

# RESISTING THE DEVIL

## (A Choice That We All Must Make in Life)

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We want to review a message this evening concerning a passage of Scripture given to us in the fourth chapter of James, which tells us a very important and very Valuable Truth. James says, that if we “resist the devil, he will flee from us.” This original word is our word for ‘fly’ (which is a stronger word than ‘flee’).

All our troubles of every kind, our spiritual torments, physical battles and attacks, pains and aches, family troubles, and every other trouble, are directly from Satan. And in that verse, the apostle James gives us the plan whereby we can be delivered and protected from the devil’s attacks.

You will remember that Paul told the Ephesians, that they were to put upon them the whole ‘armor of God’, and that they were to be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might. Well, of course, it is only a real Christian that could (in Jesus’ Name) resist the devil successfully, (one that has learned to depend on the living God alone), and, one that is learning to let Him work for them (in other words, ‘willing to do His Will’).

Paul said they were to put upon them the whole ‘armor of God’, and to strengthen themselves in the Lord and the power of His might, that they may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For, He said, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood.” (our battles are not with mere human beings). Our battles are with the devil, and “the spiritual hosts of evil spirits that infest the Heavenly pathway.”

And so, everything that the devil controls as well as his personal attacks will be used to bother and attack us, if possible.

And he told the Ephesians further, that they were to take the great shield of faith (the same

thought as James had), that they might be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. In other words, Satan’s attacks could not get in and harm them in any way, or make any trouble for them, if they used the shield of faith. This meant they were to resist the devil.!

And it is very valuable to know that we don’t have to have any attacks of Satan in any part of our life. We are exempted by the Atonement of Christ and do not have to have any trouble of any kind. We do not have to have an ache or a pain. We do not have to have a cold (as the world calls it), nor a cough. Neither do we have to have any trouble in our home, nor to have one of our family to do anything that would give us trouble. It is very important that we always keep these before us, as our Blood-bought exemption rights.

God’s whole plan is given to us in the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah (vs.4-6). These are our constitutional rights as Christians (our ‘Blood-bought rights’). They are rights that belong to us, and the devil cannot rob us of them. Neither can he take them from us without our consent. Just as Adam had his free power of choice, and he allowed the devil to rob him, so, we have our power of choice and can use it to prevent the devil from robbing us, by using it right. And that is very valuable to know that the devil cannot attack us without our permission—that is, he can’t get in and make any trouble for us in our spiritual lives, in our bodies, in our home, in our finances, or anywhere else. But after the devil has gotten in and is making trouble, he cannot stay one moment longer than we consent to it (and that is very valuable to know). So, to use our power of choice to make use of the provision God has made, will enable us to be victorious over the devil. and to be protected from his troubles.

These verses in the 53<sup>rd</sup> of Isaiah read, “Surely our sicknesses He hath borne; and our pains He hath carried them.” That is a very plain statement—that we had Jesus Christ hanging alive for six hours (from nine until three), on Calvary’s Cross, with a bleeding body, suffering terrible agony for you and I, so that we always are to have perfect health, perfect peace, and perfect protection in our bodies. That gives us Blood-bought exemption right.

And we know that Jesus said, “**when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgement because the prince of this world has been**

**judged.**” That is why the devil has no right to lay the weight of his finger on one of God's children.

That is the judgment that was passed on to him! And he was made a conquered, paralyzed, helpless foe, by the great work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and His death and resurrection.

Then, in the 2nd chapter of Hebrews, it says, “As the children were partakers of flesh and blood, so Jesus Christ partook of the same that he might, through death, paralyze (or “destroy”)(our word in the original for ‘paralyze’) him who had the power of death, that is the devil; and to deliver all of them, who through fear of death, were all their life subject to fear and bondage.”(Hebrews 2:14).

So, we need to never lose sight of that fact that not only is Satan a conquered, defeated foe, but we have a Blood—bought exemption right to be delivered and protected from him, And we also have the ‘power of choice’ to resist him (by God’s grace of course), which is always available to back up our power of choice) and to help us to receive it. So, it says “Surely our sicknesses He hath borne, and our pains He hath carried them.”

God has made 'that very specific! If He had just said our sicknesses, He hath borne, (we might think that He did not include our pains). But God made it very definite and very specific. So, it includes everything for us and our bodies, and we do not have to accept anything but perfect health.

So, that is a very plain and comprehensive statement of the great work of Calvary's Cross (the most wonderful work that ever was done). Just think of it, Jesus Christ enduring six hours of suffering, and the shedding of His blood, that we might be forever free from every sickness and from every pain.

Paul tells us the same thing in 2 Corinthians, “if any man be in union with Jesus the Christ, he is a new creation, Old things have passed away (it means they have to pass away) (our old sins, our old sicknesses, our old pains and aches, and every other evil thing) “behold, all things have become new (new spiritually, new physically, new financially, new in our homes (and in everything that concerns us). “And all things are now of God” (no more of the devil). However, all things were of the devil, but now in this new creation with Christ the new creation, “All things are of God.”

And we can remember what James said “Every good and perfect gift comes down from

above, from the Father of Lights, in whom there is no variableness, neither shadow cast by turning. He made him to be sin for us that knew no sin, that we Light be made the righteousness of God in Him. By His wounds, yours have all been healed. Ye were as sheep going astray but have now returned to the shepherd and bishop of your souls.”

We have three passages of Scripture that tell us how to be protected and delivered, without being attacked or disturbed or tormented by the devil in anything. The first is the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians. Many of those Corinthians had been sick, and some of them had died through a disobedience of the Scriptures (in a very vital matter). Paul told them how all of that might have been prevented. And it is a very valuable thing to know.

He said, “if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged by the Lord.” “But when we are judged by the Lord (through neglecting to judge ourselves), we are chastened by Him, so that we might not be condemned with the world.”. (That we might be saved from the terrible Lake of Fire).

Well, what does it mean to judge ourselves? Why, we have a New Testament that contains details for our entire life. Not only is it valuable for instruction in righteousness, but it reveals the entire will of God.”

We ought to use every opportunity to become familiar with these Scriptures. And if, in any part of these Scriptures we find that we are not living up to them, we would confess and forsake that lack (and settle it to obey that Scripture) then we would never get into trouble at that point). In other words, we keep out of trouble by finding out any place in our Lives that we are not doing according to the will of God. We can put it down as absolutely certain (and we need to make no mistake about it), that in any part of our life which is unscriptural, and we fail to remedy it (that is, to confess and forsake it and to surrender to God at that point), it will make serious trouble for us. And, if it is not repented of, we will lose our lives eventually over it and go to the Lake of Fire. Therefore, we ought to settle it that these Scriptures and, God’s will is to be ‘our rule of life’.

So, if we have anything in our heart against anybody, something that somebody may have said or done to us (wronged us), and we hold a resentment against them (and don't repent of it), that will bring an attack from the devil (and a very serious one). In all these years we have noticed

that the most serious consequences come from resentment. The very moment we resent anything, that is, hold hard feelings and resentment against anybody, it will result in two very serious things.

First it will rob us of all the 'forgiveness of sin' that Jesus gave us on Calvary's Cross. It makes no difference what they have done, when we hold resentment, that moment every sin that we have ever committed (from my youth up), will be charged up against me. Our forgiveness will be taken from us. Well, that will take us to the 'Lake of Fire' if not gotten rid of.

Furthermore, there is self-effort involved in it. Resentment is a self-effort. And that was Adam's sin (a foundation sin), and a most serious one. So, we need to judge ourselves, if we find out anything, or know of anything, or are convicted of anything, contrary to God's will in our lives, we ought to confess and forsake it. Then we will never get into trouble about it.

This is a great privilege we have because we have a God who can convict us of any evil way in our lives. And we know what David prayed. He said, "search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me."

So, we need to continually pray that prayer, that God will convict us of anything contrary to His will in our lives. It is a great privilege to have that done, and the Holy Spirit can do it. Then, when anything unscriptural is revealed, we ought to confess and forsake it and surrender to obey God's Word at that point. That will be a great factor in keeping us out of trouble, and from having any serious attack from the devil.

The second is found in the 11th chapter of Luke, where Jesus tells us to pray ahead. We would call it watchfulness and prayer, being "sober and vigilant" (as Peter tells us). It is much easier to pray ahead for protection than it is to pray for deliverance after we are attacked, (and after the devil gets a foothold). Therefore, it is a great privilege, and a very easy plan, to pray ahead for protection from the devil's attacks.

We remember that Jesus said, "**When you pray**", say "**our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread (that is financial needs). And forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those that have sinned against us.**"

Then we come to 'attacks of the devil'. "**Lead us not into temptation**" (do not permit the

devil to attack us today). That is a Scriptural prayer. Because, we have a Scriptural right to be protected. And we are to pray that prayer every morning, to be protected from any attacks of the devil that day.

"**But deliver us from the evil one**". That means, protect and deliver us from the devil attacks for this day. Now, anyone who prays that in the morning and really depends on God alone (and believes His Word and the testimony about His Son), would have a perfect day. They would have just what they wanted for that day.

And we know that Jesus told the disciples in the 'Garden of Gethsemane', that they were to "**watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation**". Well, here is where it can be carried out. Then Jesus finished His prayer, "**for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**" That is depending on God alone, and, praying to be protected from the devil that day. Anyone can do that.

So, when we go to bed at night, we can pray that prayer for the needs of that night, and that we will 'sleep in peace' all night. We can watch and pray at night, that we will be protected from any attacks from the devil, (and that we will have one of God's nights). Then, if we trust God at all, He will make it real.

The third thing (and it is a valuable one), the one that brings the final and perfect victory, is to 'RESIST THE DEVIL'. It is so much easier to resist him than it is to pray for a delivery after he has gotten in, and after he has been in for a length of time. We are to be delivered by seeing ourselves where the Atonement work of Christ has placed us. And, the Atonement of Christ says we are in perfect victory in everything. If we ask for perfect health and perfect protection, and we believe, so we have that. We are to see ourselves where that Word says we are. That is far easier to do when an attack appears, and before Satan comes in, rather than after we have had a long serious attack.

When we have had a long attack, that is always on and before our mind. The devil can use it to hinder us from seeing ourselves in perfect health. But he cannot do it nearly so well, when we 'nip the attack in the bud'. So, the Scriptures say, "resist the devil and he will fly from you." In the eighth verse in chapter five, of 1<sup>st</sup>. Peter, we are told a little more in detail about it, "Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary the devil walketh about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may

devour". "Whom resist steadfast in the faith" (that means not have any attacks of the devil), it means to resist him, and refuse to have it. Knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished by all your brethren who are in the world. But the God of all grace who hath called us to share in His eternal glories by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered a while."

That is the devil, when he has been shows up somewhere else, we are to resist him there. It does not make any difference how many times, nor how varied the attacks are, we are to refuse to have them. Satan comes to our mind like a knock at the door, and telling us, "I am going to have that same old pain tonight." So, if we accept that suggestion and believe it (and do not resist him), he will give us a very uncomfortable and disturbing time. We have found it best to put our resistance in words (even if we must whisper them), like, 'in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I refuse to bear what Jesus Christ already bore for me.' 'In the Name of the Lord Jesus, I believe I am delivered. I ask you, Father in Heaven, to rebuke the devil.'

Every time we repeat those 'sentences of faith', our 'shield of faith' gets stronger and is strengthened. And when we are really sincere, and really mean business, really meaning and believing that we refuse to have it, the devil would have to flee and we would be delivered.

If the devil has already gotten in, we can still resist him in just that same way, saying, "I refuse to bear this oppression for another moment." For instance, if the devil tries to torment us with a cough, a cough does not have to go on until we feel like we coughed our head off. God can heal us from that cough in the present moment if we resist the devil right. It is the devil that puts that irritation in our throat (which makes us have to cough to relieve ourselves). Well, we do not have to do it. We are to refuse to cough. And instead of relieving ourselves of that irritation in our throat by coughing, we are to trust God to deliver us right away. We will not have to bear it for a moment longer when we really resist the devil.

It the same way with sneezing. For example (the late Pastor said) "I was on a train one afternoon, and I had a very severe attack of it. People say that 'rag weed' is the cause of sneezing. It is not. The devil is the cause of it! So, I was sneezing all the time, and feeling very miserable, But I claimed my Blood-bought rights, right in the midst of it. I said, 'this attack is directly

from the devil. I don't have to have it, and I refuse to sneeze once more.' The devil said, 'You will have to sneeze. When that tickling sensation comes in your nose you will have to sneeze to get rid of it.' I said, 'I will not do a thing to get rid of it, I will not make the slightest move. There is one thing I will not do; I will not sneeze again.' Well, the devil came three times with that tickle. The first time it was in full force. The second time about half. The third time was about a quarter. Then the devil got out forever, and that's more than thirty years ago. He said. 'I got a full deliverance, never had any more bother like that again.'"

**That proved how we can use our Power of Choice to 'Resist the devil'.**

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