

True story

ATTEMPT TO INSTILL FEAR

Part #1

Sometimes, crazy experiences can teach us a lot! I had such an experience many years ago.

My family and I were vacationing at a resort near the ocean. My family was out swimming and playing in the ocean. Sadly, I do not like being 'in' the water, so I chose to remain at the resort. My idea of relaxation is reading, and I was intrigued by the many books of various religions that were in the hotel room drawers.

Upon finding a book that wasn't exceptionally thick, I perused it, and found it very interesting. As I was reading the book, it dawned on me that this book was *not* Christianity based, however, it read like a book from my own Christian Church! It talked about how to treat people and had a humanitarian emphasis. I agreed with everything written in this book until the last page when it said: "Now, don't depend on anything or anyone else but yourself for these things."

This statement bothered me, and I thought long and hard about it. I concluded that God was telling me: this is one of Satan's ways to deceive people. Satan claims to be the light; but that is false, and this was one of Satan's tricks!

Interestingly, the next day I got a call from our Church, asking if I would be willing to speak at the service on the following Sunday. I agreed and spent some time thinking about what topic to present. Suddenly it came to me...why not share what I had just learned?! I had just read one of 'Satan's play books'- as they call it in the sports field... why not share that insight into one of Satan's tactics?!

When the following Sunday arrived, I went to Church early to pray for the upcoming day and presentation. Then it happened! While I was sitting there in Church... an evil presence came over me! I did not know what was happening! This evil presence totally caught me off guard. I was shaking uncontrollably...I couldn't even carry a cup of coffee!

I decided to go for a walk around the block. The evil presence became even more intense. Although there were no voices, terrible thoughts bombarded my mind...threatening that if I made this presentation, the lives of my wife and four children will be destroyed. It was so real and so oppressive! The message kept playing over and over in my mind.

Finally, loudly, and sternly, I said: "I am going to do this!" Instantly, all that pressure and mind games disappeared. A peace came over me. I returned to church and delivered the message I had prepared, as planned. I was not even nervous...God had gifted me with a His great peace!

It is important to note, that up until this time in my life, I had never heard of spiritual warfare. I had never heard anyone talk about it, never read a book, never heard a sermon...I didn't fully comprehend the scope of Satan's attacks! Thankfully, I have never experienced anything like that since. That event has been permanently engraved in my mind, even though it happened many years ago!

What did I learn?

1. God will always have my back!
2. Satan has a 'play book' - so to speak, and we need to learn how to recognize it AND how to deal with it.

I am writing these stories of Satan's attempt to put fear into believers, because all Christians need to be aware of Satan's tactics, recognize his attacks, and be equipped to deal with them.

Questions

- What stood out to you in this story?
- What does this say about God?
- What does this say about you?
- Any action steps needed on your part after reading this story?
- Was there anything said in your group discussion that stood out?