

FOUNDATIONS UNDER FIRE

Biblical Convictions the Enemy Seeks to Kill

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: WHY THE ENEMY KILLS CONVICTIONS

The enemy doesn't just steal what we have—he kills what we believe. Satan understands that men built on shifting convictions will never stand firm in battle. He systematically attacks the foundational truths that anchor our faith, knowing that if he can kill our convictions, everything built upon them will eventually collapse. These aren't peripheral doctrines; they are load-bearing walls of biblical faith. When the enemy succeeds in killing these convictions, he doesn't just wound individual men—he cripples entire generations.

1. THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Biblical Foundation: *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)*

How the Enemy Kills It: The devil kills confidence in Scripture's authority through subtle erosion rather than direct assault. He plants questions: "Did God really say...?" (Genesis 3:1). The enemy uses intellectual pride, promoting academic skepticism that treats the Bible as literature rather than living revelation. He exploits cultural pressure, making biblical positions on sexuality, gender, marriage, and morality seem outdated or oppressive. Satan introduces false teaching that cherry-picks verses, distorts context, and prioritizes personal experience over biblical truth. He uses translation

debates, archaeological questions, and scientific controversies to create doubt. The enemy whispers that parts of Scripture are culturally conditioned, metaphorical, or no longer applicable—effectively killing their authority in a man's life.

Why He Targets This: If the enemy can kill a man's conviction that Scripture is God's authoritative, inerrant, sufficient Word, he has removed the objective standard for truth. Without this foundation, men become "tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14, NASB). Once Scripture's authority dies, every other conviction becomes negotiable, subjective, and vulnerable to cultural compromise.

"The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God." – A.W. Tozer

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book." – Abraham Lincoln

2. THE EXCLUSIVITY OF CHRIST FOR SALVATION

Biblical Foundation: *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."* – Acts 4:12 (NASB)

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" – John 14:6 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: Satan kills this conviction through religious pluralism and cultural tolerance. He makes exclusivity seem arrogant, unloving, and narrow-minded. The enemy uses relationships with good, moral non-Christians to create emotional conflict with biblical truth. He promotes the lie that sincerity matters more than object of faith, that all paths lead to God, that a loving God wouldn't exclude anyone. The devil weaponizes tragedy—asking "What about those who never heard?" to create doubt about God's justice. He

uses interfaith dialogue to blur distinctions, academic theology to introduce universalism, and social pressure to make men ashamed of Christ's exclusive claims.

Why He Targets This: This conviction is the heart of the Gospel. If the enemy can kill belief that Jesus is the only way to salvation, he has neutralized the urgency of evangelism, the necessity of the cross, and the reality of hell. Men who lose this conviction stop sharing their faith, compromise their witness, and ultimately question whether Christianity is true at all.

"To say that Jesus is the only way to God is not arrogant. What's arrogant is to say that your sin is so small that Jesus didn't need to die for it." – Voddie Baucham

"Tolerance is the last virtue of a depraved society. When you have an immoral society that has blatantly, proudly, violated all of the commandments of God, there is one last virtue they insist upon: tolerance for their immorality." – D.A. Carson

3. THE REALITY AND SERIOUSNESS OF SIN

Biblical Foundation: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* – Romans 3:23 (NASB)

"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." – 1 John 1:8 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: The enemy kills conviction about sin's reality through cultural redefinition and moral relativism. He replaces "sin" with "mistakes," "poor choices," or "authenticity." Satan uses therapeutic language—addiction instead of bondage, dysfunction instead of depravity, trauma response instead of rebellion. He minimizes sin through comparison: "Everyone's doing it," "It's not hurting anyone," "There are worse things." The devil uses psychological explanations to eliminate moral responsibility, cultural context to excuse biblical prohibitions, and personal feelings to override objective

morality. He makes repentance seem psychologically damaging ("toxic shame") and conviction of sin seem judgmental rather than loving.

Why He Targets This: If men don't believe in the reality and seriousness of sin, they won't see their need for a Savior. The enemy knows that men who trivialize sin will never treasure grace. Killing this conviction eliminates the foundation for repentance, sanctification, and Gospel urgency. It transforms Christianity from rescue mission to self-help program.

"The recognition of sin is the beginning of salvation." – Martin Luther

"A sinful man in the presence of a holy God will always be a terrifying reality." – R.C. Sproul

4. THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

Biblical Foundation: *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority."* – Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: Satan kills belief in Christ's sufficiency by promoting "Jesus plus" theology. He suggests that Jesus is necessary but not sufficient—that men need Jesus PLUS spiritual experiences, religious rituals, psychological techniques, worldly success, or human approval to be truly complete. The enemy uses feelings of inadequacy to make men believe they need something more than Christ. He weaponizes spiritual disciplines, turning them from means of grace into requirements for acceptance. The devil uses comparison, making men feel they need others' anointing, gifting, or success to be effective. He promotes mysticism, extra-biblical revelation, and spiritual elitism that suggests secret knowledge beyond Scripture and Christ.

Why He Targets This: When the enemy kills conviction in Christ's sufficiency, men perpetually feel incomplete, always searching, never satisfied. They become vulnerable to every fad, technique, and false teaching that promises

what they think Christ hasn't provided. This conviction is central to rest, peace, and spiritual stability.

"Christ is not valued at all, unless He is valued above all." – Augustine

"You can have all of Jesus you want. The question is: how much of Him do you want?" – A.W. Tozer

5. THE NECESSITY OF THE CROSS

Biblical Foundation: *"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* – 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB)

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." – 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: The devil kills this conviction by making the cross seem unnecessary, offensive, or outdated. He promotes a gospel centered on Christ's teachings rather than His atoning death. The enemy uses modern theology that sees Jesus as moral example rather than substitutionary sacrifice. He makes penal substitution seem primitive, blood atonement barbaric, and wrath-bearing unjust. Satan suggests that God could have forgiven without the cross, that love doesn't require justice, that mercy excludes wrath. He domesticates Jesus into a life coach, social activist, or motivational speaker—stripping the scandal and glory from Calvary.

Why He Targets This: The cross is the non-negotiable center of Christianity. If the enemy kills conviction about its necessity, he has removed the foundation for justification, propitiation, reconciliation, and redemption. Men who lose this conviction lose the Gospel itself, left with moralism, legalism, or therapeutic deism.

"The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us." – John Stott

"God could not forgive sinners if He simply turned His back on sin. Such forgiveness would have been at the expense of justice, not because of it." – R.C. Sproul

6. THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Biblical Foundation: *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."* – 1 John 5:13 (NASB)

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8:38-39 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: Satan kills assurance through doubt, accusation, and works-righteousness. He points to past sins, present struggles, and persistent weaknesses to suggest salvation isn't real or secure. The enemy uses feelings—emotional highs confirm salvation, emotional lows question it. He exploits performance, making men believe they must maintain salvation through perfect obedience. The devil whispers, "If you were really saved, you wouldn't struggle with this." He uses introspection obsessively, turning men inward to examine themselves rather than upward to trust Christ. Satan creates false assurance based on decision-making ("I prayed the prayer") or genuine uncertainty despite biblical evidence.

Why He Targets This: When the enemy kills assurance, he paralyzes men with fear and uncertainty. They live in constant anxiety about their standing with God, unable to rest in grace or serve with confidence. Lack of assurance produces either presumption or despair—both deadly to spiritual health.

"True assurance is never based on our feelings but on the trustworthiness of God's promises." – Jerry Bridges

"I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide." – Martin Luther

7. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Biblical Foundation: *"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."* – Romans 11:36 (NASB)

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." – Romans 8:28 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: The devil kills conviction in God's sovereignty through suffering, unanswered prayer, and apparent randomness. He uses tragedy to suggest God has lost control, evil to imply God is powerless, and human free will to limit God's authority. The enemy promotes open theism (God doesn't know the future), process theology (God is learning), or practical deism (God wound up the world and walked away). Satan uses personal disappointment—failed businesses, broken marriages, wayward children—to make men question whether God is really working all things for good. He exploits theological confusion, making sovereignty seem fatalistic or eliminating human responsibility.

Why He Targets This: God's sovereignty is the bedrock of peace, trust, and perseverance. When the enemy kills this conviction, men live in constant anxiety about the future, anger about the present, and regret about the past. They cannot rest in God's control or trust His purposes. This conviction is essential for enduring suffering without losing faith.

"God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign, God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free." – Charles Ryrie

"Nothing comes to you by accident; it is all part of a plan of God for your life." – Jerry Bridges

8. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Biblical Foundation: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* – Romans 1:16 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: Satan kills belief in the Gospel's power through cynicism, human methodology, and worldly wisdom. He convinces men that the Gospel needs to be supplemented with better marketing, cultural relevance, or social programs to be effective. The enemy suggests that certain people or situations are beyond the Gospel's reach—addicts too far gone, prodigals too hardened, marriages too broken. He uses repeated evangelism failure to create doubt, persistent sin to question transformation power, and cultural sophistication to make the Gospel seem simplistic. The devil promotes technique over truth, programs over proclamation, pragmatism over power.

Why He Targets This: The Gospel is "the power of God for salvation." When the enemy kills conviction about its power, men lose boldness in evangelism, confidence in discipleship, and hope for transformation. They turn to human wisdom and worldly methods, abandoning the very power that can actually change hearts.

"The gospel is not a truth among other truths. Rather, it sets a question mark against all truths." – Karl Barth

"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." – Tim Keller

9. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Biblical Foundation: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this*

darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." – Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." – 1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: Ironically, the devil kills conviction about spiritual warfare by making himself invisible. He promotes naturalistic explanations for everything, psychological reductionism, and Western rationalism that dismisses supernatural realities as superstition. The enemy uses two extremes: complete denial (there is no devil) or obsessive focus (seeing demons everywhere). He makes spiritual warfare seem medieval, embarrassing, or fanatical. Satan uses cultural sophistication to mock belief in demons, academic theology to demythologize Scripture, and comfortable Christianity to eliminate any sense of cosmic battle.

Why He Targets This: When men don't believe they're in a war, they don't prepare for battle. The enemy knows that ignorant, unprepared soldiers are easy casualties. Killing this conviction leaves men vulnerable to attack, unaware of tactics, and unarmed for conflict. They attribute spiritual assault to bad luck, mental health, or human conflict—never recognizing the real enemy.

"The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist." – Charles Baudelaire

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." – Ephesians 6:11 (NASB)

10. THE CALL TO HOLINESS

Biblical Foundation: *"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.'" – 1 Peter 1:14-16 (NASB)*

How the Enemy Kills It: The devil kills conviction about holiness through cheap grace and cultural accommodation. He makes holiness seem legalistic, oppressive, or impossible. The enemy suggests that grace eliminates the call to holiness, that trying to be holy is works-righteousness, that holy living is optional for the saved. Satan uses "freedom in Christ" to justify license, grace to excuse compromise, and love to tolerate sin. He promotes cultural Christianity that looks, talks, and acts like the world. The devil makes holiness unattractive—portraying holy people as joyless, judgmental, and isolated. He convinces men that holiness is about external conformity rather than internal transformation.

Why He Targets This: Holiness is God's nature and His call for His people. When the enemy kills this conviction, men lose distinctiveness, witness, and spiritual power. They become salt that has lost its saltiness, light hidden under a basket. Without holiness, the church becomes indistinguishable from the world, and men's lives provide no evidence of transformation.

"Holiness is not freedom from temptation, but power to overcome temptation." – G. Campbell Morgan

"A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine." – D.L. Moody

11. THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S RETURN AND FINAL JUDGMENT

Biblical Foundation: *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."* – 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NASB)

"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment..." – Hebrews 9:27 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: Satan kills conviction about Christ's return through delay, distraction, and doubt. He uses centuries of "any day now" to create cynicism: "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Peter 3:4). The enemy

makes eternity seem theoretical and this life ultimate. He promotes nowism—living for immediate gratification because tomorrow is uncertain. The devil uses comfortable Christianity to remove urgency, prosperity to eliminate longing for heaven, and temporal thinking to replace eternal perspective. He makes heaven boring, hell embarrassing to mention, and judgment harsh or unjust.

Why He Targets This: When men lose conviction about Christ's return and coming judgment, they lose urgency, perspective, and hope. They live for this world, invest in temporary things, and lose motivation for holiness and evangelism. This conviction determines priorities, shapes values, and fuels perseverance through suffering.

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next." – C.S. Lewis

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." – C.T. Studd

12. THE POWER AND NECESSITY OF PRAYER

Biblical Foundation: *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* – James 5:16 (NASB)

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." – Ephesians 6:18 (NASB)

How the Enemy Kills It: The devil kills conviction about prayer through busyness, unanswered prayers, and self-sufficiency. He makes prayer seem optional, ineffective, or superstitious. The enemy uses activism to replace intercession, programs to substitute for power. He exploits disappointment—prayers that seem unheard, promises that seem unfulfilled, silence that seems eternal. Satan promotes prayerlessness through distraction, technology, and the tyranny of the urgent. He suggests that prayer doesn't

change things, that God's sovereignty makes prayer unnecessary, or that action is more important than asking. The devil makes men feel guilty about inadequate prayer life rather than drawing them to the throne of grace.

Why He Targets This: Prayer is the Christian's lifeline to divine power. When the enemy kills conviction about prayer's necessity and power, he has effectively cut men off from their Source. Prayerless men are powerless men, regardless of their activity, intelligence, or resources. This conviction determines whether men operate in human strength or divine power.

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." – Samuel Chadwick

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." – Oswald Chambers

CONCLUSION: RESURRECTING KILLED CONVICTIONS

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." – 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

The enemy's strategy is systematic: he kills convictions to cripple Christians. But what the enemy kills, the Spirit can resurrect. These foundations are not optional luxuries for spiritual elites—they are non-negotiable necessities for every man complete in Christ.

The question for every man is not whether these convictions have been attacked (they have), but whether we will allow them to stay dead or fight for their resurrection. A man's spiritual strength is directly proportional to the depth and durability of his biblical convictions.

"Theology is not a private subject for theologians only. Nor is it a private subject for professors. Everybody is a theologian of a kind or another. Theology is about learning to think correctly about God." – R.C. Sproul

The call to Every Man Complete is the call to convicted men—men who know what they believe, why they believe it, and refuse to let the enemy kill the foundations of their faith.