

Resisting and Persisting!



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We must be *resisting* the devil when he tries to discourage and then *persisting* in trusting God for our Atonement rights as He is waiting and wanting to give them. Our choice to resist is an effective weapon against Satan. James 4:7 “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”

That means *committing* ourselves to God—*accepting* His will; then *resisting* Satan in God’s strength—which is followed by the devil fleeing from us. If our peace is being disturbed, we should be *resisting* and *persisting* that it be restored—the devil *must* flee.

All trouble, discouragement, depression, oppression, and strife among people, originates from the devil. If we *resist* him in faith and *persist* in faith, we are *promised* God’s peace. When Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, the millennial reign of Christ on earth begins. Immediately there is peace—all sickness, struggles, and strife are gone.

It will bring the Peaceable Kingdom—Isaiah 11:7 “*The cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*” When Satan is bound, even wild animals are docile like lambs.

We enjoy peace when the devil flees. We can enjoy an inner peace with no hindrance to our

prayers, because it is Satan who *blocks* the answers. Everything changes with just a few words—*Resist the devil and he will flee from you; persist* in faith and God promises to grant healing; restore peace; and provide finances.

One *word* changes everything—*resist*. If we are oppressed physically—*resisting* the devil promises victory; if money is short—*resisting* Satan grants the need; if there is strife in our family—*resisting* the devil compels him to leave the house. We must *choose* and *use* our opportunity to *resist* in the strength God will give.

Governments protect the rights of its citizens—but an individual can *forfeit* that protection by their free-will choice. Someone may ask for a donation—saying they need food; their children are hungry; or they have to get a bus home. If we *willingly give* them some cash, no government could get it back—we said *Yes* to the person who asked for the money—we forfeited our right to keep it.

If we said *No* to that person and they took it *against* our will, every police officer is on our side to reclaim the money. The huge *difference* is—we *resisted* when the person wanted to *take* something from us. If we *resist* the devil, he cannot *take* anything from us. If we *willingly surrender* our Atonement rights, he can rob us of anything or everything.

Success in resisting the devil is *knowing* what *belongs* to us—and also *knowing* what *rights* we have through the Atonement Blood of Jesus—then *claiming* those rights by faith. If we *gave* our consent and allowed Satan to rob us yesterday, but realize we made a mistake and *refuse* to have his oppression today, he will have to *give back* what he *had taken*.

Without our consent, the devil *cannot* rob us—spiritually, physically, financially, concerning our peace at home or work, and he cannot take away our protection—he can no longer keep any

of those things when we are *resisting* and *refusing* to give him permission.

If the owner of a property issues an *eviction* notice to a tenant that they must *vacate* in thirty days, the laws of this commonwealth say that the person *must* move out of the house within that time. The owner can say *Yes*, the tenant may stay; or he can say *No*, they must leave. The owner can *bind* the hands of the government or have the *backing* of the government—he can *resist* or *relent*.

It is like that in divine matters—we have certain *rights* and *privileges* under the Gospel and under the Blood of Christ—therefore the devil has *no* right to *enter* our home or to *stay* on our property without our consent. It is our choice to *resist* and say *No*; and to *persist* and say *Yes* to the victory thru faith in Jesus.

Constitutional law states that *nothing* can be taken from us, unless we *waive* our rights and *consent* to it being taken. Likewise, the devil cannot rob us of our Blood-purchased rights, unless we *give* him our consent. The moment we turn away *from* the power of Satan, and we turn *to* the power of God, the devil *must* flee—and he *cannot* return without our consent.

It is our Blood-bought *entitlement* to have health, healing, protection, and provisions—because Jesus paid for them for us. The devil constantly *asks* for these rights—and he can approach as an angel of light 2 Corinthians 11:14—but when *that* happens it is *our choice* to *resist* or to *relent*.

Our *peace* was *purchased*—Satan has *no right* to take it from us. The devil has *no right* to oppress us spiritually, physically, financially, at home, work, or anywhere else—he will be *fleeing* when we are *resisting*.

Hebrews 2:14 “*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death,*

that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

The devil’s power to disturb our peace is destroyed—so we must be *resisting* and *refusing* to allow him to take that peace from us. Satan is *not* able to torment us or afflict us physically without our consent—the devil’s power has been destroyed by the sacrifice of Christ.

To succeed in resisting the devil, we are to make a final decision to go through trusting God without compromise—if we will draw near to God, He draws near to us and helps us resist. James 4:8 “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

Another example is a king who was resisting the devil. 1 Kings 20:1 “Ben-hadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it.” It was a military force of thirty-two heads of governments, but they could not touch *Israel* without their consent—and Satan cannot touch anyone *else* without their consent.

King Ben-hadad sends this message to King Ahab 1 Kings 20:3 “Your silver and gold are mine, and the best of your wives and children are mine”—he demands that they take their money and their loved ones. The devil says the same—your health and your loved ones are mine; and your money is mine. All too often we answer as 4 “The king of Israel answered, ‘Just as you say, my lord the king. I and all I have are yours.’”

It is foolish to surrender rights to the enemy. The king of Israel was in no spiritual condition to *know* or to *claim* his rights. 1 Kings 20:5-6 “The messengers came again and said, “This is what Ben-Hadad says: ‘I sent to demand your silver and gold, your wives and your children. 6 But about this time tomorrow I am going to send my officials

to search your palace and the houses of your officials. They will seize everything you value and carry it away.’”

The saying: *If you give the devil an inch; he’ll take a mile*, applies here. We must *resist* the devil the moment he appears. 1 Kings 20:7-8 “So the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, ‘Notice, please, and see how this man seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; and I did not deny him.’ 8 And all the elders and all the people said to him, ‘Do not listen or consent.’”

We should *not* listen to, *nor* consent to, anything Satan suggests to us, nor consent to anything he tries to place *on* us. The moment we are oppressed; short of finances; lacking peace, or are troubled in anyway, we are to *refuse* in the Name of Jesus; we are to *resist* the devil in faith, and God says he will flee from us.

We are to always be *resisting* and *persisting* on having our deliverance; we should *not listen to, nor consent to*, whatever the devil suggests. We are *not* to surrender one thing to the devil, but to *claim* our victory in Christ Jesus. The devil cannot touch us until we give him our consent.

1 Kings 20:9 “Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, “Tell my lord the king, ‘All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.’” He did not have to consent the *first* time, but he now *resists* the demands and *refuses* to give up his rights. “Do not listen or consent—[so] the messengers departed and brought back word to him.”

King Ben-hadad did not want to *hear* that and said 1 Kings 20:10 “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if enough dust remains in Samaria to give each of my men a handful.” The king of Israel gave a memorable reply—1 Kings 20:11 “Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.” God would have the last word on *who* wins *this* battle.

1 Kings 20:12 “When Benhadad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, Set yourselves in array. And they set themselves in array against the city. 13 And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.”

The king made the choice to *resist the enemy*—and *withdrew* his consent. God *had* to be true to His Word when the king made that *choice* to resist. If we will choose to *resist* the devil and *insist* and *persist* on having our deliverance over the devil’s power, God will be true to His Word and grant the victory—Malachi 3:6 “I am the LORD, I change not.”

When Satan comes back with old sins, self-plans, and wrong attitudes of the past—we must *resist* and *insist* that he flee—we are to say *No*, we will *not* have that oppression; we will *not* consent to the illness; we will *not* surrender our Blood-bought rights; and we will *not* allow Satan to rob us.

What God said to the king *that day*, He will say to us *this day*; 1 Kings 20:13 “Hast thou seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.” The key to victory is to James 4:7 “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”



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*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org

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