



## Battle for Intimacy

*“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy...”*

*Jesus Christ | John 10:10 (NLT)*

Long ago I became good friends with Mike, a boxing junkie. I knew little about fight strategy, simply thinking that the tougher, quicker guy would win. Often true, but Mike taught me that strategy was key. The best fighter would surgically expose his opponent’s weaknesses. Persistent, focused jabs would open a cut near his victim’s eye forcing him to use his arms as cover to protect his growing blind spot. The soon to be victor showed no mercy.

You have such a cut and a relentless opponent. Long since wounded, you’ll do everything you can to cover your weakness. Satan is masterful as he jabs with the goal to keep you cowering, covered, distant from Jesus. The stakes are high! He knows that if you experience Intimacy with Jesus, he’ll lose control and the Kingdom will benefit.

*Reflect:* **What is my wound? How has the Boxer exploited it?**

Our response to the Boxer's jabs is to hide our cut. We cover it by anesthetizing it with food, drugs, drink, work, pleasure, laziness... a quest for the "good life" our self-love so desperately wants. We've been deceived since our earliest days to dismiss the promise of what is to come.

Afraid of exposure, we find ourselves posing as someone else. The Boxer's jabs lead us to engage life without the guidance of God. Fear subtly rules in the absence of Intimacy with Jesus. We venture down the wrong paths, dead ends. Repressed, we never reach our full Godly potential, our testimonies are barren, our lives unfulfilled. Victims of the Boxer are ineffective for Jesus.

***Consider: Surrendering restores Intimacy which makes me contagious which is fulfilling.***

The good news is captured in the rest of what Jesus said:

*"...My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." Jesus Christ (John 10:10)*

His Mission is to heal your wound, restore Intimacy with himself, bring life, and make you contagious. Jesus is your Defender. Honesty, vulnerability, and the surrender of the errant belief underlying your wound heals. Imagine yourself a boxer who drops his cover, surrendering, so his Defender can step in between. Unable to land his jabs, the Boxer loses his advantage. Restored Intimacy heals.

Now you are free to become who God made you to be and go where he wants you to go. At Jesus' direction, Jumps of faith stretch you as he moves you toward your full potential. Your witness is highly contagious as you share fresh testimonies. Your Mission advances

with a sense of fulfillment.

*Imagine: A flourishing life emanating from my ever-deepening Intimacy with Jesus.*

Inescapably, this fruitful cycle runs its course and we become vulnerable again. The Boxer never rests. Our testimonies grow cold, seldom shared. Comfort returns to create distance between us and Jesus again. Drifting from Intimacy, the jabs land almost unnoticed at first. We cover ourselves anew, not wanting to expose more of our wound. Have we forgotten the joy of adventuring with God already?

Fending off the Boxer requires another dive into Intimacy with Jesus, deeper this time. Something fresh, even awkward, to rekindle the relationship. Consider a new spiritual practice. A day of fasting and prayer is incredibly powerful. Perhaps a mission trip, or engaging the Bible in a new way. Surround yourself with growing people. It's time again to drop your cover. It's time for a new surrender. Having committed to fulfilling your Mission, this won't be your last. You're in a...

### **Battle for Intimacy.**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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

- What wound is the Boxer jabbing? (Fears and excuses are good pointers)
- What errant belief am I holding onto that must be surrendered to Jesus?

- What will I commit to do to refresh and deepen my relationship with Jesus?

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### Beware the Boxer.

*"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 John | 1 John 5:8-9 (NLT)*



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