

Resisting the Devil

Introduction

1. While we may not know what Satan looks like, God wants us to be familiar with him and his characteristics so that we might be able to resist him.
2. Satan is a “wily” being. (Eph. 6:11)
 - Wile: “Denotes craft, deceit...a cunning device.” (W.E. Vine)
3. Satan is a relentless adversary. (1 Pet. 5:8)
4. Satan uses many devices to get people to serve him. (2 Cor. 2:9-11)
 - a. Device: “Plan, scheme, artifice, stratagem, plot.” (Vine)
 - b. Some of Satan’s devices are:
 - 1) He casts doubt on the word of God. (Gen. 3)
 - 2) He afflicts the righteous. (Job 1:1 - 2:8)
 - 3) He discourages, resists and hinders the righteous. (1 Thes. 2:18)
 - 4) He appeals to fleshly appetites to make unlawful satisfaction appear innocent and right. (Gen. 3; Matt. 4:2-4)
 - 5) He appeals to vanity by preying upon man’s desire for praise and his desire to occupy positions beyond the limits which God has established. (John 12:42-43; 3 John 9-11)
 - 6) He appeals to ambition and greed. (Matt. 4:8-10)
 - 7) He appears as an angel of light. (2 Cor. 11:13-14)
5. Satan must be resisted. (Jas. 4:7)
 - a. How do we resist?
 - b. This lesson will consider some of the ways revealed in Scripture by which he can be resisted.

I. We Must Be Sober and Vigilant

- A. If we are not watchful, we will be devoured. (1 Pet. 5:8)
- B. We must be sober.
 1. Sober: “To be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.” (Vine)
 2. Sober: “To be of sound mind.” (J.H. Thayer)
- C. We must recognize the reality of Satan and the real threat he poses to our salvation.

II. We Must Have the Will to Resist

- A. Some love the world and the pleasure of sin so much that they simply do not want to resist.
 - 1. The Jews in the time of Jesus were this way. (John 8:44)
 - 2. Many, like those Jews, easily, quickly and gladly give themselves over to do the will of Satan.
- B. God works successfully in one who desires to do His will. (Phil. 2:12-13)
- C. Nothing replaces desire.
 - 1. The example of a coach who instills in his team the desire to win.
 - 2. The will to live has caused many to survive what seemed to be insurmountable circumstances.

III. We Must Have a Confident Spirit

- A. We seldom rise higher than our expectations.
- B. The apostle Paul's expectations were high. (Phil. 4:13)
- C. We can be confident because with the help of God there is nothing we cannot overcome. (Rom. 8:31-39)

IV. We Must Use Scripture

- A. The Bible is not a charm that scares Satan away but its truths in a person enables him to intimidate and triumph over the devil.
 - Jesus met the devil in this way. (Matt. 4:1-11)
- B. The word of God is our sword to fight Satan. (Eph. 6:17)
- C. Satan's "unrighteous deception" will only overcome those who do not have "the love of truth" and who do "not believe the truth." (2 Thes. 2:9-12)

V. We Must Pray

- A. The Lord spent the hours before His arrest in prayer.
- B. Jesus instructed His disciples to "watch and pray" so that they would not enter into temptation. (Mark 14:38)
- C. Paul asked the brethren to pray so that he might "preach as he ought." (Eph. 6:18-20)
- D. We need to ask God for help because He knows how to deliver. (2 Pet. 2:9)

VI. We Must Have and Use Wisdom

- A. James recommended prayer for wisdom in time of trial. (Jas. 1:5)
- B. Resisting Satan is no "fool's game." (2 Cor. 11:3)

- C. Good judgment is necessary if we are to defeat the cunning of the devil.
- D. Successful resistance demands that we not be ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor. 2:11)

VII. We Must Have Character

- A. This means being “strong in the Lord” and “putting on the whole armor of God.” (Eph. 6:10-11)
 - The result will be that we will be able to “stand against the wiles of the devil” and “withstand in the evil day.” (vv. 11, 13)
- B. The weak are devoured by Satan.

VIII. We Must Have Good Associations

- A. As surely as evil companions corrupt (1 Cor. 15:33), good associations help. (Gal. 6:1)
- B. Good brethren “stir up love and good works.” (Heb. 10:24)

Conclusion

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (Jas. 4:7)