

**Stand Firm to Implement
Your Vision**

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1

Disclaimer

I do not have a vested interest in or affiliation with any corporate organization offering financial support or grant monies for this continuing education program, or any affiliation with an organization whose philosophy could potentially bias my presentation.

2

Objectives

- Describe threats to vision implementation.
- Describe methods to stand firm in vision implementation.
- Describe a key focus of the vision.
- Describe methods of vision implementation.
- Develop your vision with an implementation plan.

3

**Threats to Vision
Implementation**

4

Threat Instruments

- Family Members
 - Eve (fruit: Gen 3)
 - Sarai (Hagar: Gen 16)
 - Job’s wife (“curse God and die” → “You’re talking like one of the godless women”: Job 2:9-10)
- Close Friends
 - Peter (get behind Me Satan: Matt 16:23)
 - Demas (2 Tim 4:10)
- People
 - Alexander the coppersmith (2 Tim 4:14)
- Government
 - Egyptian Captivity: Pharaoh’s male infanticide (Ex 1)
 - Medo-Persian Empire: Haman’s plot to kill the Jews (Esther 3)
 - Greek Empire: Antiochus IV Epiphanes Jewish war → Maccabean Revolt
 - Roman Empire: King Herod 2 year old male infanticide (Matt 2:16)

5

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Names of Satan – names denote character and actions
 - A. Satan – Job 1:6
 - B. Devil – 1 Jn 3:8
 - C. Enemy – Mt 13:39
 - D. The evil one – Mt 13:19
 - E. The adversary – 1 Pt 5:8
 - F. The tempter – 1 Thess 3:5

6

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Names Continued
 - G. Beelzebub (“ruler of the demons”) – Mt 12:24
 - H. Beliel – 2 Cor 6:15
 - I. The deceiver – Rev 12:9
 - J. The dragon – Rev 12:3
 - K. Liar / Father of lies – Jn 8:44
 - L. god of this age/world – 2 Cor 4:4

7

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Names Continued
 - M. The ancient serpent – Rev 12:9
 - N. ruler of the kingdom of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience (Eph 2:2)

8

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan’s Pre-rebellion
 1. Ezekiel 28
 - a. Ezekiel 28:2-10 speaks of the King of Tyre’s (Ethbaal III) pride and destruction
 - b. Ezekiel 28:11-19 speaks of the one behind the King of Tyre – Satan

9

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan’s Pre-rebellion
 1. Satan’s description prior to rebellion (Ez 28)
 - “sealer of perfection” (28:12)
 - “full of wisdom” (28:12)
 - “perfect in beauty” (28:12)
 - “You were in Eden, the garden of God” (28:13)
 - “Every precious stone was your covering” (28:13)
 - “you were created” (28:13)
 - “blameless in your behavior from the day you were created” (28:15)

10

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan’s Pre-rebellion
 1. Satan’s description prior to rebellion (Ez 28)
 - “I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked about amidst fiery stones” (28:14)
 - Some translations render this verse as the one is “the anointed cherub”
 - Some translations render verse 16 as “O covering cherub”
 - If “the anointed cherub” and “covering cherub” are correct, then Satan is an angel

11

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan’s Pre-rebellion
 1. Isaiah 14
 - a. Isaiah 14:1-11 speaks of the King of Babylon
 - b. Isaiah 14:12-19 speaks of the one behind the King of Babylon – Satan

12

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan's Pre-rebellion
 1. Satan's description prior to rebellion (Isa 14)
 - "shining one" (14:12)
 - "son of the dawn" (14:12)

13

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan's Rebellion
 1. Description of rebellion (Ez 28:11-19)
 - a. "sin was discovered in you" (28:15)
 - b. "filled with violence, and you sinned" (28:16)
 - c. "Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor" (28:17)
 - d. "By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries." (28:18)

14

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan's Rebellion
 2. Result of rebellion (Ez 28:11-19)
 - a. Unsuccessful
 - b. Lost his privileged position
 - c. "become terrified and will be no more" (28:19)

15

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan's Rebellion
 3. Description of rebellion (Isa 14:12-19)
 - a. Five "I will" statements – sin of pride
 - (1) "I will climb up to the sky" (14:13)
 - (2) "I will set up my throne" (14:13)
 - (3) "I will rule on the mountain" (14:13)
 - (4) "I will climb up to the tops of the clouds" (14:14)
 - (5) "I will make myself like the Most High" (14:14)
 - b. Satan desire to dethrone God & rule in His place₁₆

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan's Rebellion
 4. Result of rebellion (Isa 14:12-19)
 - a. Unsuccessful
 - b. Lost his privileged position
 - c. Ultimately cast into Sheol then into the lake of fire forever

17

Ultimate Threat Source: Satan

- Satan's Rebellion
 4. Revelation 12:4
 - a. Understood as 1/3 of the angels followed Satan in his rebellion
 - b. Angels that rebelled became fallen angels known as demons
 - c. Demons are under Satan's command (Matt 12:24, 25:41)

18

Satan's Threats to Vision Implementation

- 1 Peter 5:8 – “Your enemy the devil, *like a roaring lion*, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour.”
 - Destroy God's prime creation (humans)
 - Kill God's people to prevent Messiah's birth
 - Kill the Messiah (Herod, crowds)
 - Disqualify Messiah from being the Savior
 - Destroy the spread of Christianity
 - Kill Christians
 - Steal / Counterfeit God's authority, position, and worship¹⁹

Methods to Stand Firm in Vision Implementation

Ephesians 6:10-18

20

Ephesians 6:10

“6:10 Finally, be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of his power.”

- Our strength is in the Lord not us
- We rely upon His strength
- We are God-reliant rather than self-reliant

21

Ephesians 6:11

“6:11 Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

- Command not a suggestion
- Full not partial armor
- Stand – not actively seek him to wage war
- “Schemes” or “Craftiness”
 - Plural
 - Multiple methods to attack
 - By examining the armor we gain insight into Satan's schemes / craftiness

22

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.”

- Satan has a well organized team ready to deploy for spiritual warfare
- Satan is ultimately behind the warfare

23

Ephesians 6:13

“For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.”

- Since powerful enemies will attack, we need full protection
- 2nd & 3rd use of “stand”
- Christ is our armor
 - Romans 13:14 – “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”
 - He enables us to stand against Satan's attacks

24

Ephesians 6:14

“Stand firm therefore, by fastening the belt of truth around your waist, by putting on the breastplate of righteousness,”

- 4th use of “stand”
- Belt of truth
 - John 14:6 – “Jesus replied, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
 - Waist is our center of gravity – keeps us grounded, provides strength and stability
 - Truth stands firm against lies, deceit, deception

25

Ephesians 6:14

“Stand firm therefore, by fastening the belt of truth around your waist, by putting on the breastplate of righteousness,”

- Breastplate of righteousness
 - 1 Cor 1:30 – “Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption”
 - Protects the seat of our emotions & affections
 - Breastplate stands firm against vital wounds – runaway emotions, unbridled passions, misplaced affections

26

Ephesians 6:15

“by fitting your feet with the preparation that comes from the good news of peace,”

- Good News of peace
 - Eph 2:14 – “for He is our peace”
 - Peace with God (Rom 5:1 – “Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”)
 - Peace of God (Phil 4:7 – “And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”)

27

Ephesians 6:15

- Good News of peace
 - Since Christ enabled peace with God we walk in the peace of God
 - Peace stands firm against worry, fear, anxiety, doubt

28

Ephesians 6:16

“and in all of this, by taking up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

- Gen 15:1 – “After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram! I am your shield and the one who will reward you in great abundance.”
- Gal 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

29

Ephesians 6:16

- “The Greek word translated *shield* (θυρεός, *thureos*) refers to the Roman soldier’s large rectangular wooden shield, called in Latin *scutum*, about 4 ft (1.2m) high, covered with leather on the outside. Before a battle in which flaming arrows might be shot at them, the soldiers wet the leather covering with water to extinguish the arrows. The Roman legionaries could close ranks with these shields, the first row holding theirs edge to edge in front, and the rows behind holding the shields above their heads. In this formation they were practically invulnerable to arrows, rocks, and even spears.” (NET Bible, sn, Eph. 6:16)

30

Ephesians 6:17

“And take *the helmet of salvation* and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

- Helmet of salvation
 - Ps 27:1 - “The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?” (NASB)
 - Rom 12:2 – “Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.”

31

Ephesians 6:17

Helmet of salvation: The mind is the battlefield

- Rom 12:2 – “Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.”

32

Ephesians 6:17

Helmet of salvation: The mind is the battlefield

- 2 Cor 10:3-5 – “For though we live as human beings, we do not wage war according to human standards, for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ.”

33

Ephesians 6:17

“And take *the helmet of salvation* and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

- Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
 - Jn 1:1-2, 14 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God. 1:2 The Word was with God in the beginning ... Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory – the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father.”
 - Sword is the only offensive weapon in the armor

34

Ephesians 6:17

- Sword is the only offensive weapon in the armor
- When Satan tempted Christ in the wilderness, Christ responded
 - 1st temptation: “it is written”
 - 2nd temptation: “it is written”
 - 3rd temptation: “it is written”

35

Ephesians 6:18

“With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and requests for all the saints.”

- Prayer is conversation with God
- Although we may have our war clothes on, unless we are communicating with God, we are not ready for war
- Prayer is essential for battle

36

Key Focus of the Vision

37

John 3:30

- “He [Jesus] must become more important while I become less important.”

38

Personal Vision

- Exalt Christ
- Edify the Saints
- Evangelize the Lost

39

Personal Vision

- Exalt Christ
 - 1 Cor 10:31 – “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God”
- Edify the Saints
 - Eph 4:12 – “to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ”

40

Personal Vision

- Evangelize the Lost
 - Matt 28:18-20 – “Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

41

Methods of Vision Implementation

42

Areas of Vision Implementation

- Personal Life
- Family
- Friends
- Pharmacy Practice

43

Activities of Vision Implementation

- Worship
- Prayer
- Scripture study
- Fellowship
- Church
- Exercising spiritual gifts
- Evangelism

44

Develop your vision with an implementation plan

45

Questions?

46

Further Resources

1. NET Bible (<https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/Matthew+1:1>)
2. CPFI (<http://www.cphi.org/>)

47

Thank You!

48