Start singing – I'm a soldier in the army of the Lord
Have everyone join in ...

Prayer – Against attacks and for understanding

We are under attack, especially if we decide to work together against the enemy for God’s purposes.

Leviticus 26:8 (King James Version)

8And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

Leviticus 26:9 (King James Version)

9For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

Let’s see what the Message version has to say about these verses.

Leviticus 26:8 and 9 (The Message)

Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand and do away with them. I'll give you my full attention: I'll make sure you prosper, make sure you grow in numbers, and keep my covenant with you in good working order.

This is also described in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (King James Version)

30How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Deuteronomy 32:31 (King James Version)

31For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

Deuteronomy 32:30 and 31 (The Message)

How could one soldier chase a thousand enemies off, or two men run off two thousand, unless their Rock had sold them, unless God had given them away? For their rock is nothing compared to our Rock; even our enemies say that.
Our Rock is God through Jesus Christ that we rely on. They do not rely on Christ.

We need to know that we are under attack from our flesh that gets in the way of working together for the Lord.

Romans 7:18 (King James Version)

\[18\text{For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.}\]

We need to know when we are under attack by our flesh, so that we can repent of it, pray against it, pray for the others who we are working with, and ask God to work through us as we give glory and honor to the Lord for whatever He is doing with us as we work together.

We will be talking about some ways that we can see that we are under the attack of the flesh (ours and the people we are working with).

Matthew gives some good examples of different types of attacks:

1) Being angry with others

Matthew 5:23-24 (King James Version)

\[23\text{Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;}\]

\[24\text{Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.}\]

Matthew 5:23-24 (The Message)

\[23-24\text{“This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.}\]

We have to regularly remember to confess at any time before we do a work for God if we are angry with someone.

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

2) Worrying about what others are doing instead of learning and joining with what God is doing.
Matthew 9:14 (King James Version)

14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

Matthew 9:15 (King James Version)

15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Who’s worried about who? The disciples of John could join the disciples of Jesus and learn more. Let’s see what the Message version says about this.

Matthew 9:14 and 15 The Message (MSG)

14 A little later John’s followers approached, asking, "Why is it that we and the Pharisees rigorously discipline body and spirit by fasting, but your followers don’t?"

15 Jesus told them, "When you're celebrating a wedding, you don't skimp on the cake and wine. You feast. Later you may need to pull in your belt, but not now. No one throws cold water on a friendly bonfire. This is Kingdom Come!"

Are we taking a holier than thou attitude, sacrificing when God didn’t ask us to and mad when God doesn’t ask someone else to make the sacrifice?

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

3) Not trusting what the Lord is doing through someone

Matthew 11:2-6 (King James Version)

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.
Are we offended if the Lord uses someone else to do mighty works?

Repeat after me:

**What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.**

4) **Judging what is right to do instead of following God’s guidance**

Matthew 12:2 (King James Version (KJV))

2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

Matthew 12:7

7But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

Matthew 12:2 The Message (MSG)

Some Pharisees reported them to Jesus: "Your disciples are breaking the Sabbath rules!"

Matthew 12:7

There is far more at stake here than religion. If you had any idea what this Scripture meant—'I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual'—you wouldn't be nitpicking like this.

Are we flexible in doing what God wants us to do? Are we flexible in a team? If it is different than we have ever done it?

Repeat after me:

**What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.**

5) **Not wanting to be a team player, being divided**

Matthew 12:25 (King James Version)

25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Some people don’t really want to work in a team. If God has not placed in on their heart to be a part of a team, they won’t be working joyfully, and it will interfere with God’s plans.
Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

6) Not being open to gifted people among us because they don’t look or act the way we think they should

Matthew 13:54 King James Version (KJV)

54And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Matthew 13:57

57And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Are we missing out on the gifted among us? Are we being ignored because others don’t understand our gifts?

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

7) Not trusting that Jesus can work through us

Matthew 14:15 King James Version (KJV)

15And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

Matthew 14:16

16But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

Are we looking for others to do what the Lord wants us to do? Do we think that we don’t have what we need? Do we think that it is too late to do what the Lord has asked us to do?

It may look nothing, it may look like we are out of time, and it may look like it is somebody else’s job, but the Lord may tell us that it’s our job.

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.
8) Fear of the supernatural work of the Lord

Matthew 14:26 King James Version (KJV)

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

Matthew 14:27

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Are we afraid when we see the Lord in a magnificent way, that He may ask us to do more?

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

9) Frustration with having to do things differently than the way we have always done them

Matthew 15:2 King James Version (KJV)

2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Matthew 15:3

3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:2 The Message (MSG)

1-2 After that, Pharisees and religion scholars came to Jesus all the way from Jerusalem, criticizing, "Why do your disciples play fast and loose with the rules?"

Matthew 15:3

3 But Jesus put it right back on them. "Why do you use your rules to play fast and loose with God's commands?"

Are we caught up in tradition that we are not open to God working in different ways?

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.
10) Unbelief

Matthew 17:19-21 (King James Version)

19Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

20And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

21Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Matthew 17:19-21 (The Message)

19When the disciples had Jesus off to themselves, they asked, "Why couldn't we throw it out?"

20"Because you're not yet taking God seriously," said Jesus. "The simple truth is that if you had a mere kernel of faith, a poppy seed, say, you would tell this mountain, 'Move!' and it would move. There is nothing you wouldn't be able to tackle."

Do we really belief God? Do we really take God seriously with what He asks us to do?

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

11) Wanting to be great and lacking in humility

Matthew 18:1-3 (King James Version)

Matthew 18

1At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1-3 (The Message)
Matthew 18

Whoever Becomes Simple Again

1 At about the same time, the disciples came to Jesus asking, "Who gets the highest rank in God's kingdom?"

2-5 For an answer Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, "I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom. What's more, when you receive the childlike on my account, it's the same as receiving me.

All of us have received these attacks, whether we are the ones having the difficulty, or the people we serve with are having the difficulties and we're trying to work with them. These are all battles with the flesh that the Devil waits to see when we show them, so that he can stir us up to continue in these fleshly thoughts.

Repeat after me:

What is this? This is an attack. What type of attack? This is an attack of the flesh.

These are the attacks of the flesh. We need to know that these are attacks of the flesh.

WE need to repent of these thoughts, pray for ourselves and others involved with us as we give glory and honor to the Lord for whatever He is doing with us. We want to work together in fighting the enemy, even if the enemy is our flesh.

What can we do?

Matthew 26:41 (King James Version)

41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.