

Public Emotional Vandalism

The only bird that dares to peck at an Eagle is the crow. He sits on his back and bites his neck. However, the eagle does not respond, nor fight with the crow; it doesn't waste time or energy on the crow!

In this example we are the Eagles but who are the crows?

The crow represents any negative external influence that is trying to vandalize our emotions by attempting to put inside our soul a message that is contrary to what God says about us.

Examples: Racists, Police, Parents, The News, Enemies, Family and Friends....

What are these vandals trying to do?

These vandals are trying to convince us that we are not able to accomplish the things that God has promised us.

Numbers 13

30 Caleb told the people to be quiet and listen to Moses. Caleb said, "Let's go now and take possession of the land. We should be more than able to conquer it."

31 But the men who had gone with him said, "We can't attack those people! They're too strong for us!" 32 So they began to spread lies among the Israelites about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored is one that devours those who live there. All the people we saw there are very tall. 33 We saw Nephilim there. (The descendants of Anak are Nephilim.) We felt as small as grasshoppers, and that's how we must have looked to them."

What happens if we continue to listen to the negative messages?

If we continue to listen to the negative messages instead of what God says, we will develop a belief based on their vandalism of our soul. We will start to believe that the negative messages have more power in our life than the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Formula: Faith = hearing * Word of God
 A belief **is formed** **by what we listen to**

Numbers 14:1-4

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

What do we do when we feel we are being bombarded with negative messages?

Regardless of how we feel, God ALWAYS give an option. Instead of focusing on constant distractions and listening to the constant messages, we should remember that God has provided a way for us to overcome in any situation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (New International Version)

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also **provide** a way out so that you can endure it.*

How does the Eagle get the crow off his back?

It simply opens its wings and begins to rise higher in the heavens. The higher the flight, the harder it is for the crow to breathe and then the crow falls due to lack of oxygen.

The higher we fly, the closer we get to God and the negative messages cannot breathe in the presence of God. Breaking free from the vandalism of negative messages comes down to our choice. We can continue to listen to the negative messages and distraction, or we can counter their vandalism by soaring and growing closer to God. Here are some methods to help us soar:

Remember who you are

Peter 2:9 ESV /

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Regardless of what the negative messages tell to you, ignore their words and respond with what God has called you.

Replace the Negative messages with the Word of God

Romans 10:17

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Isaiah 41:10 ESV /

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Ephesians 6:11 ESV /

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Respond with Love

- Commit to loving them

1 Peter 4:8 ESV /

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

John 13:34-35 ESV /

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- Identifying with them and their need for growth

(Mark 2:17)

After all, He said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

- Forgive them and Encourage them

(Ephesians 4:31-32)

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

- Befriend them and win them for Christ

(Matthew 5:43-48) MSG

43-47 “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

48 “In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

You must remember that you are an Eagle that can soar higher than your enemy. Seek to soar high and continually stay in the presence of Christ and vandals will soon fall off your back allowing you to feel the victory that God has promised for all of us.

Questions:

1. Have you identified the negative messages causing you to move your gaze off Christ? How are you replacing those negative message with the Word.
2. What challenges have kept you from soaring? What will you do to overcome those challenges?
3. Is it difficult to love the vandals in your life? If yes, what can you do to help you get past the difficulty?
4. Name some ways to show love to the vandals in your life