

# "Where Are You?"



*“There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere—one murder after another. That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away. Even the wild animals, the birds of the*

*sky, and the fish of the sea are disappearing.”*

*The Lord | Hosea 4:1-3 (NLT)*

The Lord's words are fitting still. Hardly a day goes by without me hearing of how we are ever so close to, or amid the end times. Earthquakes, wildfires, and hurricanes wreak havoc everywhere, not to mention the lingering toll of COVID. Our land is in mourning, people are wasting away; whose life hasn't been affected? Mass murders grab headlines but is this just evidence of a greater battle?

Distracted, do we see that the real battle is spiritual, pointed at us individually?

*“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 6:12)*

Shut God out of schools, governments, workplaces, and an enlarging spiritual chasm grows between man and God... with devastating consequences. Creating separation is our enemy's top priority. Is kicking God out of the schools etc. a high-level maneuver by the enemy? Hardly. He prefers death by a thousand cuts; craftily inserting blockades at the individual level, we simply see the overall result.

He leaves Followers alone, right?

*“Don’t point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! My complaint, you priests, is with you... Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children.” The Lord (Hosea 4:4-6)*

Quite the opposite. In fact, his best move is to distract while secretly inserting blockades at places of influence...

**Reflect: Have I become distracted; unaware of a widening distance between me and God?**

The chasm was opened in Eden...

*“When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’” Genesis 3:8-9*

Once in close Intimacy, the relationship between God, Adam and Eve was severed. Fortunately, for those accepting Jesus’ mercy and grace, the permanent closure of the chasm has been determined. In the meantime, the enemy does anything and everything to interfere with our influence. He cleverly inserts blockades; can you recognize them?

*Consider:* **God is calling, “Where are you?” right now.**

What distracts you? Politics, social media, anger, quarrels, rejection, busyness, family issues, financial problems, goals, porn, other people’s behavior and your efforts to fix them, technology, bosses, religious activities, fear(!)... and oh yeah, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, COVID and the moral demise of society. Your enemy uses these as masquerades as he slyly slips in a blockade... He’ll even commandeer your Mission by raising it’s noble importance above Intimacy with God.

God’s question echoes... “Where are you?” He never stops calling. He knows your adversary, he knows your old, familiar, and self-centered nature, he knows you are easily deceived. Do you hear him calling for you? If not, you’ve already been blocked. Stop! Ask, “What blockade have I let slip in between me and God?”

*Imagine:* **Shutting out spiritual Trojan Horses before they enter.**

It’s not a matter of if, but how often you will experience blockades. How will they get in? I’m reminded of how the Greeks used a giant horse, a seemingly righteous offering to the goddess Athena, to enter Troy. It captivated people’s attention, blinding them to the danger inside. (Personally, I’ve found that spiritual “Trojan Horses” slip in under the guise of my apparent righteousness... thinking, “The problem

is with the world out there!”)

*“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.” The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:8-9)*

Peter warns, “Stay alert!” for times when your old, self-centered nature gets aroused. Humble yourself, suspect spiritual Trojan Horses, and check to ensure you’re still in range to hear God calling...

### **"Where are you?"**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach's Questions**

- How close to God am I right now? (1-10 with 10 being closest)  
How can I move one step closer?
- What blockade has been inserted between me and God? How will I clear it?
- What will I do to remain alert to spiritual Trojan Horses?

**Spirit Talk**

Post this where you will see it regularly.

## Suspect Spiritual Trojan Horses.

*"But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."*

*The Apostle Paul | 2 Corinthians 11:14 (NLT)*



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