Connect Study—D-Land—the Devil’s Playground or God’s Training Ground

Paul exhorts us to “put on all of God’s armour so that you will be able to stand against all **strategies** of the Devil” (Eph 6:11)

Part I—D-land—the Devil’s Playground

Some of the deadliest strategies that the Devil will use are:

1. Delay

Prov 13:12 says “Hope deferred make the heart sick”. When the answers to our prayers are delayed, we can feel distressed. One of the reason for the delay is spiritual warfare or opposition. Read Dan 10:10-12. Here we can see that Daniel had been praying for a while but his prayers were not answered for a long time. Then an angel came to him and told him that his prayers was heard from the first day he started praying but the answer was blocked by demonic opposition.

The objectives of this strategy are doubt and defeat. The angel reassured Daniel that he was very precious to God.

1. Disappointment

Disappointment is often due to unmet expectations. It can be directed to God or men. For example, Joseph who was forgotten by Pharoah’s cupbearer.

The objective of this strategy is offence which can lead hurt, unforgiveness, bitterness and cause our hearts to be closed.

1. Discouragement

To be discouraged is to be stripped of the courage and confidence of doing something.

The objective of this strategy is to cause us to quit.

When we are under attacks by the enemy, we must remember to put on the full armour of God, stand strong, worship and be in community with fellow believers.

Part II—D-land—God’s training ground.

Sometimes God has his own divine purpose in making us go through the D-land.

Read Ps 105:19 and Deut 8:2. Often times, God wants to shape our character through the delay, disappointment and discouragement.

Jesus’ parable of the fig tree which did not bear any fruit for over three years was another picture of a very disappointing situation. The gardener proposed to “dig around it and dung on it”. Sometimes the crappy things in our lives can be the fertiliser for growth if we would embrace it and respond in a godly manner.

Discussion questions:

Are you under spiritual attack lately? Share your experience

What was the longest delay you ever experienced in terms of a prayer? What happened? Looking back, what was God teaching you through the delay?

How well do you deal with disappointment and discouragement? How do we make sure we are not trapped by the Devil’s schemes?

How do you think the wilderness experience in our lives help “test” or “prove” our character?

What attitudes do we need to have to turn the “crappy stuff” in our lives into “fertiliser”?