

DESTRUCTION'S TARGET LIST

What the Enemy Seeks to Destroy in Men's Lives

Every Man Complete (EMC) - Colossians 1:28-29

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly." – John 10:10 (NASB)

INTRODUCTION: THE ENEMY'S STRATEGY OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION

The enemy doesn't just steal what we have or kill what we believe—he actively works to destroy what we've built, who we've become, and what God has purposed for our lives. Satan is not content with temporary setbacks; he seeks permanent devastation. His goal is scorched-earth destruction that leaves men disqualified, discredited, and defeated. These are the high-value targets in every man's life—the very things that, if destroyed, can take decades to rebuild and leave casualties across multiple generations.

1. OUR TESTIMONY AND WITNESS

Biblical Foundation: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."* – Acts 1:8 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: Satan destroys testimony through moral failure, public hypocrisy, and catastrophic sin that makes a man's witness null and void. He waits for the opportune moment when a man's influence is greatest, then springs the trap he's patiently set through small compromises. The enemy knows that one moment of exposed sin can obliterate years of faithful witness. He orchestrates public falls—the pastor caught in adultery, the Christian businessman in fraud, the worship leader arrested for DUI. The devil understands that destroyed testimony doesn't just

affect the individual; it becomes ammunition for skeptics: "See, Christians are all hypocrites."

The enemy destroys testimony through the exposure of secret sins at the worst possible times. He uses social media to immortalize mistakes, screens to capture compromises, and witnesses to report failures. Satan doesn't just want men to sin—he wants their sin to become public spectacle that destroys their credibility for Christ.

Why This Is Strategic: A destroyed testimony takes years, sometimes decades, to rebuild. Some men never recover their witness. The enemy knows that one destroyed testimony can cause hundreds to question Christ. He calculates that the destruction of one influential Christian can prevent countless conversions and justify the unbelief of many. Our testimony is our platform; destroy the platform, and the message falls silent.

"A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold." – Proverbs 22:1 (NASB)

"It takes a lifetime to build a good reputation, but you can lose it in a minute." – Will Rogers

"The greatest tragedy is not the persecution of Christians by non-Christians, but the misrepresentation of Christianity by Christians." – Ravi Zacharias

2. OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Biblical Foundation: *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."* – Matthew 5:13 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: The devil destroys influence through disqualification, discrediting, and relational demolition. He removes men from positions of influence through scandal, controversy, or moral failure. The enemy uses cancel culture, social media mobs, and public accusations to

eliminate Christian voices from cultural conversation. He orchestrates situations where men must choose between biblical conviction and cultural acceptance—then destroys them when they stand firm.

Satan destroys influence incrementally through compromise. A man slowly accommodates culture, waters down truth, and prioritizes popularity over principle until his voice carries no prophetic weight. The enemy also destroys influence through isolation—removing men from networks, platforms, and relationships that amplify their impact. He burns bridges through conflict, pride, or offense until a man stands alone, shouting truth into a void.

Why This Is Strategic: Influence is a force multiplier. One man with influence can shape hundreds or thousands. The enemy knows that destroying an influencer is exponentially more valuable than destroying an isolated individual. Satan targets pastors, business leaders, fathers, coaches, teachers—anyone whose life ripples into others. When he destroys their influence, he doesn't just neutralize one man; he eliminates that man's potential impact on everyone he could have reached.

"Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less." – John Maxwell

"Your life is a witness whether you want it to be or not." – Adrian Rogers

"God has entrusted me with myself. No man is free who is not master of himself." – Epictetus

3. OUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING AND PURPOSE

Biblical Foundation: *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'* – Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." – Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: Satan destroys calling through derailment, discouragement, and disqualification. He creates crises at critical moments—financial collapse when a ministry is launching, family emergency when a mission trip is planned, health failure when a book is being written. The enemy uses devastating setbacks to convince men they heard God wrong, that their calling was presumption, that they should quit.

The devil destroys calling through substitution—giving men successful careers in fields God never intended, comfortable positions that anesthetize kingdom ambition, or lucrative opportunities that compete with divine assignment. He uses golden handcuffs to keep men trapped in jobs that pay well but kill their souls. The enemy also destroys calling through comparison, making men believe their assignment is less important than another's, their gifting inferior, their sphere too small to matter.

Why This Is Strategic: Every man has a specific, divine assignment. The enemy knows that if he can destroy that calling, he eliminates the unique contribution that man was created to make. Satan understands kingdom mathematics: one man out of position affects everyone who was supposed to be impacted by that man's obedience. Destroyed calling creates cosmic vacancies—gaps in God's purposes that create cascading consequences.

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." – Mark Twain (attributed)

"The tragedy of life is not death, but what we let die inside us while we live." – Norman Cousins

"God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him." – Hudson Taylor

4. OUR REPUTATION AND GOOD NAME

Biblical Foundation: *"A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold."* – Proverbs 22:1 (NASB)

"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." – Matthew 5:22 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: The devil destroys reputation through accusation, slander, and character assassination. He is, after all, "the accuser of our brethren" (Revelation 12:10, NASB). The enemy uses false accusations, twisted facts, and selective truth to destroy a man's name. He weaponizes social media, gossip networks, and anonymous allegations. Satan knows that mud sticks—even when accusations are proven false, suspicion remains.

The enemy also destroys reputation through the man's own foolishness—public outbursts, documented indiscretions, permanent digital footprints. He uses moments of anger, seasons of compromise, or years of secret sin to create ammunition. The devil is patient, collecting evidence and waiting for the opportune moment to release it for maximum devastation. He destroys reputation through association—linking men to controversial people, compromising situations, or questionable activities.

Why This Is Strategic: Reputation is currency in the kingdom. A destroyed reputation eliminates opportunities for ministry, business, leadership, and influence. The enemy knows that people don't follow leaders they don't trust or respect. Satan understands that a man without a good name has no credibility, no platform, and no voice. Destroying reputation is one of the enemy's most effective tools for permanent disqualification.

"It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it." – Benjamin Franklin

"Regard your good name as the richest jewel you can possibly be possessed of." – Socrates

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." – Abraham Lincoln

5. OUR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY UNITY

Biblical Foundation: *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."* – Genesis 2:24 (NASB)

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." – Psalm 127:1 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: Satan destroys marriages through adultery, pornography, abuse, abandonment, and divorce. He introduces third parties—emotional affairs, physical infidelity, inappropriate relationships. The enemy uses unforgiveness, bitterness, and resentment to create emotional distance that makes reconciliation seem impossible. He exploits communication breakdown, financial stress, sexual dysfunction, and in-law interference to create irreconcilable conflict.

The devil destroys family unity through division—turning children against parents, siblings against each other, extended family into warring camps. He uses prodigals to break parents' hearts, abuse to shatter trust, addiction to consume resources, and rebellion to create chaos. The enemy targets the next generation, knowing that destroying a family doesn't just affect the present; it damages future generations through trauma, abandonment wounds, and broken attachment.

Why This Is Strategic: The family is God's primary discipleship unit and the building block of society. When the enemy destroys a marriage, he doesn't just separate two people—he fractures children's security, destabilizes extended family, and removes a testimony to covenant faithfulness. Satan knows that children from destroyed homes often struggle with God as Father, marriage as covenant, and church as family. Destroyed families create generational casualties.

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." – Theodore Hesburgh

"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person." – Mignon McLaughlin

"If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable—each segment distinct." – Letty Cottin Pogrebin

6. OUR LEGACY AND GENERATIONAL BLESSING

Biblical Foundation: *"The righteous man walks in his integrity; how blessed are his sons after him."* – Proverbs 20:7 (NASB)

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children." – Proverbs 13:22 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: The devil destroys legacy through the squandering of spiritual inheritance, the breaking of generational blessing, and the perpetuation of generational curses. He convinces men to live for the moment rather than build for eternity, to consume rather than conserve, to satisfy themselves rather than invest in the next generation. The enemy uses prodigal children to waste what fathers built, rebellious heirs to reject what patriarchs established, and entitled offspring to despise what ancestors sacrificed to create.

Satan destroys legacy through the man himself—through late-life moral failure that overshadows lifetime faithfulness, through unresolved conflict that poisons final years, through bitterness that curdles blessing into curse. The enemy knows that legacy is determined not just by how you start but by how you finish. He targets older men with unique temptations designed to destroy decades of faithful living.

Why This Is Strategic: Legacy transcends individual lives. The enemy knows that one destroyed legacy can affect multiple generations. Satan understands that when he destroys what a man leaves behind, he eliminates that man's ongoing impact. The devil targets legacy because it's the gift that keeps giving—destroyed legacy is the curse that keeps cursing. Legacy determines

what children inherit, what grandchildren receive, and what great-grandchildren are shaped by.

"A man's true legacy is not measured by what he owns at death, but by what he leaves behind in the lives he's touched." – Billy Graham (paraphrased)

"You are not just creating a life; you are creating a legacy." – John Maxwell

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." – Albert Pine

7. OUR MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS AND FRUITFULNESS

Biblical Foundation: *"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain."* – John 15:16 (NASB)

"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." – John 15:8 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: Satan destroys ministry effectiveness through burnout, moral compromise, theological drift, and interpersonal conflict. He pushes men beyond sustainable pace until they collapse physically, emotionally, or spiritually. The enemy uses unresolved conflict to split churches, divide ministries, and scatter flocks. He introduces false teaching that seems harmless initially but metastasizes into heresy. The devil uses power struggles, financial impropriety, and sexual scandal to implode ministries from within.

The enemy also destroys fruitfulness through subtle replacement—replacing power with programs, anointing with professionalism, Spirit-dependency with human methodology. He makes ministry busy but barren, active but unproductive. Satan uses comparison and competition to turn co-laborers into rivals, transforming kingdom collaboration into territorial protection. He destroys effectiveness by removing men from their gifting and placing them in roles where they're competent but not called.

Why This Is Strategic: Ministry effectiveness multiplies kingdom impact.

When the enemy destroys a fruitful ministry, he doesn't just stop one man—he prevents that man from reaching, discipling, and equipping the multitudes he was called to serve. Satan knows that destroyed ministries create discouraged believers, scattered sheep, and opportunities for false shepherds. Effective ministries are high-value targets precisely because they threaten hell's agenda.

"The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying, not 'What a lovely sermon!' but 'I will do something.'" – St. Francis de Sales

"Success in ministry is not measured by what we accomplish but by our faithfulness to the calling." – Chuck Swindoll

"Ministry is the least important thing. You cannot not minister if you are in communion with God and live in community." – Henri Nouwen

8. OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH AND STRENGTH

Biblical Foundation: *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)*

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: The devil destroys physical health through lifestyle choices, chronic stress, addiction, and preventable disease. He promotes workaholicism that sacrifices sleep, exercise, and nutrition on the altar of productivity. The enemy uses food as idol or anesthesia, creating obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. He weaponizes pornography and sexual sin that destroy testosterone, intimacy, and vitality. Satan uses alcohol, drugs, and other substances to provide temporary relief while creating long-term destruction.

The enemy also destroys health through despair, anxiety, and unresolved trauma that manifest as physical illness. He knows the body keeps score—

that buried emotions, chronic stress, and spiritual warfare exact physical tolls. The devil uses catastrophic illness, debilitating injury, and progressive disease to sideline men during their most productive years. He attacks at strategic moments—cancer diagnoses during ministry expansion, heart attacks before major kingdom opportunities, strokes that eliminate years of potential service.

Why This Is Strategic: Physical health is the platform for everything else. When the enemy destroys a man's health, he limits that man's capacity, energy, and longevity. Satan knows that sick men can't serve at full capacity, that chronic pain distracts from kingdom focus, that premature death eliminates years of potential impact. The devil understands that the body is not separate from spiritual warfare—it's one of the primary battlegrounds.

"Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live." – Jim Rohn

"Those who think they have not time for bodily exercise will sooner or later have to find time for illness." – Edward Stanley

"God heals, and the doctor takes the fees." – Benjamin Franklin

9. OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

Biblical Foundation: *"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."* – 1 Timothy 6:10 (NASB)

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." – Luke 6:38 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: Satan destroys financial stewardship through debt, greed, foolish investments, and financial infidelity. He convinces men to live beyond their means, leveraging future income for present consumption. The enemy uses get-rich-quick schemes, risky speculation, and business ventures that promise wealth but deliver ruin. He

weaponizes consumerism, creating insatiable appetites for upgrades, acquisitions, and status symbols.

The devil destroys generosity through scarcity mindset, fear, and control. He whispers, "You can't afford to give," even when God commands it. The enemy uses financial pressure to choke out tithing, ministry support, and kingdom investment. He creates financial emergencies at strategic times—right before mission trips, during capital campaigns, when God is calling to radical obedience. Satan also destroys through prosperity, making men wealthy but stingy, successful but self-sufficient, comfortable but kingdom-ineffective.

Why This Is Strategic: Financial destruction affects everything else. When the enemy destroys a man financially, he creates stress that impacts marriage, limits ministry, and eliminates kingdom opportunities. Satan knows that financial bondage keeps men from obeying God's calling—they can't relocate for ministry, can't leave toxic jobs, can't invest in kingdom purposes. The enemy understands that destroyed finances often lead to destroyed marriages, destroyed reputations, and destroyed testimonies. Money problems are rarely just money problems.

"Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it." – Proverbs 13:11 (NASB)

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21 (NASB)

"When I have money, I get rid of it quickly, lest it find a way into my heart." – John Wesley

10. OUR MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Biblical Foundation: *"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."* – 2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB)

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." – Philippians 4:6 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: The devil destroys mental health through depression, anxiety, PTSD, and thought disorders. He uses traumatic experiences to create lasting wounds, unresolved grief to produce chronic sorrow, and constant worry to generate debilitating anxiety. The enemy exploits chemical imbalances, biological predispositions, and neurological vulnerabilities. He attacks through intrusive thoughts, obsessive patterns, and compulsive behaviors.

Satan destroys emotional health through unprocessed trauma, toxic shame, and emotional suppression. He convinces men that emotions are weakness, that vulnerability is dangerous, that asking for help is failure. The enemy uses isolation to compound mental illness, stigma to prevent treatment, and pride to refuse medication or therapy. He weaponizes suicidal ideation, self-harm, and hopelessness. The devil knows that men in mental health crises often feel abandoned by God, making them vulnerable to lies about their worth, their future, and God's love.

Why This Is Strategic: Mental and emotional destruction affects every area of life. When the enemy destroys a man's mental health, he impairs that man's capacity for relationship, decision-making, and spiritual discernment. Satan knows that mentally ill men often can't function in their callings, maintain their marriages, or lead their families. The enemy understands that destroyed mental health carries enormous stigma in Christian circles, preventing men from seeking help and creating isolation that compounds the problem. Mental health destruction often leads to suicide—the ultimate permanent destruction.

"Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also more hard to bear." – C.S. Lewis

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18 (NASB)

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." – Maya Angelou

11. OUR DREAMS AND KINGDOM VISION

Biblical Foundation: *"Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law."* – Proverbs 29:18 (NASB)

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us." – Ephesians 3:20 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: Satan destroys dreams through disappointment, delay, and devastating setbacks. He uses repeated failure to convince men their dreams were foolish, their visions presumptuous, their hopes unrealistic. The enemy times obstacles perfectly—destroying dreams when they're most fragile, attacking vision when it's gaining momentum. He uses the cynicism of others, the mockery of skeptics, and the discouragement of those who quit to erode hope.

The devil destroys vision through the mundane grind of daily survival. He buries God-dreams under urgent demands, career pressures, and family responsibilities until men forget they ever had vision beyond paying bills. The enemy uses pragmatism to replace faith, settling for what's possible rather than believing for what God promised. He destroys dreams through comparison—making other men's visions seem more important, more urgent, more anointed. Satan whispers that the window has closed, that the season has passed, that it's too late.

Why This Is Strategic: Dreams fuel perseverance; vision provides direction. When the enemy destroys a man's dreams, he eliminates hope for the future and passion for the present. Satan knows that men without vision settle, compromise, and survive rather than thrive. The devil understands that destroyed dreams create bitter men who discourage others from dreaming. Vision is forward motion; destroy vision and men stagnate. Kingdom dreams threaten hell's agenda; destroyed dreams advance it.

"All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the

dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes, to make them possible." – T.E. Lawrence

"A man without vision is a man without hope; if he has hope, he just might have everything." – Unknown

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt

12. OUR COURAGE AND BOLD WITNESS

Biblical Foundation: *"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."* – 2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB)

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." – 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB)

How and Why the Enemy Destroys It: The devil destroys courage through fear, intimidation, and the threat of consequences. He uses cancel culture to silence conviction, social pressure to compromise witness, and the fear of man to muzzle truth. The enemy weaponizes persecution—job loss, social ostracism, legal threats, physical danger. He makes speaking truth costly and remaining silent comfortable. Satan destroys boldness through shame about past failures, creating the lie that fallen men can't speak truth.

The enemy destroys witness through the paralysis of perfectionism—men waiting until they've "arrived" before sharing Christ. He uses comfort to anesthetize conviction, prosperity to eliminate urgency, and cultural Christianity to normalize compromise. The devil destroys courage through isolation, removing men from community that emboldens and accountability that strengthens. He targets pastors, business leaders, and fathers—knowing that when leaders lose courage, followers lose hope.

Why This Is Strategic: Courage is contagious; cowardice is too. When the enemy destroys a man's courage, he doesn't just silence one voice—he emboldens those who oppose truth and discourages those who need to see

someone stand. Satan knows that destroyed courage creates passive Christianity, cultural accommodation, and spiritual irrelevance. The enemy understands that bold witnesses threaten his kingdom; destroyed courage advances it. Every generation needs men who will stand; the devil works overtime to destroy the standers.

"Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point." – C.S. Lewis

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
– Edmund Burke (attributed)

"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers—and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power." – Alexis de Tocqueville

CONCLUSION: REBUILDING WHAT THE ENEMY HAS DESTROYED

"The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." – Psalm 9:9 (NASB)

"And I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten." – Joel 2:25 (NASB)

The enemy's strategy of destruction is comprehensive and ruthless. He targets what matters most because he knows that destroying critical infrastructure creates catastrophic consequences. But here's the hope: **what the enemy destroys, God can rebuild.**

The call to Every Man Complete is not just a call to resist destruction—it's a call to rebuild. To reclaim territory. To restore what was lost. To resurrect what was dead. To reconstruct what was demolished.

Every man must ask:

- What has the enemy destroyed in my life?

- What am I allowing to remain in ruins?
- What is God calling me to rebuild?

The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus came to give life—abundant, overflowing, resurrection life. Life that rebuilds. Life that restores. Life that resurrects.

The question is not whether we've experienced destruction. We all have. The question is: will we partner with the Restorer to rebuild?

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." – Psalm 127:1 (NASB)