

# **Intensified Warfare**

ACTS

## **Bulletin**

I. Satan will do everything in his power to stop godly goals from being achieved. (Acts 21-22, 1 Thess. 2:17-18, Ephesians 6:10-16)

II. How Satan Attacks Your Reputation

1. He will use half-truths.
2. He will work in numbers.
3. He will misrepresent your motives to others.
4. He will use your past against you.
5. He will make it impossible to defend yourself.

III. Don't respond with pride or despair, but by throwing yourself before God's judgment alone. (1 Cor. 4:1-5, 2 Cor. 4:4)

IV. Satan will do everything in his power to get you so discouraged that you give up. (1 Thess. 3:5, 1 Cor. 4:1-5, Gal. 6:9, 1 Peter 4:12, 1 Peter 5:6-9).

V. How to Respond

1. Pursue consistent, heartfelt prayer. (2 Cor. 1:8-11)
2. Remember that God is on your side and wants good things for your life. (Romans 8:31-39)
3. Don't give up. (Heb. 12:1-2)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions:**

Ice-Breaker question: If you could only eat one breakfast food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

As we looked at Paul's story in Acts 21–22, what part of the conflict or chaos stood out to you the most?

Where do you see the same patterns in the passage today, like people making up their minds before hearing the whole story, or assuming the worst about someone (Acts 21:27–29)?

Pastor Josh talked about how Satan attacks our reputation using half-truths, groups of people, motive-twisting, your past, and making it impossible to defend yourself. Which of those stood out to you as you listened? Why?

Why do you think spiritual opposition often increases when someone is trying to obey God (Ephesians 6:10–16)? What do you see under the surface there? (Why is it so hard to recognize it when it happens to us?)

Paul chose not to defend himself through pride or collapse in despair, but to stand before God's judgment alone (1 Cor. 4:1–5). How does that challenge the way we usually respond to criticism or misunderstanding?

Pastor Josh talked about how Satan tries to use discouragement to make us give up, especially by turning setbacks into a sense of failure. Which part of that idea made the most sense to you, and where do you see that show up in ordinary life? (1 Thess. 3:5; Gal. 6:9)?

What does it look like to cling to the truth that God is for you and not against you when you face opposition or discouragement (Romans 8:31–39)?

What is one small, practical way you can resist giving up this week, whether in prayer, in relationships, or in doing the good God has put in front of you (Heb. 12:1–2)?