

Message preached on Sunday Morning, November 1, 2026

LAST WEEK: We talked about staying spiritually sharp…not allowing ourselves to be dulled by the world or by complacency.

We looked at Samson: He took a slow DECLINE to disaster.
Slowly dulling in his passion for the things of God.
Allowing things in that he shouldn't have allowed in.
He was ONCE so strong…but it came to a dull of disaster.

We saw three areas that the Bible gives us to stay sharp:

- **The Word** – Remember, the Word is sharp and powerful.
- **The Word in our mouth** – Jesus mouth was sharp…what He said happened.
- **The CROWD you hand around with** – Iron sharpens iron!

TODAY: I want to build on that…

BELOVED: We must NEVER let up on staying sharp spiritually. Never!

- No matter how strong you currently are (used to be)…stay sharp.
- No matter how long you have been at it…stay sharp.
- No matter your position in life (pastor, music leader, teacher, etc.)…stay sharp.

ILLUSTRATION: The Lord told Kenneth Copeland that when you feel you have made it…you must continue to be aggressive in the little things…because it is a longer fall from the top and a bigger disaster.

BELOVED: The key to staying sharp will always come down to ONE basic thing: ***Abiding in Him! Staying in UNION with God.***

- Spend time in His Word.
- Spend time in prayer (priority).
- Listening to and obeying Him.
- Walking in an awareness of Him.
- Walking in love.

…everyday! Not taking any time off. 24/7

Battles and Abiding

UNDERSTAND: We have discussed this many times over the past several months…there are many battles that come along in life…even a victorious Christian's life.

FIRST: The Word tells us that time and again.

SECOND: Why would we need the ARMOR OR GOD (Ephesians 6) if things were always going to be easy.

Here is an interesting thing we need to understand:

Luke 4:1 – "And Jesus being ***full of the Holy Ghost*** returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,"

NOTE: Jesus was FULL of the Holy Spirit after His baptism (came down on Him)…he went to the wilderness for a glorious time of fasting and prayer…the enemy showed up with temptations.

John 3:34 – "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."

NOTE: Jesus was as full of the Spirit as anyone could be full of the Spirit.

Colossians 2:9 – "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
NOTE: He was full of God…full of the Spirit. Not some of them…all of them!

YET constantly people (the devil) were coming against Him…thought to kill Him several times…tried to push Him off a cliff once and he just walked back through the middle of the crowd and left (no harm done).
They tried to trick Him with hard questions…He answered easy.
He lived victorious! But still had battles.

That is why He needed the fullness of the Spirit.
That is why WE need the fullness of the Spirit.

KEY: John 14:10 – "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

It had EVERYTHING to do with where He abode! ***Abiding in God!***
UNDERSTAND: It wasn't just someplace He visited…attended…but abode/lived/dwelt!

BELOVED: The more we abide with Him…in His Word…in His ways…the safer we are.
"Shalom" – base definition is safety on your journey.
But it must be an everyday thing…dwelling in Him.

What Happens When Abiding

John 15:4 – "***Abide in me,*** and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."
You either ABIDE in the Lord or you will NOT bear fruit.

- Spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace…)
- Anything kind of harvest.

John 15:5 – "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."
You either ABIDE in the vine or you can DO NOTHING.
You will work hard…get tired…lose steam.
NOTE: The opposite of this is true too…if you abide in Him, you can do everything!

Proverbs 4:18-22
18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.
20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
When we ATTEND to His Word we will be on the path of the righteous that shines with all good things (goodness, love, blessing, favor, health).
REMEMBER: Samson chose wrong!

John 15:7 – "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."
I like this: You ABIDE in Him…your prayers are answered!

BELOVED: Are you catching this importance of abiding in Him.

John 6:63 – "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."
When you ABIDE in Him you get ZOEY life! The God kind of life! As He is, so are we in the world.
Those that don't find His Words…don't abide in Him….wander in darkness, frustration and anxiety.

Galatians 5:24-26 (following the fruit of the spirit)
24 And they that are Christ's have ***crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts***.
25 If we ***live in the Spirit***, let us also ***walk in the Spirit***.
26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.
When we ABIDE in Him…our focus gets off of ourselves and connects us to others and loving them.

One more:

John 15:6 – "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."
When you are not connected to Him…abiding in Him, you become vulnerable to outside forces. They overtake us instead of us overtaking them.
"Wither" – shrivel; lose energy, force or freshness. We dry up, recede or weaken. We lose the capacity for vigorous action.
AGAIN: Remember Samson! We become spiritually dull.

The flesh begins to take over (Romans 7 – what you don't want to do you end up doing).
Your spiritual steps out of the way (Romans 7 – what you want to do you don't end up doing).

Conclusion

BELOVED: We must stay diligent to abide in Him daily. Don't take days off.

YOU MAY SAY: Well, Pastor Thad, I didn't really know this…how do I start.
- You start the same way you started any other habit you have…one day, one moment at a time.
- Alcoholics didn't start by guzzling…as a matter of fact their bodies revolted against the alcohol…they kept with it.
- Those who smoked cigarettes didn't start out chain smokers…their bodies revolted against the cigarettes…they kept with it.

Know what you are suppose to do and start…read…pray…listen…obey…love…EVERYDAY! Start a little bit and begin getting bigger.
What if your flesh says no? Your flesh isn't in charge…your spirit is. Don't take a day off!

But whatever you do: Dwell! Abide! Don't stop! Don't give up…double up!

Extra Point

Don't let ANYONE convince you that God isn't absolutely good AND He absolutely wants GOOD in our lives. SO MANY want to change God's nature of goodness into convincing us that it is a fairy tale and that sometimes Him being good means your life is a mess (because He loves you so much).
No!

You are NOT living in a mess because you are so intimately connected and abiding in Him…that it is a gift from Him.
You are living in your mess because of where you are abiding.