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From Attack to Achievement: Suggestions for Overcoming a Crisis in Faith *A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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Most of us are familiar with the concept of an attack. The term usually has meeting in reference to a military conflict or an act of violence initiated by one person against another. When person is experience a "panic" attack he or she may have difficulty breathing, spatial disorientation, profuse sweating, dizziness and an inability to think logically. In the past, my understanding of the word attack was limited to a person's psychological, emotional and physical state. However, a few years ago, a student used the term in reference to her spiritual life. In short, she said: "Dean, nothing is going right in my spiritual life. I can't find the time to read my bible, I'm not getting anything out of the preached word, my boyfriend does not want us to behave like a Christian couple, and I beginning to become unsure about God's purpose for my life. I think that I am under attack from the Enemy." I was

familiar with Paul's idea of "putting on the full armor" in Ephesians 6, but, prior to our conversation, I had never heard of term attack in direct reference to a person's spiritual life. My clinical and pastoral training suggested to me that we needed to discuss, understand and address some challenges that she was having in her spiritual life. We eventually arrived at the conclusion that there are very difficult circumstances in life that can bring about a serve crisis in faith, and this crisis in faith can have negative implications for our individual, social, marital, physical, financial and spiritual lives.

Job's wife was experiencing a crisis faith when she suggested that her husband should "curse God and die (Job 2:9)." Moses was experiencing a crisis in faith when he was reluctant to speak to Pharaoh to say: "Let my people go (Exodus 3:11 and 5:1)." Jonah was experiencing a crisis of

faith when he told God that he wasn't going to preach to the people of Nineveh (Jonah 1:3). Biblical scholars have even argued that Jesus experienced a brief crisis in faith when he said: "My God, my God, why had thou forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)." It is human to experience an "attack" which leads to a crisis in faith. When we experience this crisis, the bible teaches us to find a way to draw closer to God (e.g., praying, fasting, studying the bible, talking to someone who knows and loves the Lord) instead of allowing people and circumstances to pull us away from God. My experiences have taught me that turning an attack in achievement is found in our daily devotion to God's word. It is by utilizing the resources of the faith that we are able to overcome an attack into an achievement.