



THOSE WHO WANDER

Week 36 | February 3, 2025

The Enemy loves to attack **veterans** of the faith, seeking to cause those who *walk closely* with the Lord and lead others in doing so to **stumble** and **fall**, for he knows the havoc this can wreak among the flock. Even more so, though, he aspires to take out *new believers* while they are still young and ill-equipped for the **spiritual warfare** that quickly comes their way, seeking to *cut short their growth* before they fully realize how to **access the power** that now *resides within*. Likewise, our Enemy also revels in attacking those going through or **coming out of trauma**, for much like the young believer they are most vulnerable to his **schemes** and *susceptible* to his deception. (Luke 8:4-15)

It is both **heartbreaking** and **infuriating** to witness these assaults, for they are much like that of a *predator* who targets the weakest and most vulnerable of the herd. Satan and his forces show **no mercy** in their hunt, though, and many are *led astray* before fully developing into **the warriors** they were meant to be. With so many having *wandered off course* as a result of these cowardly ambushes it can be easy to **grow discouraged**. We are not *without hope*, however, for we serve a God who fights ferociously for the **runaway child** and who *chases down* the wayward sheep! Let us join Him in this **battle** and **pursuit** today, *waging war in the Spirit* against all who would seek to **distract** and **divide** God's children from their *loving Father*, asking Him to:

1. Deepen the **ROOTS**. (Luke 8:13)

- a. **NOTE:** The leading cause of drift among Christians is a **lack of depth**. While their *zeal* and *passion for development* is admirable and to be desired, those who attempt to **grow higher** without first *going deeper* are quickly blown apart when the **storms of life** come through. We live in a culture that prioritizes *speedy and rapid* results, but what we truly need now is men and women of God with **deep** and **firmly established** foundations *built on the word of God*. Let us ask the Lord to give His children a desire to grow in ways that may not be **obvious** or **flashy**, but which *lay the groundwork* for long-term faithfulness and **fruitfulness**. (Colossians 2:7; Ephesians 3:17; Prov. 12:3)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for **planting** Your *seeds of truth* into our hearts. Thank You for **speaking** to us, *revealing Yourself* powerfully and personally through **Your word**. Please continue to *water* and *nurture* the seeds that were planted so their roots might **grow deep** into our being, that we might *produce much fruit* in the days to come and not be shaken by the **storms of life**. Give Your children a *longing* to deepen their relationship with You and the **discipline** to *invest the time* required to know You more intimately."
 1. **REMEMBER:** Depth is often **invisible** from *the surface*, but its results are **undeniable** in the end. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

2. Strengthen the **FELLOWSHIP**. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

- a. **NOTE:** We are **weakest** when *isolated* and **strongest** when *united*. The Enemy knows this and works tirelessly to **separate** God's children from one another, *intentionally attacking* those relationships in our lives that have been most influential in pointing us to **the Father**. As we fight for those *prone to wandering*, we must pray specifically for the reinforcement of the **bonds of fellowship** with *other believers* who are committed to love and truth, for that is where **great power** is found. (Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:25)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Father God, thank You for the **spiritual family** You have *blessed us* with. Thank You for those in our lives that You have sent to **speak Your truth in love** and point us to Yourself. Protect these relationships of Your children, strengthening **the bonds** of those who *bring life* and destroying that of those who **bring death**. Make the *attacks of the Enemy* on these relationships so obvious and apparent that they **gain no ground**, and *unite Your people in love and truth*."
 1. **REMEMBER:** Oneness with God leads to *unity with others*. (John 17:21)

3. Send out the **SHEEPDOGS**. (Isaiah 62:6)

- a. **NOTE:** The wolves may be **vicious**, but we are *not defenseless*. God has placed in our lives men and women of strong spiritual stature who have **humbled themselves** in prayer for *our sakes* for years without our knowledge or asking. As the battle grows **fiercer** and *the end draws near*, our need for prayer warriors grows even more evident. We need God to raise up **additional soldiers** to *fight the good fight* on their knees for those unable or ill-equipped to do so themselves. We all have a **warrior** living within us, *His name is Jesus* and by His strength we will surely **see the victory**. (Matthew 9:37-38; 1 Timothy 6:12; Ephesians 6:10&18; 1 John 5:4)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Jesus, thank You for serving as our **Good Shepherd**, for *leading, guiding, and protecting* us each and every day. Thank You also for the men and women of God, the **sheepdogs** and **watchmen**, that You have *raised up* in prayer and intercession for us over the years. We **need more** though, Father, for the *fighting is fierce* and we have lost ground. Raise up within us and others a **warrior Spirit** of prayer that compels us to *hit our knees in battle*, warring for **weary, wounded, and wayward** people of this world."
 1. **REMEMBER:** The **potency** of our prayer is not found in our *amount of faith* or our tenure as a Christian. Instead, its **power** is found in the *object of our faith* and our willingness to exercise it through trust. (Mark 11:22-23)

Questions for Reflection:

- Is your priority to grow in **superficial maturity** or in *lasting depth*?
 - Focus on deepening your relationship with God, everything else **will follow**.
- What **relationship** have you allowed the Enemy to gain a *toehold, foothold, or stronghold* in?
 - Pray for the revival, restoration, and recovery of all **ground that was lost** and fight to *protect those relationships* that push you towards God.
- Do you ever feel **unqualified** or **unprepared** to *fight for others* in prayer?
 - Remember that God often calls the unqualified, but He always **qualifies the called**. He is the one that gives You the *desire and power* to do that which pleases Him.