

**Reading:** 2 Timothy 4:1-8

**Topic:** How To Destroy Your Influence As A Leader

**INTRODUCTION:** There are many potential \_\_\_\_\_ leaders and ministry workers that have self- destructed unnecessarily by falling into one or more \_\_\_\_\_ that Satan sets for people.

## I. THE TRAP OF BITTERNESS:

### ***A. Bad Things Happen To All:***

1. No matter who we are, in life we will face unexpected and unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_ that will shock us and leave us hurting and \_\_\_\_\_. Jn. 11:1-3,14
2. Sickness, disease, accidents, job loss, etc. can come into our lives unexpectedly at any \_\_\_\_\_ and take us by surprise, even though we did nothing to \_\_\_\_\_ it. Mk. 5:22,23
3. In addition to the adverse circumstances that may come into our \_\_\_\_\_, there are also people who wound us by their \_\_\_\_\_ and by their actions. 2 Tim. 4:14-16

### ***B. Our Reaction:***

1. Someone has said that adversity in our lives can either make us \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, depending upon our \_\_\_\_\_ to what happens. Job 1:20,21 Job 2:9,10
2. We may not be able to control everything that \_\_\_\_\_ to us, but we can control what \_\_\_\_\_ in us if we are prayed up and full of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Acts 20:23,24
3. If we permit bitterness to take \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts, it will begin to destroy us slowly step by step until it not only affects us but will also take \_\_\_\_\_ many others around us. Heb. 12:15

## II. THE TRAP OF BUSYNESS:

### ***A. Overcommitting Ourselves:***

1. When becoming involved in \_\_\_\_\_ and leadership, it is easy to fall into the trap of overcommitting ourselves and becoming so occupied that we have to make \_\_\_\_\_ choices. Ex. 18:13-18
2. When we are overcommitted, we will soon begin to \_\_\_\_\_ out our physical bodies, thus robbing ourselves of the \_\_\_\_\_ we need to be effective in ministry. Mk. 6:30-32

### ***B. Spiritual Neglect:***

1. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ choices often made by overcommitted individuals is to keep working at the ministry while neglecting the necessary time for \_\_\_\_\_ and the private time with God. Mt. 26:39,40
2. Once the prayer \_\_\_\_\_ becomes weak, so does the anointing and effectiveness of the ministry of the individual involved, and then the mistake is made to substitute \_\_\_\_\_ and ability in the place of genuine anointed ministry to affect people. Jude 1:16

### ***C. Spiritual Starvation:***

1. When spiritual neglect takes place because of being too \_\_\_\_\_, often the true reading and absorbing of the Word of God is omitted from the daily \_\_\_\_\_ of the individual. Eph. 6:17
2. Neglecting to feed oneself in the natural body soon leads to \_\_\_\_\_ and eventually illness, thus likewise in the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, neglecting to feed oneself with the Word of God and other good read-

ing materials will lead to the weakening of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and lack of strength to defeat the enemy of our own \_\_\_\_\_ who wars against us. Lk. 21:34

### III. THE TRAP OF ENVY:

#### ***A. Watching Others Succeed:***

1. While there are seasons of various \_\_\_\_\_ in everyone's life, some fail to understand that there are times when \_\_\_\_\_ seems to be moving forward like we would like it to. Ps. 126:6
2. While we watch others around us seeming to have \_\_\_\_\_ success and we are struggling, the human tendency is to begin to feel a tinge of \_\_\_\_\_ and if we are not careful, it can lead to trouble for us.  
Mt. 27:18

#### ***B. Play the Blame Game:***

1. Pride is the source of many of the \_\_\_\_\_ issues of an individual's life, and the only cure for that is to \_\_\_\_\_ and build up the spiritual life to overcome the \_\_\_\_\_ man. Pr. 29:23
2. One of the signs that \_\_\_\_\_ is present in one's life is that one begins to \_\_\_\_\_, criticize and find fault with the ones that are succeeding in their lives. Gen. 4:8
3. The other thing that begins to take place it to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone else for why we are not advancing and succeeding in our \_\_\_\_\_, thus ignoring our own personal responsibility. 2 Cor. 10:12

**CONCLUSION:** There is no \_\_\_\_\_ for us to become one of the casualties of ministry and leadership if only we will maintain our \_\_\_\_\_ personal daily walk with God and avoid the traps that our adversary sets for us.