

Series: Hidden Dangers & Building Skills (part 3)

Skill: Expecting Challenges to Grow as We Do

Sermon Introduction:

1. Do we face increased challenges as we gain experience? Yes No
2. Does that fact sometimes make us feel like we are inadequate? Yes No

Why Challenges Grow Instead of Decrease

1. Challenges grow because the _____ wants to make us _____ (1 Peter 5:8-11)
 - a. To what is the devil likened in this passage? _____
 - b. We must be _____ and aware of the _____!
 - c. The enemy does not go _____ on those who have had a _____ life.
 - d. The enemy will not give us time to _____ from _____ events.
 - e. The enemy WILL attack us where we are _____.
 - f. The enemy WILL try _____ tactics when we grow stronger in a particular area.
 - g. It is easier to resist the enemy when we are surrounded by _____ Christians!
 - h. God can turn these _____ into opportunities for _____!
2. Challenges grow because we are _____ of Christ (2 Timothy 2:1-13)
 - a. _____ Christian is fighting a _____ war as a soldier in God's army.
 - b. Wars are not _____, nor are they _____. We cannot expect our war to be _____.
 - c. Since the enemy is out to _____ us, we must not get _____ from the struggle we are in.
 - d. Vs. 5, Athletes – We must follow God's _____ to be victorious.
 - e. Vs. 6, Farmers – We will be _____ for our hard work.
 - f. Vs. 7-10, Paul and all other faithful soldiers of Christ face _____ and _____ for the sake of Christ.
3. Challenges grow because with maturity comes _____ (Galatians 6:1-10)
 - a. Not only do the mature need to handle their _____ struggles, they help the _____ handle their struggles as well.
 - b. This is not a _____ challenge, but it is often a _____.
 - c. Not only do the mature need to handle their _____ struggles, they must do so which a _____ attitude.
 - d. This is not a bad _____, but it is _____ a challenge.
 - e. While maturity comes with responsibility, it also comes with _____!

How to Be Prepared for Those Increased Challenges

1. Put on the _____ of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 - a. "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to _____ against the schemes of the devil."
 - b. Armor is intended to _____ you from _____!
 - c. "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to _____ in the evil day, and having done everything, to _____."
 - d. _____ armor protects us from _____ attacks!
 - e. The Armor of God
 - i. The belt of _____
 - ii. The breastplate of _____
 - iii. Shod your feet with the preparation of the _____ of _____
 - iv. The Shield of _____
 - v. The Helmet of _____
 - vi. The Sword of the Spirit which is the _____ of _____
 - f. This armor prepares us to _____ the growing challenges we face!
 - g. "With all _____ and petition _____ at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,"
2. Know When to Make a Tactical _____ (1 Corinthians 10:12-14)
 - a. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take _____ that he does not _____."
 - b. _____ face the _____ temptations that you do.
 - c. "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are _____, but with the temptation will provide the way of _____ also, so that you will be able to endure it."
 - d. We must strive to _____ temptation, not try to face it _____.
 - e. It is easier to overcome temptation when we are _____ by strong Christians!
 - f. "Therefore, my beloved, _____ from idolatry."

Conclusion:

- I. Don't be surprised when you face _____ challenges as you _____ spiritually.
- II. _____ on to maturity, _____ the full armor of God, _____ the devil.
- III. It will not be _____, but the _____ is worth it!