

LIVE IN SAFETY TAKEAWAY

Key Point:

To underestimate the enemy is to invite his attack.

The enemy is real and his intention isn't simply to hinder; his objective is to destroy us as believers. He aims to undermine your trust in God and your belief in who you are to Him. Since he can't steal your salvation, he settles on damaging your walk, crushing your spirit, and causing you to doubt.

- 1) Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. What are some ways Peter tells you to guard yourself from inevitable attacks?

- 2) Recall a time when underestimating the enemy led you to a wilderness season. Share its outcome.

Key Point:

Safety in Numbers: Don't venture away from the body.

- 3) What are some reasons Christians might pull away from the body of believers? Have you experienced this?

- 4) How can being isolated from other believers expose you to an attack from the roaring lion?

- 5) Why does having the few, those believers who walk more closely with you, matter?

- 6) Who are your few?

Key Point:

Safety in the Present: Live in today. Thrive in today. Make an impact today.

- 7) Do you see the present as a gift to be opened and appreciated? List some of today's blessings below.

- 8) How can you practically make the most of each day you're given?

Key Point:

Safety in God's Word: Internalizing God's Word is your safety net and ammunition.

- 9) Read Matthew 4:1-11. How can knowing and internalizing Scripture help you during your weakest moments? What are your own "it is written" statements that help you when in crisis?

- 10) Opposition is an opposing force, while oppression holds you down and renders you ineffective. Think of a time when you've experienced both. What have you learned that will arm you for future attacks?

Key Point:

Safety in God's Plan: God's timing and plan can be trusted.

- 11) How have you hindered the work of God in your life by your own impatience?

- 12) Have you ever had to back up and go down a different path after running ahead of God's plan?

Key Point:

Safety in God's Presence: Be vigilant in maintaining your nearness to Jesus.

- 13) Have you ever erected walls between yourself and Jesus because of your mistakes or your misunderstanding His ways? Give examples.

When seasons come and you feel at all displaced from the presence of God, the remedy is as easy as leaning into the next-to-you Jesus. He hasn't moved.

- 14) Are you prone to such guilt and shame over your failures that you feel the need to keep rehashing and confessing them? Or do you simply accept God's forgiveness and choose to walk with Him again?

- 15) Develop your own safety principles by noting what can get you off track. Narrow in on activities, attitudes, or actions.

LIVE IN TODAY'S LIGHT TAKEAWAY

"Yesterday has lost its grip and tomorrow has no cause for concern for the one who's dancing with Jesus today."
– You. Are. Loved.

Key Point

Today: Focus on what now rather than what's next.

- 1) Are you a today dweller, or are you known to time hop in unhealthy ways? If you tend to time hop, how does that affect your present reality?

- 2) What is your now? What does the Lord have in your life and on your plate that you know He is calling you to focus on? Consider family, career, and ministry responsibilities.

- 3) Read Psalm 23:1-3 aloud, saying "today" at the end of each complete phrase. In your days to come, what can you do differently to keep your mind fixed on the promise of today? How might the practice of "What now, Lord?" help you to better walk with your Shepherd of today?

Key Point:

Yesterday: A look back can remind, help, and teach.

- 4) When you look at your past, are you more prone to dwell on your glory days and proud accomplishments or on hardships and past failures? What are the pros and cons of each?

Pros: _____

Cons: _____

- 5) Yesterday can be an invaluable teacher. List a few vital lessons that yesterday has taught you.

- 6) Problems arise when our visit to the past becomes a stay-cation. How can you maintain a healthy balance when looking back to learn from the past?

Key Point

Tomorrow: Focusing on tomorrow can disable, disillusion, and disappoint.

- 7) Fear over tomorrow can disable. Are there any future fears that cause you crippling anxiety? What truth does Jesus share in Matthew 6:34?

- 8) In our chaotic last-days world, disillusionment is a tactic of the enemy, one intended to keep us still and silent. How can the simplicity of answering your call and fulfilling the works God has for you (Ephesians 2:10) be your way of pushing back against the rising darkness?

- 9) Disappointment can wreak havoc on your faith. When things don't turn out as you envision, consider that you may have forecasted a future that God never planned. How can 1 Corinthians 2:9 encourage you?

- 10) We must make tentative plans. How can you safely glance at the future to make wise decisions today?

You. Are. Worth. It.

- 11) On page 144, I mentioned how God considers you worth His time and effort as evidenced by His faithful love for you and relentless pursuit of you. How does it impact you to know He has been chasing after you all along?

- 12) The worth of an item is determined by the price paid. Do you realize just how valuable you must be to God that He would pay with His Son's life to make you His? Write your prayer of gratitude below.
