



Momentum Killers  
From Sermon 8.29.21

Read *James 1:14-15*

Review from Sunday's sermon: New Heights has preached this sermon every year for 5-6 years. There are some common and reoccurring practices that deflate our momentum and cause us to put a faithful mission as a church on hold. Each member must be aware of each of these and become proactive in addressing them in their lives, homes, and walk. They almost always start out as something small [as the James passage teaches] and morph into disaster and death.

1. Read *1 Timothy 4:16*. Discuss the truth: "Everything we do—inside and outside of church—affects our entire church." Various insights and personal answers. But, include: our minds in the western American church just don't think that way. Ours is a life of Compartmental-ism = my home life, my work life, my fun life, my church life. We need to begin to see that we take our church and every member with us, wherever we go—whatever we do.

2. Quiz: List the 6 Historic Momentum Killers. Give a simple definition or example for each.

- Personal Moral Failure: someone's unaddressed sin turns into a church issue and discipline.
- Financial Flop: The offering tanks due to one or multiple families stopping their regular giving or cutting way back. The entire church budget then has to be re-evaluated and re-prioritized.
- Disappearing Act: the church member who shows up less and less until they're gone. They are usually involved and had a ministry, which will now die a slow death.
- Spiritual A.D.D.: those who still come and sit and are fed, but are too distracted by outside things to get involved. These will compromise their own spiritual health and effectiveness.
- The Blind Side: The unforeseen things in life that take us down and out = illness, death of a loved one, job loss, wayward child, and so on.
- Enemy Induced Division: Becoming upset with other members of the church over a worldly disagreement. One party will likely leave rather than deal with it biblically and forgive.

3. What mindset goes into an eventual personal moral failure? Various answers. "No one knows/will know. I've gotten away with it so many times. Jesus loves me and will forgive. Nobody is perfect. At least I'm not as bad as \_\_\_\_\_". See also *Luke 18:9-14*

4. Financial Flop almost always caused by overextending. Explain. A lack of planning/budgeting. Not saving up. Impulse buying. See also *James 4:1-3*

5. If Financial Flop is caused by overextending our checkbook, disappearing act and spiritual a.d.d. are almost always caused by overextending our calendar/time. Discuss.

6. How do we avoid the momentum killer "Enemy Induced Division"? See *2 Corinthians 2:11 & Colossians 3:12-14*. Various answers. See thru him and his tactics and schemes. Make room for each other's faults. Extend the same grace and forgiveness we would want shown to us.