



James 4:7 The Outworking of Humility Pt 2: Resisting the Devil!

Nov 29, 2015

Text: James 4:7b

Resisting the Devil!

Now we move to some thoughts on God's **command** to resist the devil.

- The Holy Spirit also commanded this resistance through Peter:

1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

- I believe that submitting to God is the first key to successful spiritual warfare. One must be willing to surrender everything to Christ to be in position to consistently see the devil's schemes and fight back.
- But who is this enemy we are fighting?

The Character of our Enemy (Playbook p.6-7)

A Serpent

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?" (Ge 3:1)

The "god of this world"

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Co 4:3-4)

A snatcher of the Word

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. (Mt 13:19)

A disguised angel of light

No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (2 Co 11:14)

The father of lies

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (Jn 8:44)

The prince of the power of the air

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the

desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us. (Eph 2:1–4)

The deceiver of the nations

When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. (Rev 20:7–8)

The great dragon

The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Re 12:9)

A roaring lion

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Pe 5:8)

The Devil

1. “Our enemy, the devil, does not play fair. He is a deceiver, a liar, vicious, prideful, and hateful. He is out to destroy Christ’s church and drag as many souls as he can to the lake of fire with him (Rev 20:10). He uses trickery, craftiness, and slick designs to deceive God’s people if he can. He camouflages himself with light. His work might sometimes seem loving and tender and tolerant and noble. He loves ways that “seem right to man but end in death.”
2. The devil (also called Satan) is chief of the fallen angels who decided to rebel against God in heaven.
3. Based on some prophetic passages in the Old Testament, many believe he can also be called Lucifer, (or “Day Star;” Isa 14:12-15, Eze 28:13-17), was extremely beautiful in heaven, and has a connection to musical worship.
4. The Bible describes his war against God in the last book of the Bible:
Rev 12:7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,
Rev 12:8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
Rev 12:17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.
5. Paul exhorts every believer to recognize the spiritual war all around us:
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Now, why are we reading these passages? It is NOT to give the devil more attention than he deserves! Rather, it is to increase our understanding of who we are resisting and what will happen if we don’t!

Keys to Resisting

Resisting the devil, in my opinion, can be stated in many ways:

- From the perspective of obedience: **submitting** to God
- From the perspective of resisting temptation: watching and **praying**. (Matt 26:41)
- From the perspective of warring against principalities and powers: putting on the whole armor of God (Eph 6:10-18)
- From the perspective of countering Satan with the Word: imitating the **patterns** of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)

But here is what is comes down to:

1. **Resisting the devil is essentially following hard after God.** This is a practical command. It is to do God stuff not devil stuff! It is to actively and volitionally, combat the devil.
2. Resisting the devil is the disciple's mindset...to want to please Jesus...to **hate** sin and evil.
3. Resisting the devil is about living a life of **holiness**...countering his hellish character in every area for the glory of Christ!

If Satan wants the perverse, we strive for purity. Since he wants hate, we love because God is love. Since he wants disunity, we unify around Christ. Since he wants death, we fight for life. Since the devil wants to pervert God's order in home and church, we hold to that order with love and grace.

Resisting the devil is NOT compromising with the world; it is following Christ. It is taking up one's cross daily and moving after the Master. Respectfully, it is not about church theatrics. It is about a Spirit-filled life of study, prayer, obedience, and making disciples. It is about taking the precious Word of God seriously and teaching others to do the same.

May we do all the above by the grace of God. May our lives give our defeated enemy no place or foothold, and give consistent honor to Jesus.

Amen.