



ONE CHURCH-TWO LOCATIONS

August 2, 2026

Raising Hope: Play Great Defense against Hope Killers

Ephesians 6:10-11 (ESV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

In a much greater battle, playing defense is of utmost importance. Spiritually we must learn to play great defense. This morning I am going to describe some of the chief predators that kill hope and destroy dreams. Each one is so deadly that it can take you out, wreck your marriage, ruin your life, destroy your church, or torch your business. It only takes one.

Whatever has the power to kill faith, hope, and our spiritual lives, we must unload. Most of these hope killers operate according to a simple but deadly principle:

SIN FASCINATES, THEN ASSASSINATES!

HK1-BITTERNESS AND _____

Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

(Hebrews 12:15 NLT)-*"Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many."*

Bitterness is emotional suicide and a murderer of hope! Let it go!

HK-2 –W_____ AND ANXIETY

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV) *"casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."*

HK 3-LOOKING BACK AND COMPARING

Think about your rearview mirror

HK4-G_____

- ***You are forgiven (1 John 1:9)***
- ***There is no condemnation for you (Romans 8:1)***
- ***Your past doesn't matter (Philippians 3:13)***
- ***You will never be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39) (ESV)***

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HK 5-PAST F _____

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Any of these five hope killers can take you out. The real question is this: When some of them surface, are there practical steps you can take to improve your defense? Allow me to share three of them with you.

LIFE STRATEGY #1-NEVER MAKE DECISIONS WHEN YOU ARE D _____

LIFE STRATEGY #2-RESPOND TO B _____ NEWS IN GREAT W _____

LIFE STRATEGY #3-SHAKE IT O _____ AND STEP U _____ !

Shake it Off!

Step it Up!

Resentment

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Fear

2: Timothy 1:7

Anxiety

Call All of your Anxiety upon Jesus

Discouragement

Lamentations 3:21-23

Isolation

Hebrews 13:5

Guilt

Romans 8:1

Failure

Romans 8:37

Stress-Overwhelmed

John 16:33

Weary-I am weak and exhausted

Psalms 27:1

Opposition-I am under attack

James 1:5

Lack of Faith

Philippians 4:19