



PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 17

The Devil wants to keep you from becoming holy, so he will turn you into a modern-day Pharisee or get you practicing unhealthy self-denial. If those don't work, he may use this trick in his bag.

He'll turn you into an activist.

In Jesus' day, an activist was called a Zealot. A zealot was a person who refused to submit to Rome. These guys were always angry and took joy in starting fights. They were passionate about surfacing evil and destroying God's enemies. They loved the word "*spiritual warfare*." They forgot that God loved the world because they hated it. They wanted to confront and slay the world because it was so unholy!

They believed that activism equaled holiness.

But the Bible says different. While mentoring a young pastor named Timothy, Paul gave him some insight into responding to the world we live in. He described how to live a holy life in an unholy world.

"A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants." -2 Timothy 2:24-26

Activists tend to ignore these commands and expectations. Instead of winning people over, they want to wipe them out. This is not a holy life. Holiness is being like Jesus, who came to win the world, not resent it.

READ: Romans 8:31-39

JOURNAL (Reflect):

- Lord, what do you want to say to me about your love for me, from this Scripture?
- Lord, is there anyone I am having a hard time loving? Are there any people or people groups that I don't love as you do?

PRAY:

- Use what God spoke to you about as a focus for your prayer time.