The Lust/Strong Desire for other things encompasses anything that else that we encounter in life that draws us away from time with God. This list could one for a long time with different things that we can develop a desire for that can swole up our time and dull our desire to spend time with God ...Netflix, Bingo, Housewives of Atlanta, NFL, Baseball, etc.

**Key Number Six is Remembering God’s Love for You (Which will result in your Love for Him to Remain at the Forefront of your)**

*1 John 4:14-19 NKJV*

*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. [15] Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. [16] And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

*[17] Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. [19] We love Him because He first loved us.*

As we remain in daily contact with God through worship, prayer, scripture reading, serving others, fellowshipping with other believers we are actively relating to God thus cutting off the opportunity for “other things” to rob us of seeing God’s Word produce fruit in our lives.

Therefore, the last Three Keys to Resilient Faith Identified Tonight are:

**Resting In God’s Promise To Care For You & Live Through You**

**Remembering Jesus Is Your True Source**

**Remembering God’s Love For You**