

What the Enemy Meant to Destroy You, God May Use to Prepare You

By Admin | Sermon | May 25, 2026

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(serious) There is a profound mystery in the way God handles the broken pieces of our lives. We often find ourselves in the middle of a crisis, staring at the wreckage of a dream, a relationship, or a season of stability, and we conclude that the end has arrived. (anxious) We feel the weight of an attack that seems designed for our total undoing, a strategic blow meant to silence our voice and extinguish our hope. (confident) But the narrative of Scripture consistently reveals a God who is a Master of the "U-turn." He takes the very weapons formed against you and transforms them into tools for your promotion. (excited) And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the FOLLOW button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because the moment you stop seeing your trial as a dead end and start seeing it as a training ground, your victory begins. (proud) The enemy's intention is to leave you devastated, but God's intention is to leave you developed.

(serious) When we look at the hardships we face, it is easy to become hyper-focused on the pain of the process while ignoring the purpose of the Designer. Joseph, sitting in a cold Egyptian dungeon, had every reason to believe that his brothers' betrayal had successfully destroyed his destiny. He had been sold, lied about, and forgotten. (comforting) Yet, years later, he could stand before the very ones who tried to kill him and say, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." (confident) This is the "Joseph Principle": what was meant for your destruction is actually the fuel for your elevation. The pit was not his grave; it was the portal to the palace. (sincere) If you are in a pit today, you need to understand that the darkness isn't there to swallow you; it's there to show you the light that can never be extinguished.

(keen) We are going to explore the seven ways God recalibrates the enemy's attacks to serve His sovereign will. We are moving from a place of "Why is this happening to me?" to "What is this producing in me?" (confident) Your struggle is not a sign of God's absence; it is often the greatest evidence of His activity. The heat you are feeling is not meant to consume you; it is meant to refine you until the image of the Savior is clearly seen in the reflection of your soul. (excited) This is your moment to reclaim your perspective and realize that the very thing that tried to break you is the very thing God is using to build you. Let us look deep into the Word of God and uncover the secret blueprint for a life that is indestructible in Christ.

Number 1: The Fire That Refines Your Character

(serious) The first way God repurposes the enemy's attack is through the process of refinement. In the ancient world, a goldsmith would put the gold into a furnace to melt away the dross—the

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impurities that made the metal weak and dull. 1 Peter 1:7 tells us that our faith, which is of greater worth than gold, is refined by fire so that it may be proved genuine. (confident) The enemy brings the fire to burn you up, but God uses the heat to bring the impurities to the surface so He can skim them away. The "destruction" the enemy planned is actually a "purification" process directed by the Father.

(anxious) When you are under pressure, things come to the surface that you didn't know were there—impatience, fear, pride, or self-reliance. (sincere) If life was always easy, these impurities would stay hidden in the depths of your heart, eventually weakening your spiritual foundation.

(proud) The enemy thinks he is breaking your spirit, but God is actually strengthening your core. By removing the dross, God makes you more resilient and more valuable for the kingdom. The fire doesn't change what you are; it reveals what you are and makes you better.

(moved) Think of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. The king meant the fire to be their execution, but God used it as an opportunity for a miracle. (confident) The only thing that burned away in that fire were the ropes that bound them. They walked out of the furnace not even smelling like smoke. (joyful) Sometimes, God allows the enemy to turn up the heat just so He can burn off the "cords" that have been holding you back. The fire that was meant to end your story actually becomes the stage for God's glory to be revealed in your life.

(comforting) Practical victory in the fire means staying in the presence of the "Fourth Man." When the Hebrew boys were in the furnace, Jesus was right there with them. (sincere) If you feel like the heat is too much, don't focus on the temperature; focus on the Teacher. He is monitoring the thermostat. He won't let the fire get a degree hotter than what is necessary for your refinement. You are not being punished; you are being prepared. The gold doesn't complain to the goldsmith; it trusts the hand that holds the tongs.

(proud) When you emerge from this season, you will possess a character that is solid and a faith that is unshakeable. The enemy will regret the day he threw you into the fire, because he will see that he didn't destroy you—he only made you more like Jesus. Your character is the one thing you take into eternity, and God values it enough to let it be tested. Trust the process, and know that you are coming out as pure gold.

Number 2: The Training Ground of the Wilderness

(serious) The second strategy God uses is transforming your isolation into a time of intensive training. After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The enemy saw the wilderness as an opportunity to weaken the Son of God and derail His mission

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before it even began. He meant for the hunger and the solitude to destroy Jesus' resolve. (confident) But God used that forty-day period to prepare Jesus for the public ministry that would change the world. If this message inspires you, don't forget to FOLLOW for more Bible insights every week.

(painful) The wilderness is a place of "stripping away." In the wilderness, you don't have the comforts, the crowds, or the constant affirmations you are used to. It is just you and God. (disapproving) The enemy wants you to feel abandoned and forgotten during these seasons. He whispers that God has turned His back on you. (proud) But in reality, the wilderness is the "University of the Holy Spirit." It is where you learn to hear God's voice above the noise of the world. It is where you learn that "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" - Matthew 4:4.

(serious) Moses spent forty years in the wilderness tending sheep before he was ready to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. David spent years in the caves fleeing from Saul before he was ready to sit on the throne. The wilderness was the "hidden season" that produced the "public authority." (comforting) If God has you in a quiet, lonely, or difficult place right now, do not despise it. You are in training. The enemy thinks he has sidelined you, but God has actually sheltered you for a period of growth that couldn't happen anywhere else.

(confident) In the wilderness, you develop "spiritual survival skills." You learn how to find water in the rock and manna in the desert. You learn to rely on God's daily provision rather than your own paycheck or your own plans. This reliance is what gives you the power to face the "giants" later on. You cannot conquer Canaan until you have survived the Sinai. The enemy meant for the desert to be your graveyard, but God is making it your gymnasium.

(sincere) Take heart if you feel isolated today. Your "hidden years" are not wasted years. Every prayer prayed in the silence, every tear shed in the dark, and every verse memorized in the struggle is building a reservoir of strength within you. (excited) When God eventually calls you out of the wilderness, you will step forth with a power and a clarity that the enemy never saw coming. You are being prepared for a weight of glory that requires a wilderness-tested heart.

Number 3: Developing Spiritual Authority Through Resistance

(serious) The third way God uses the enemy's plan is to build your spiritual authority. Resistance is a necessary component of growth. In the physical world, muscles only grow when they are pushed against weight. (confident) In the spiritual world, your "authority" only grows when you are forced to stand against opposition. The enemy brings resistance to stop your progress, but God uses that

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same resistance to increase your strength. Every time you stand your ground against a lie, an temptation, or an attack, your spiritual "rank" increases.

(moved) Consider the story of David and Goliath. The enemy sent Goliath to destroy the morale of Israel and to kill the future king. Goliath was a massive obstacle, a symbol of overwhelming destruction. But for David, Goliath was the "promotion exam." Without the giant, David would have remained a shepherd boy in the eyes of the nation. The very thing that was sent to destroy Israel was the very thing God used to launch David into his destiny. (proud) The resistance didn't break David; it defined him.

(confident) Spiritual authority is not given in a classroom; it is forged on the battlefield. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The "resistance" part is where the growth happens. When the enemy tries to intimidate you with fear or drown you in doubt, and you choose to speak the Word of God, you are exercising your authority. You are proving that the Greater One lives in you. The enemy meant to paralyze you, but he actually forced you to learn how to fight.

(sincere) We often pray for the "removal" of the obstacle, but sometimes God is more interested in the "removal" of our weakness. If God removed every giant, you would never learn how to use your sling. If He removed every storm, you would never learn how to command the waves. (proud) God is using the resistance you face today to prepare you for the level of leadership He has for you tomorrow. You are learning the weight of the armor and the sharpness of the Sword of the Spirit.

(excited) When you stop running from the resistance and start standing in your authority, the enemy's plan backfires. He realizes that every time he attacks you, he is only making you a more formidable opponent. You are moving from a "victim" mentality to a "victor" mentality. The very trials that were meant to keep you down are the ones that are teaching you how to rise up and lead others into their own freedom.

Number 4: Enlarging Your Capacity for Compassion

(comforting) The fourth purpose of the enemy's attack, as repurposed by God, is the expansion of your heart. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 tells us that God "comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." The enemy meant for your pain to make you bitter, but God wants to use it to make you a healer. (sincere) Your "scar" is often the very thing that gives you the "credentials" to speak into someone else's wound.

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(serious) If this message inspires you, don't forget to FOLLOW for more Bible insights every week. There is a level of empathy that can only be earned through suffering. You can have sympathy for someone without experiencing their pain, but you can only have true compassion when you have walked through the same fire. (painful) When you go through a period of loss, betrayal, or failure, the enemy's goal is to turn your heart into stone. He wants you to become cynical and guarded. (confident) But if you surrender that pain to God, He uses it to break your heart open in a way that allows you to carry the burdens of others.

(moved) Think of the Apostle Peter. The enemy wanted to "sift him like wheat." Peter's denial of Jesus was meant to be his final failure, a moment of shame that would destroy his leadership. But Jesus told him, "When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (proud) God took Peter's greatest failure and used it to give him a heart of humility and grace for the struggling. Peter became a better leader because of the brokenness he experienced. His failure didn't destroy him; it prepared him to lead a church full of other failing, human people.

(sincere) Your deepest pain is often the birthplace of your greatest ministry. If you've struggled with addiction, you are the best person to help an addict. If you've survived a broken marriage, you have a unique voice for the hurting. If you've faced deep depression, your light shines brighter for those in the dark. The enemy meant to silence you with shame, but God is using your story to give others hope. (comforting) You are not just a survivor; you are a "wounded healer."

(joyful) The capacity of your heart is being enlarged. You are learning the language of the brokenhearted, a language you couldn't learn in a season of constant blessing. God is preparing you to be a vessel of His mercy. The very tears you've cried are becoming the "medicine" for someone else's soul. Don't waste your pain by staying bitter; let God use it to make you a bridge-builder for His kingdom.

Number 5: Establishing a Testimony of God's Faithfulness

(serious) The fifth way God utilizes the enemy's attack is to build an undeniable testimony. A testimony requires a test. The enemy brings the "test" to prove that God is not faithful or that you are not strong enough. He wants to create a narrative of defeat. (confident) But when God brings you through the fire, He creates a narrative of deliverance. Your life becomes a living billboard for the power and goodness of God. People don't look at you and see how "great" you are; they look at you and see how "great" your God is.

(proud) Revelation 12:11 says that "they triumphed over the accuser by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Your testimony is a weapon. Every time you tell the story of how

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God provided in the lack, healed in the sickness, or restored in the brokenness, you are defeating the enemy's lies. The enemy meant for your situation to be a "closed case," but God is making it an "open book" that encourages thousands.

(moved) Consider the blind man in John 9. He was born blind, and the disciples wondered whose sin caused it. Jesus replied that it happened "so that the works of God might be displayed in him." The man's lifelong struggle was not a punishment; it was a preparation for a moment of divine display. (confident) His healing became a testimony that challenged the religious elite and brought glory to the Son of God. The enemy meant for that man to be a beggar on the sidelines of life, but God meant for him to be a witness at the center of history.

(sincere) Your testimony is not just for you. It is for the person who is currently in the middle of what you just came out of. When they see that God did it for you, they realize He can do it for them. The enemy wants to isolate your struggle, making you feel like it's a "private shame." God wants to publicize your victory, making it a "public strength." The very thing that tried to hide you is being used to highlight God's faithfulness in your life.

(excited) Stop looking at your trial as a "tragedy" and start looking at it as a "triumph in progress." You are in the middle of a story that hasn't reached its climax yet. When the dust settles, you won't just have a "survivor's story"; you will have a "Sovereign's story." You will be able to point to the wreckage and say, "The enemy meant to destroy me right here, but look at how God used this very spot to show His power."

Number 6: Producing a Weight of Eternal Glory

(serious) The sixth purpose of the enemy's attack, as redirected by God, is the production of eternal weight. 2 Corinthians 4:17 tells us, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." (confident) This is a perspective shift that the enemy hates. He wants you to think that your "troubles" are heavy and your "glory" is light. But the Bible says the opposite. Your troubles are "light and momentary" when compared to the "eternal weight" they are producing.

(proud) The word "achieving" or "producing" implies that the trouble is the "workman." The pressure of the enemy's attack is actually "working" for you, carving out a capacity for glory that wouldn't exist otherwise. Think of a sculptor using a chisel. The chisel "hurts" the stone, but every blow is removing what doesn't belong and shaping what does. The enemy thinks he is "hitting" you, but in the hands of the Master Sculptor, he is just a tool being used to create a masterpiece.

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(sincere) This "eternal glory" isn't just for the afterlife; it is a weight of presence and anointing that you carry right now. People who have walked through deep trials often have a "gravity" to their spirit. They don't have a superficial faith; they have a "weighted" faith. This weight gives them influence and authority. The enemy meant to lighten your impact and make you insignificant, but God is using the pressure to make you "heavy" with His presence.

(moved) We see this in the life of Paul. He faced beatings, shipwrecks, and betrayals. The enemy tried everything to stop his pen and silence his voice. But Paul viewed it all as a "light affliction." Why? Because he was focused on the "eternal weight." (confident) He knew that every scar on his back was being translated into a crown in glory. He knew that the resistance he faced on earth was building a rewards-account in heaven.

(joyful) When you realize that your struggle is actually "investing" in your future, the enemy loses his leverage. He can't discourage someone who knows that their current "loss" is being converted into eternal "gain." You are not just "enduring" the attack; you are "earning" a capacity for God's glory. Keep your eyes on the eternal, and the "momentary" will lose its power to overwhelm you.

Number 7: Positioning You for a Greater Mission

(serious) Finally, God uses the enemy's attack to move you into position. Sometimes, we get comfortable where we are, even if it's not where God wants us to be. The enemy often brings a "storm" that displaces us, thinking he is driving us into chaos. (confident) But God uses that same storm to "blow" us into our next assignment. The "destruction" of your current comfort zone is often the "construction" of your new platform.

(proud) In the book of Acts, the early church was staying in Jerusalem, even though Jesus had told them to go to the ends of the earth. It wasn't until a "great persecution" arose—an attack meant to destroy the church—that the believers were scattered. The enemy meant to "disperse" the fire to put it out, but he actually "scattered" the sparks and started a global wildfire. (excited) The attack positioned the disciples exactly where they needed to be to fulfill their mission.

(sincere) Your current "disruption" might be a "divine repositioning." If a door closed, it might be because the room was too small for what God wants to do next. If a relationship ended, it might be because that person couldn't go where you are going. The enemy meant for the "change" to be a "setback," but God is making it a "setup." You are being moved like a piece on a chessboard by a King who sees the whole board.

(comforting) Trust the "navigation" of the Holy Spirit, even when it feels like a "forced relocation."

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God is not reactive; He is proactive. He knew the attack was coming, and He already had a plan to use the "momentum" of that attack to push you toward your purpose. You are being "launched" into a new season, and sometimes the "launch" requires a bit of turbulence.

(joyful) When you arrive at your next destination, you will look back and realize that you never would have moved on your own. You needed the "push" to get to the "promise." The enemy thought he was driving you away from your blessing, but he was actually driving you toward your greatest mission. God is in the business of using the devil's "nudge" to get His children to the "next."

Conclusion

(serious) The secret to a life of victory is the unwavering belief that God is in total control of the "edit." The enemy may write a chapter of your life intended for your destruction, but God is the Author who has the final say, and He is a Master of the plot twist. (proud) We have seen that the fire meant to consume you is actually refining you. The wilderness meant to starve you is actually training you. The resistance meant to stop you is actually promoting you, and the pain meant to break you is enlarging your heart for others.

(confident) Your testimony is being forged in the very places the enemy tried to bury you. The "weight" of the trial is producing a "weight" of glory, and the "displacement" of the storm is positioning you for a mission you haven't even dreamed of yet. God is not wasting a single tear, a single heartbeat, or a single moment of your struggle. He is taking the "bad" and working it for "good," because that is who He is and that is what He does for those who love Him.

(sincere) Do not be intimidated by the shadow of the enemy's plan. Shadows only exist where there is a Great Light shining nearby. Stand firm in the knowledge that what was meant to destroy you is being "heavenly repurposed" to prepare you. (excited) You are more than a conqueror because you have a Father who can turn any "weapon" into a "tool." Walk forward with your head held high, knowing that your best days are not behind you—they are being prepared right now in the middle of your battle.

(joyful) You are being shaped for a purpose that is larger than your current problem. The God of the Turnaround is working on your behalf. Trust Him with the process, stay faithful in the fire, and get ready to see how the very thing that tried to take you out becomes the very thing that takes you up. (relaxed) Before you go, make sure to FOLLOW and subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.

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