

THE ONSET PRINCIPLE

Mar 9:40 For he who is not against us is on our side.

Jesus had a way of packing great truths in short to the point sentences. Here we see a powerful and important principle that we need to understand and practice. To illustrate this principle I want to share a personal testimony. I like to ride my bike for exercise. Right now it is summer and it is quite hot. I like to ride my bike in the morning but sometimes it works out that I must ride in the afternoon when it is hot. Riding in the heat of the day makes me sweat much more than when it is cooler. At such times I would find that I would get a head-ache afterwards even when I tried to hydrate myself well. Once I had a head-ache I had trouble receiving my healing from it. I would end up taking aspirin to relieve the headache. Now it is not wrong to take medicine, but I felt something was wrong that I could not seem to receive healing from these head-aches. In seeking God about this He revealed a revelation that has helped me, and I believe will help you as well. The Lord showed me where I was missing it with the head-aches. I don't know about you, but I tend to deal with problems when they become serious problems, instead of when they first begin. The Lord showed me that I would not stand against the head-aches until I had a full blown head-ache. By that time it had taken root and I had trouble getting rid of it. The Lord showed me that I needed to stand against it the moment I first detected it coming on me. The Lord brought the verse above to my mind. Jesus said, "He who is **not against me**, is **on my side**". In this short sentence is the principle that the Lord revealed to me to deal with the head-aches. The Lord showed me that when the head-aches would start to come on me, I failed to stand against it. In not standing against it, I was actually siding in with it! I did not realize that. What I did not realize is that there is no middle ground when it comes between God and the enemy and between God's works and the works of the enemy. Jesus said that if someone is not against Him, then they are with Him. It could be said the opposite is true as well. Whoever is not against the enemy and his works, is siding with him. Some people feel that if they are not for the Lord, they are not necessarily against Him. Jesus said that this is **NOT** true. There is no middle ground. Similarly, many think that if they are not against the enemy, they are not for him either. This is **NOT** true either. In the spiritual world either you are for things or you are against things. There is no middle ground. Making no decision for something is making a decision against

something. Failing to stand for a thing, places you against it. Failing to stand against something, leaves you standing for it. This principle holds true for dealing with the works of the enemy. This was my problem with the head-aches. When the head-aches would start to come on me, I failed to stand against it, which was me making a stand with it and actually giving it authority to enter and take a foot hold on me. This was the case even if I did not want the head-ache. Waiting to oppose it until after it had taken root was a mistake. I believe many others are making the same mistake with many of the attacks of the enemy.

Once this was revealed to me I knew that I needed to stand against these head-aches immediately. It turned out my next bike ride had to be done in the afternoon because of commitments I had in the morning and in the evening. Of course it was very hot and I sweated a lot! As in all the other times about an hour after the ride I felt the head-ache coming on. It was very faint pain at the beginning. At that point I stood against the head-ache and rebuked it in the name of Jesus. I told it I was against it and forbade it to enter me. It immediately went away! After awhile it tried to come back. I did the same thing and it went immediately away again. After that it did not come back! I had taken a stand against it and it could not come on me. If I had failed to stand against it, I would have sided with it.

1Pe 5:9 *Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset--rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.*

We are to withstand the enemy. However it is important to do so at his **ONSET**. Often we wait for awhile until he has caused a significant problem to us that we must address. This is too late! Our passivity is actually actively siding with him! Again, there is no middle ground where you are neutral with the enemy and his works! If you are not against them, then you are for them! I know that this is hard to accept, but it is the teaching of our Lord, and we need to renew our minds to it. Passive Christians are bound Christians. Passive Christians are defeated Christians. Failing to resist him, leaves us standing with him!

(Eph 4:27) nor give place to the devil.

We are not to give any place to the devil. When we fail to stand against him and his works from the onset then we are giving him place and a foothold in our lives.

This principle is the same whether you are talking about healing or temptation to sin. The best time to deal with a temptation to sin is immediately upon the first thought that comes to you. Many try to stand against sin when they are filled with burning desires for it because they have allowed themselves to think about it for a while. If the temptation was resisted by placing our faith in the obedience of Christ immediately then the temptation would have been far less and victory more likely experienced.

(Mat 16:19) I will give you the keys of the Realm of heaven; whatever you prohibit on earth will be [has been] prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be [has been] permitted in heaven.
Moffatt Translation

Jesus said that he left us the authority on what we will permit or what we prohibit on the earth. It is not up to the Lord because He has left it up to us. God has prohibited the works of the enemy in heaven, and now it is up to us to prohibit them here. God has permitted the blessings of the covenant to be established for us in heaven. Now we must permit the working of them here in our lives. The truth is that if we do not prohibit the enemy from working in our lives, we by default give him permission to work! Many are giving the enemy permission to work in their lives because of their failure to prohibit him!

The next time the enemy attacks you, stand against him at the **ONSET.** If you fail to do this, you are siding with him and you will more than likely experience defeat or make things a lot more difficult on yourself. I pray this revelation will be helpful and a blessing to you as it has for me!