

Wednesday Word

1/10/2024

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

I love snow days! There is nothing more satisfying than looking outside in the morning and seeing a fresh, thick, untouched blanket of snow covering everything. It looks so clean and peaceful. It's almost like nature's way of giving you a fresh start and a day off. I especially loved it as a kid because it meant the best thing of all: No School!

I grew up in University Place by Narrows Bridge. Much of the city is built on layers of hills starting at the Puget Sound and building up by layers up the hills to Tacoma (This made for great bike riding). Growing up most of my high school friends lived up the hills from my house and I would walk up to go hang out with them.

One winter day it snowed about six inches and school was cancelled. There were hardly any cars on the main roads and none on the back roads I would use to travel to friend's homes. On this snow day in 1996 my friend Brian Jones and I were walking down one of these hills from his house to mine. In one of the front yards, we saw two elementary age kids building a pile of snowballs. As we passed by, they threw a few at us. Naturally we returned fire not thinking much of it as they were just two little kids. What happened next was like something out of a great war movie. From behind bushes, out of trees and behind garbage can charged at least 15 other kids with snowballs-It was an ambush! It took about one or two snowballs to the head for Brian and I to realize we were out matched; we hadn't expected this or seen it coming. We ran for our very lives down the hill as a hail of snowballs descended upon us. As we put more distance between us and the ambush, we were finally safe. I will never forget this as long as I live.

On this day I was ambushed with seemingly harmless snowballs, I have since discovered the spiritual attack on my life every day is much different. The weapons formed against me are real, are destructive and are intentionally aimed at me. The devil is constantly looking for ways in my life to ambush me. I have learned that if I do not remain vigilant in prayer, in scripture and in the Spirit, I will be overtaken by these attacks.

We have a very real, determined and vicious spiritual enemy that is bent on destroying everything righteous in our lives. Our marriages, our families, our relationships, our finances, and most important our relationship with God. We must in this hour be spiritual vigilant, sober minded, discerning and connected with our God to stand against what is coming at us, looking to catch us off guard.

I wish I could say the strategy against the people of God is going to subside, that once we stand against one attack, we will be free-but the opposite is actually true. The stronger we stand, the longer we resist, and the more we engage with our God, the more the attacks will come. We are seeing a growing movement in culture seeking to destroy, discredit, and ruin the church and the people of God. We cannot be unaware, and we cannot put down our arms.

Let's commit today to standing on the Word of God; Standing by and with our brothers and sisters in Christ; to prayer and discernment and understanding of the enemy's cultural strategies to deceive us. The church is facing these same attacks across the globe and now is the time to

come together, around the Word of God and the Unity of the Spirit and turn our hearts and attention toward our God and rely on Him for strength in the battle and wisdom to overcome. When we put our trust in God, we have 100% outcome of victory. Our God never loses a battle. He never has and never will!