**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, August 6, 2020**

Good afternoon!

Hurricane/Tropical storm Isaias (try saying that name three times fast) just came up our east coast this week and created havoc across our land. Flooding, property damage, and power outages up and down the east coast. It was reported that 2.5 million alone lost power in one area of New York. I hope you did OK through this storm. I first thought, how did they come up with a name like Isaias? Pronouncing it alone was difficult. I watched some of the folks on the news stumble at times saying, Isaias. Didn’t you? Interestingly enough I found out that Isaias is the Spanish form of the Hebrew biblical name for Isaiah, meaning, God is Salvation! Wow, that was enlightening. Now, the name of a storm doesn’t make it the source of the storm but it got me to thinking, who is behind the storms of life and service interruptions that come our way at times. Knowing the source of the storm could be very helpful when it comes to our service in His kingdom.

Anybody Remember the “Rock-Em-Sock-Em Robots? I had this game as a kid. It was great fun fighting your opponent. Each person worked his plastic fighter in the ring from a set of controls outside the ring. The fight would go on until someone landed a jaw shot to the other fighter making the head pop up. It was a blast! As much as we would cheer on our fighters in the ring, it was crystal clear that the true source of the fight was the one controlling the fighter. The origin of the knockout blow and putting his opponent out of service was not the one in the ring but the one behind the ring. This is how our spiritual opponent operates as well.

Notice: Ephesians. 6:11 “stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Have you ever experienced having your spiritual service to the Lord interrupted? Did you realize the source of the storm was not God but Satan? Have you ever felt totally discouraged? Have you experienced jealousy, selfishness, or been in denial of the truth at times? Have you at times felt anger or hate that you knew was unhealthy? Ever felt guilty to the point of feeling worthless or continually self-condemned? Have you suffered so much physically or emotionally that you wondered if God was still listening? Have you tried doing things God’s way when you secretly believe that it’s still all up to your own strength to make things happen? Have you ever felt unforgiven? Have you ever been trying to read your bible and keep being distracted or uncertain of what you think God wants? Have you ever prayed over and over and thought what’s the use? Have you ever just felt like throwing in the towel as a Christian?

Who is behind all this? What is the source of the disruption of your service? Who is controlling the situation from a hidden location outside the ring while we fight all of these opposing threats to our Christian lives?

Satan is the service disrupter of our service to God! What should we do? Do we need to re-commit ourselves? Do we need to listen to more sermons, or pray longer and harder? The key is understanding who is behind all this and expose him for who he is! The father of lies!

This is a personal war and his weapon is false accusations! “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world...for the accuser of the brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before God day and night.” The evil one says you did what? You said what? You went where? You acted how? He attacks us to try to make us feel unworthy of forgiveness or to question God’s forgiveness!

Our defense is the interceding Son of God, Jesus! Romans 8:1 “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” NO CONDEMNATION! Colossians 2:14 “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile against us; and have taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” WE ARE DEBT FREE...Spiritually speaking! I John 1:7 “If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light... the blood of Jesus cleanses us of ALL sin.” I John 5:13 “These things I have written to you who believe that you MAY KNOW that you have eternal life.” Jesus has taken our place! Halleluiah!

Have a great day!

Mike