

# A Devil-kicking Relationship

Pastor Ta Tumu

## Start Talking.

- If you knew a thief was going to break into your house, what would you do in advance to protect it?
- In this past week, what distracted you from being Christ-centered and mission-driven?

## Start Thinking.

We learned that the devil hates everything that matters to God. Our relationships, especially marriages, matter so much to God because it reflects Christ's perfect sacrificial love for the church, and it upholds the value of the family. The enemy hates both. The good thing about the Bible is that it teaches us how to be aware of the devil's schemes, counter his attacks and protect what God has given us. Therefore, marriage must involve spiritual warfare. We need to fight for what God has given us, what we value and whom we love.

Ephesians 6:11-12 NLT *Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world...*

1 Peter 5:8 NLT *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

### 1. The devil often attacks with distractions and seductions.

- Song of Songs 2:15 NIV *Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.*
  - How does the enemy attack you or your relationship? What kind of distraction does he usually put before you?
  - The word "seduce" comes from a Latin word that means "to be drawn away." The devil seduces us by pulling us away from godly commitments we make and uphold. What kind of seductions has the enemy tried on you to pull you away from your marriage/relationship/commitment?
  - Define some choices that might lead someone toward temptation. What choices would lead away from temptations?
- Ephesians 5:3 NIV *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...*
  - Why is this command so important for the believer to obey? How does sexual immorality affect our souls, spirits and our relationship?
- 1 John 2:16, *For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*
  - This verse tells us the vulnerable areas of our lives. What is the Lust of the Flesh? What is the Lust of the Eyes? What is the Pride of Life?

### 2. Recognize the areas in your life that are currently most vulnerable to spiritual attacks.

- Proverbs 4:14-15 NIV *Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.*
  - Where are you most vulnerable to spiritual attacks?
  - In what ways can you re-inforce or strengthen vulnerable areas to prevent further attacks?
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 NIV *And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*
  - Share some daily examples of what a way out might look like.
  - By God's grace, you can slam the door on temptation! What does slamming the door on temptation look like for you?
- Think of way how can you fight for what God has given you this week. How can you fight for whom you love?

## Start Applying.

- If you know where you're vulnerable today, what can you do to eliminate future distractions and temptations?
- If you're in a relationship, make a commitment with your partner to be accountable to one another. If you're single, find an accountability partner with whom you can share your struggles and to whom you give permission to rebuke, correct and encourage you.

## Start praying.

- Start praying. Be bold and pray with power. Make a commitment to pray for God's protection and strength from temptation over your DGroup mates.
- Find a prayer/accountability partner and meet with them regularly.