

**June 10, 2015**

**“Fourth Law of Leadership: No One Promised You a Rose Garden”**

**Acts 20: 19, 23**

- I. **Set Clear Expectations** “And now I am on the way to Jerusalem, bound in my spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there, except that in town after town the Holy Spirit testifies to me that chains and afflictions are awaiting me.” (23)
  
- II. **Prepare Yourself for Battle** “Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil.” (Ephesians 6:11)
  
- III. **Recognize Your Enemy** “I have done this so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan. For we are not ignorant of his schemes.” (2 Corinthians 2:11)
  - a. **Disobedience** – The temptations of Jesus after His baptism were based trying to attract Him to disobey His Father’s will. (Matthew 4)
  
  - b. **Distraction** – When Jesus called Peter “**Satan**” (Matthew 16:23), it was because Peter desired the things of man rather than those of God.
  
  - c. **Discouragement** - In the parable of the sower (Mark 4), Jesus pictured Satan as plucking up the seed that was sown in their hearts. (15) Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him as wheat. (Luke 27:31)
  
  - d. **Disinformation** – Satan is called the “**father of lies.**” (John 8:44) In Acts 5:30, Peter told Ananias that Satan had filled his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit. Satan is the root source of gossip, slander, and false witness.
  
  - e. **Discord** – In enumerating the “things God hates,” the author of Proverbs finishes with “**he that sows discord among the brethren**” (6:19) God’s people are to be known for their love and unity. Satan will use all his schemes to destroy that precious fellowship.

Interestingly enough, all these schemes work on our imagination! Satan always pictures everything as worse than it is, God as weaker than He is, and a fellow believer as more devious than he/she is. That's why we're commanded to take every thought captive (2 Cor. 10:4-5) to the obedience of Christ. In Philippians 2:5 we're commanded to **"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."** Satan is waging a battle for our minds; (Rom. 12:1-2) we must let God's peace guard them (Phil. 4:7).

**IV. Strive for Victory "No, in all of these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)**

Join us July 8th on Wednesday at High Point as **we meet in the ground floor auditorium of the Wells Fargo Plaza, 1000 Louisiana**. Doors open at 11:30 if you wish to bring your lunch in and eat. Our speaker begins promptly at 12:10 and ends promptly at 12:40. **NO food or beverage service but you may bring your lunch & drink.**

**You can follow David on Twitter @ DavidJSelf** or visit our **website** if you miss a lesson or for more information at: [www.houstonsfirst.org/highpoint](http://www.houstonsfirst.org/highpoint), if you go to **Downloads** you can find the **audio file and listening guide** for each week. You may also sign up for our weekly email list there. Feel free to forward this invitation to a friend. See you there!

**Upcoming High Point Speakers:**

**David Self**

**(Not meeting 6/17, 6/24, or 7/1)**

7/8 & 7/29 (still awaiting final confirmation)