

Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

HINDERED NOT DEFEATED

Pastor Donald Shoots

“Wherefore we would have come unto you...but Satan hindered us.”

I Thessalonians 2:18

Satan is a hinderer.

There are those who have never met that part of Satan, because they have never done anything for him to see a need to hinder. He doesn't just hinder to hinder, Satan is smarter than that. He only hinders when there is **something to hinder**. When you have found the Will of God, when you are *in* the Will of God, that is when this working to hinder shows up. Do something for God and you will greatly understand what this message is about.

Paul, the Apostle, a man who talked to Jesus on the road to Damascus, a man who saw the light from heaven to such degree that he was blinded, quickly learned about this matter of being hindered. Many think that if all things between them and Jesus are at a place of fullness, a hindrance from Satan can have no place. Personally, there was a time when I rebuked all I could rebuke and Satan was still hindering. II Cor 12:1-4 says of Paul that he was caught up to the third heaven and how he heard words so glorious they were unspeakable, yet Satan hindered HIM! I proclaim this reality of being hindered so that when it happens you won't get discouraged and confused! Don't let

hindrance become something it's not. The Apostle Paul said, “Satan hindered **us!**” Some can say, “you just brought my husband into this”, “you just brought my wife into this” or “you just brought my family into this”! There were three missionaries (1:1) that were in Corinth who were going to visit Thessalonica and minister, carrying life and encouragement to the Thessalonians. And *those* three missionaries who were walking in and desiring to do the Will of God with a divine purpose got hindered! So this tells me that it doesn't matter how holy, devout, glorious your vision and task or your yielding to the Will of God... there will be a hindrance! Not only did Satan hinder “us”, but he gets personal and he becomes a personal hinderer. He tempted Jesus, desired to have Peter, and hindered Paul. Paul was a great man and yet he met great hindrance. I am repetitive here because many times when we face a hindrance from Satan, we will reevaluate everything! *Am I saved? Am I in the Will of God? Well, there must be sin in my life!* After a while you can get deep enough in that kind of thinking Satan will move in stating, “You're full of doubt and unbelief, you shouldn't be here, you don't deserve to be a part of this.” After a while that hindrance becomes

something much, much greater! Some hindrances last for a day, months or even years! Some hindrances are deep, and they hurt. Some can make you think you will never get free to carry on or see the sunshine again. Some hindrances are not just deep and long, but some hindrances become very, very troubling.

Discerning hearts must take on a deeper look at what is happening with them and Christ. That which God is working to perform is glorious enough to arouse Satan's attention. Here it would be in order to rejoice knowing a Divine Will of God is about to be revealed. The purpose of God is just around the

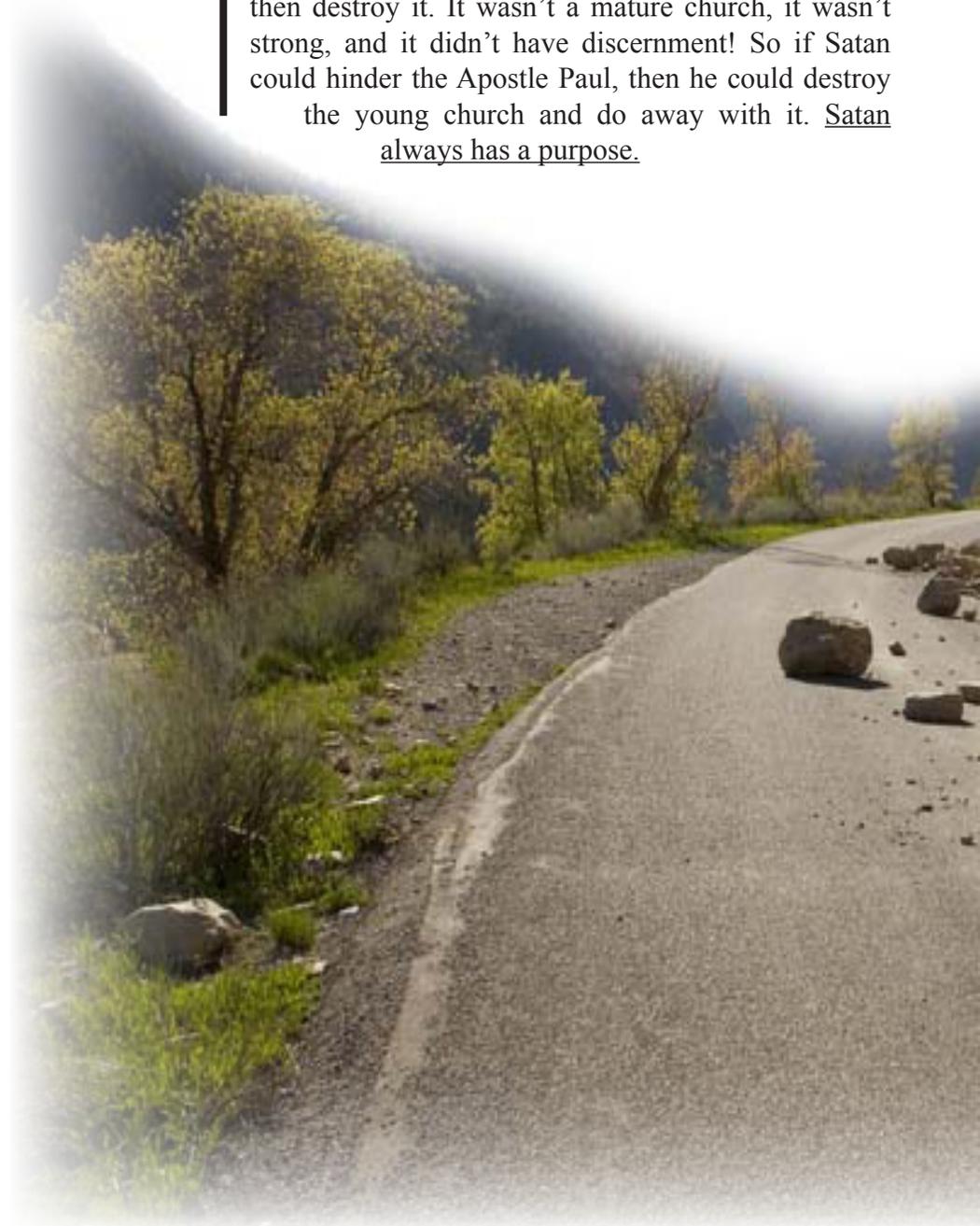
A HINDRANCE IS NOT A DEFEAT.

corner and Satan's hindrance will not kill it. Patience and wisdom must be sought as God outsmarts the old serpent.

It's easy to hinder, so Satan has an easy job. It's easier to tear down than to build up. It's easier to criticize than to edify. It's easier to hurt than help! It is easy for Satan to do mischief, easy to suggest difficulties, and magnify obstacles. The apostle Paul was not nervous about the hindrance, and YOU don't need to be shocked at the hindrance either! Has Satan ever hindered a man from doing bad? No, Satan never has and never will hinder men from doing wrong. As a matter of fact, he will HELP men to do bad things. He will not help you go to church, but he will help you to come up with an excuse not to go. Satan confronts the purpose and performances of the unfolding of the Will of God. We all know doubt is a tool used by Satan, so he presses men to doubt it all, doubt all people, the church, the Sunday school teacher, doubt it all! Once this hindrance is full-blown you will find yourself living in a world in which you're the only holy man in town, yet consumed with death. I doubt the Word of God, I doubt

the gifts of the Spirit, I doubt the altar, I doubt, I doubt, I doubt. He knows what it takes to hinder, and he will do what it takes!

So Paul is in Corinth and he wanted to revisit the Thessalonians. We are not told through the Word what the specifics of the hindrances were that he experienced. Scholars say the hindrances were ongoing persecution which were so severe that they could not move on. It was also said that the Athenian philosophers were buffeting in a severe way, and it was possible that the Corinthian heretics were attacking the young church to such degree that they could not leave the church to be attacked by the powers of darkness and lies of Satan himself. Satan hates the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why is Paul bringing to us this assault of being hindered? The light must shine on the fact that Satan wanted to weaken the young church, then destroy it. It wasn't a mature church, it wasn't strong, and it didn't have discernment! So if Satan could hinder the Apostle Paul, then he could destroy the young church and do away with it. Satan always has a purpose.



The word, “hinder” is a metaphor taken from military operations. There were times in past wars where the roads were blown up by bombs and other means. Many times nobody was killed, it just blew up their way of getting where they needed to go. It didn’t kill them, it just kept the army from advancing. Often times that is exactly what Satan is trying to do and obviously Paul had become familiar to the matter of hindrances to such degree that he didn’t seem shocked, and neither should you!

Satan wants the hindrances to become a defeat. When you face a hindrance, one of the first impulses of the flesh is defeat. The first impulse is to stop, go back, retreat, question, wonder and doubt. The first impulse is to doubt the Will of God, to question ourselves; “Am I right?” “Am I doing right?” Hindrance is not a defeat, but Satan wants it to be. The same Paul that faced these

hindrances said much later, **after** the hindrances, “I have fought a good fight and **finished** the course and kept the faith”.

Paul, Where is the hindrance? “It’s behind me”.

Jesus encountered hindrances time and time again. It’s amazing who came into His life, it’s amazing who said what about Him, to Him, and even called Him a drunk. They went after every part of his life. The very people he came to save put a crown of thorns on His head. But the same man that faced all of those hindrances is the same man that said, “It is finished”!

Jesus, where are your

hindrances?

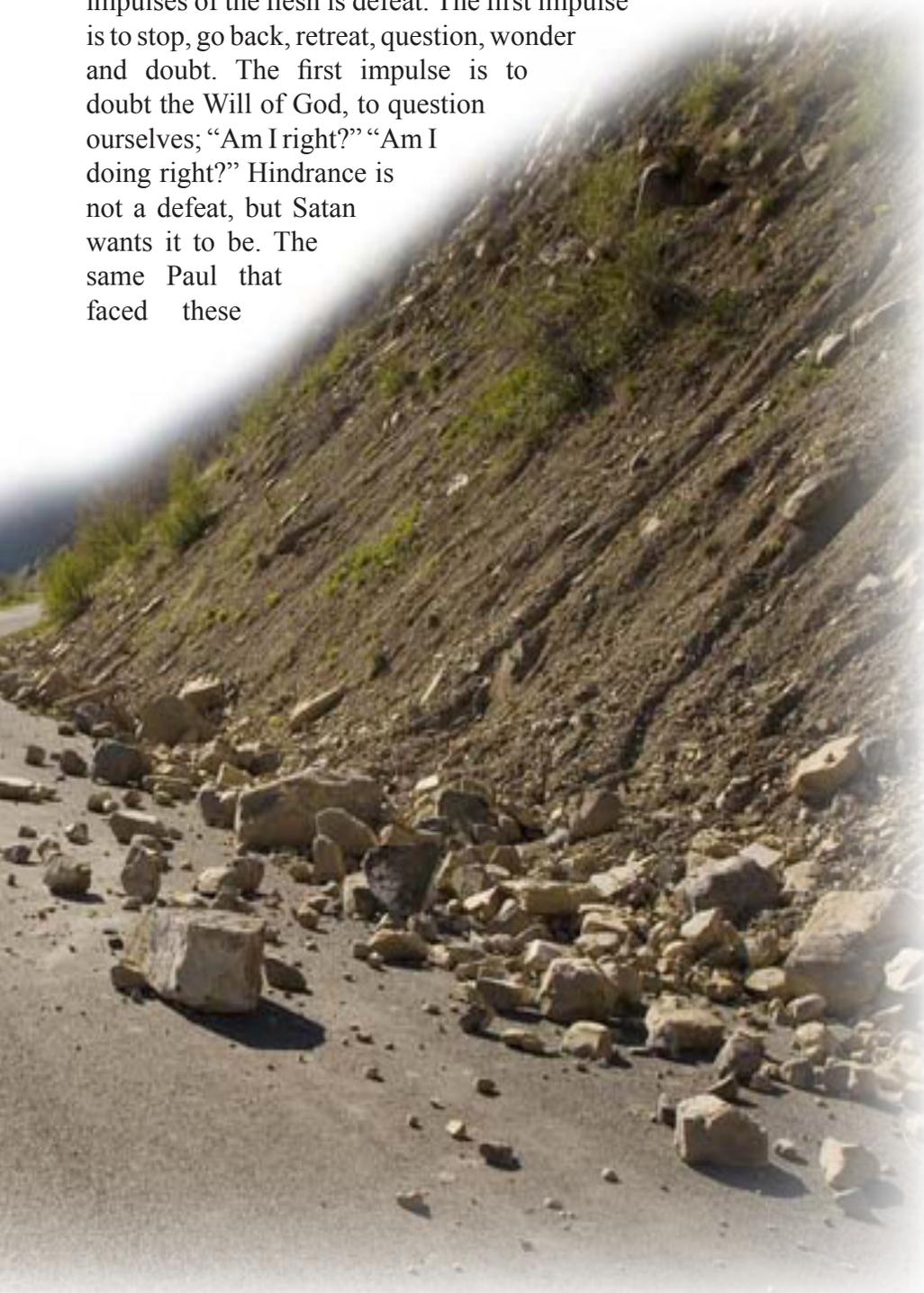
“They are behind me!”

If Satan can make a defeat out of a hindrance, he will. Jesus was talking to Peter and tells him, Satan desires to have you to sift you as wheat, but I want you to know that I have prayed for you. That doesn’t mean that the hindrances won’t come, but that hindrance won’t bring defeat. It’s simply a hindrance, and after a while it will be over with. Many times Satan makes hindrances out to be something much bigger so that at the end of the day we are defeated, not just hindered. Peter, Satan desires to have you. **But** in Acts 2:4 – Peter standing up with the 11, has arrived at the Upper room, Pentecost has come!

Peter where is your hindrance?

“It’s behind me!”

Paul showed no sign in yielding to the hindrances, but hopefully and cheerfully he looked



beyond into the future. You can look at an obstacle until it overwhelms you, with nothing else in view. You can stare at it until you say this is as far as I can go. This hindrance has defeated me. Few will say to you, “Stay strong and fight the good fight of faith!”

Paul didn’t dwell on his hindrances! He recognized it and moved on with the Will of God! Stop looking at your Jericho, when God told you he would make it fall.

Paul showed no signs of yielding to the hindrance, but hopefully and cheerfully looked beyond it to the future. Hindrance is a pause not a stop. What will you do during your “pause”? Look at the hindrance and stare at it until it becomes death? Or will you take the pause, rest in the Lord, let Him minister to you, then go ahead with the Will of God? Hindrance WILL come! **There is an opposite to hinder!** The antonym is promote, further, assist, expedite, advance, facilitate. That is the work of the Spirit! Don’t let a hindrance turn into a defeat!

Stop listening to the hindrances and
start listening to the promises.

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Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost

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