



Summer Selection Series
Momentum Killers
From Semon 7.13.25

Read *1 Peter 5:8*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: This sermon has been given numerous times in the life of New Heights Church. It's the result of many years of observations, ups and downs, and heartbreaking exits. Each member, each family, and the entire Church must always be aware of the devil's schemes and the constant dangers of repeated patterns that derail a church's momentum.

1. What is the devil's most effective ploy in derailing biblical churches? Almost never an outside factor/persecution. But internal strife and picking off individual members one-by-one.

2. Review each "Momentum Killer". Discuss each description, examples from Scripture, & its Antidote:

- Personal Moral Failure

The person who doesn't address temptation and sin. They fail in a huge way—effecting both their family and their church. They either remove themselves or must be removed from the fellowship.

Examples: Adam, Samson, David

1 Timothy 4:16

- Financial Flop

The person who gives, even regularly/biblically. Then, they overextend themselves financially in other areas of life (or lack faith). The first thing they cut is their giving to church. Now the church must reexamine everything, cancelling and/or altering all ministries and plans.

Examples: The Corinthian Church & Israel just before the "silent era" = 400 years before Christ.

Malachi 3:10

- The Disappearing Act

The person commits to vital roles and ministries but secretly has plans to leave and already has one foot out the door. They don't share their plans so that no one can counsel them on the impact and dangers.

Examples: Paul's companion, Demas, the seed that fell on the thorns, & John Mark

Luke 8:14 & Acts 15:37-40

- Spiritual A.D.D.

The person who is enthusiastic and committed. But something (often even good things) comes along to distract them and pull them away from church and ministry. They overextend their calendar. Church is not the priority. *Romans 12:10-11*

- The Blind Side

The person who is being faithful and growing. Then a life crisis hits (usually outside of their control) and utterly derails them—pulling them away from church and fellowship. Many don't return.

Examples: Job & Daniel

- Enemy Induced Division

The person who gets hurt or offended in the church. They begin viewing people as the enemy and problem vs. the enemy as the enemy. Even forgiving outwardly but harboring inward divisive resentment.

Example: The Corinthian Church See *2 Corinthians 2:11*

Extra: can you think of other factors or mindsets that could also derail a church?