

Walking in Victory

Introduction:

Christ's death and resurrection took all authority away from the enemy to control our lives.

The problem with the Devil is that he and his forces are liars and thieves. They don't care about whether or not they have the authority to do something. If they can do it and get away with it they will.

For this reason the scripture gives us instructions on how to withstand them.

One such passage is found in James chapter 4.

PASSAGE: *James 4:7-10 NKJV (7) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

Securing the Victory

The portion of this passage most often quoted is "Resist the devil and he will flee..."

Resist: also means:

To establish your self in opposition to.
To uphold authority against something.
To not waiver in opposition against something.

Who? The devil

- Literally the accuser, slanderer.
- Specifically in connotation, someone who knowingly brings false charges against another.

This command to resist is only given after the command to submit has been given.

The degree to which we can resist the devil is directly proportionate to the degree of our submission to Christ.

Submit: also means:

Obey: James 1:22-25 NKJV *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (24) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. (25) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

To keep God's commands

- Hear the Word
- Know the Word
- Do the Word

To yield to one's admonition and advice: Romans 8:14-17 NKJV *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit

- We listen and respond to what we know He is saying.
 - God is persistent.
 - He governs by His peace.

Obey the checks of the Holy Spirit

- If you don't have a peace about something, there is a reason.
 - Does it line up with God's word?
 - Does it line up with God's principles?
 - Is it beneficial?
 - Does it contribute to my bondage or my freedom?
 - Does it matter in the scope of eternity?
- Learn to listen to the "still small voice."
 - God governs from within.
 - Don't dismiss the red flags until you have tested them.

To submit to one's control: Galatians 2:20 NKJV *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

- By faith
- In Him and His power, not mine

ILLUSTRATION: The Hand or the Glove?

I have a glove here in my hand. The glove cannot do anything by itself, but when my hand is in it, the glove can do many things. True, it is not the *glove*, but *my hand in the glove* that acts.

The Christian is a glove. It is the Holy Spirit in us, the hand, who does the work. We have to make room for the hand so that every finger in the glove is filled.

The command to submit to God is followed by the command to resist the devil, but comes before the command to draw near to God.

Why would the devil give such opposition after the submission to God has taken place? Because he is terrified that we will draw near to God.

Draw Near: also means:

To approach

“Draw near” comes from a word meaning to be near a place or position. In other words: Get in the presence of God.

The presence of God is the key to a victorious Christian life.

- **Psalms 144:1-2 NKJV** *“Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle-- (2) My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge,...”*

- **My Rock:** literally edge or cliff
- **War:** literally hostile encounter, to approach for battle: close combat, probably with sword or weapon that requires physical encounters.
- **Battle:** comes from a word meaning to overcome or consume. The connotation is one of war from a distance. This probably refers to using weapons such as bows, arrows and slings.
- **Lovingkindness:** blessing, favor
- **Fortress:** net or fortified tower (a place for enduring a siege)
- **High tower:** literally – height, secure high place
- **Deliverer:** one who brings security, one who helps me slip away from danger
- **Shield:** defensive armor, from a word meaning – “to hedge about”
- **Place of Refuge:** a place to flee for refuge

To join one thing with another

Literally it could be read: Join yourself to God and He will join Himself to you.

- ✠ **Hebrews 2:11 NKJV** *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.*

We are in COVENANT RELATIONSHIP with the LIVING GOD

Conclusion:

Fellowship with the Father

- A happy Christian met an Irish peddler one day and said to him, ***"It's a grand thing to be saved."***
- ***"Aye,"*** said the peddler, ***"It is. But I think something is equally as good as that."***
- ***"What can you possibly think is equal to salvation?"***
- ***"The companionship of the Man who has saved me,"*** was the reply.

Application Prayer:

***Dear Jesus,
teach me to live in daily submission to You.
Equip me and teach me how to resist the devil.
Fill me with a desire to draw near to You
and make me aware of Your presence daily in my life.
Let me walk and live in faith and victory.
In Jesus' name, amen.***