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Learning To Oppose And Resist The Plan Of Satan

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We know from God's word that Satan is a defeated foe, even though he is very real, Jesus stripped him of his power when He died and went to hell and then gave the believers authority over him. Remember that the devil is under our feet

Rev 12:12 "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." KJV.

Eph 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" KJV

Many believers don't acknowledge that there is a devil; they are harassed and not aware of it. There usually is a personality change when a person is really being attacked or harassed. Many times an open door, unknowingly has allowed the devil access. Some of the symptoms are depression, start to withdraw, loosing hunger for the Word of God, not wanting to be around people and the love of God. Most believers do not even know that this is happening to them.

Eph 6:10-14 "10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness" KJV

The first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul teaches about the heavenly, chapters 4 and 5 teach about our practical life here on earth, chapter 6 teaches us to be strong in the Lord, learning to stand against the enemy.

V. 11 "Stand against the wiles" - wiles meaning method or the plan used by the enemy, deceit, trickery and craftiness. If these three things were never involved, we wouldn't fall into satan's trap.

V.12 Tells us who and where our warfare is.

V.13 - 14 By having the whole armour of God on, we will stand successfully. Stand means having conquered all, ready to conquer again.

Paul always addresses the enemy as a defeated foe. He is under our feet and every believer

fully equipped with the armor of God and knowledge of God can stand successfully against him.

1 Peter 5:8-9 "8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." KJV

We must be on guard keeping all doors closed, accidents and calamity come through open doors; however, there is a secret place in God, a place of protection, where there is deliverance because the word promises that. We are to resist the adversary, yielding to temptation is much easier, but the scripture teaches us to resist. Resist means standing against, act against or resist adopting the devil's plan. We know what it is to adopt, caring for, feeding and taking care of someone, but if we adopt the devil's plan, we will find that he is in control, therefore, we must resist his plan.

We are on our way to heaven, however, we must be on the lookout for the "y's" that are in our lives. One road is God's plan for us, the other road, the devil's plan coming by deceit, trickery or craftiness. This always leads to unhappiness and misery and spiritual death. God's road leads to life.

We cannot trust our senses, like a pilot has to trust his instruments to know where he is at; we have our instructions or instruments found in the word of God. Our senses will lie to us and when we come to the "y" in the road, we must be vigilant and cautious or we will get on the wrong road. We are all going to have temptations, but we must recognize where those temptations are coming from.

How do we resist the adversary? Our thoughts are many times where the devil will attack. Listening to the "little" voices and starting to act on them will usually be the beginning of a major attack.

Example given of a woman whose husband was a minister; she had a lovely singing voice and was beautiful to look at. The enemy began to whisper in her ear that she was too talented to be doing what she was and that she could do much better in the world. At first she resisted what she was hearing, but eventually, she left her husband and the church life that she knew and went into the world. She began to fail in her new life and when confronted by a caring minister one day, informed him that she wanted nothing to do with him or Jesus, didn't want Jesus in her life at all. Her thoughts became her downfall and her end was bad.

In Luke 4 and Matthew 4, the devil came 3 times to Jesus, tempting him to bow down, but Jesus rebuked him. The devil is going to come more than once to us, will continue to come and we must resist him each time that he does.

Luke 22:31-32 "31And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." KJV

Peter didn't resist the devil, he denied Jesus three times and cursed, but he repented and was forgiven. God turns curses into blessings; he will do the same for us.

Matt 26:41 "41Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" KJV

Temptation will come to all, but our flesh is weak. We may like what the temptation is, but our flesh does not the strength to resist. The spirit is willing, being strong in the power of His might, but we must have an up-to-date prayer life in order to resist. Bringing our thought life into captivity is a challenge.

2 Cor 10:3-5 "3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" KJV

Paul tells us that wrong companionships corrupt good morals. We must be careful who we are associating with. Many times we need to get new friends, if we are being tempted in certain areas. If we are endeavoring to believe God, we need to hang around believing people.

Immediately Mary began to seek out Elizabeth, who was having a child late in her life, Mary didn't need the outside world talking to her about what had happened.

The devil or demonic spirits many times come as an angel of light.

James 4:7 "7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." KJV

Yield to God and submitting to Him, would be another way of resisting the adversary.

James 4:1-6 "1From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble " KJV

James is telling the church why their walk was not being successful; they had departed from the ways of God. James is telling them to resist the devil and he would flee from them. Flee means to run as in terror.

We don't always understand what it is that Jesus did for us when he went to hell and the victory we have because of that. He defeated the devil and when we resist the devil and submit ourselves to God, the devil sees defeat coming again.

The following scripture is the encounter of Jesus with the devil in the wilderness. Jesus did not adopt the devil's plan, but instead pointed him to what the word said. Jesus was just getting ready to start His ministry. He has heard from the Father and what He is to do. The devil begins to tempt and get Him off course. The devil begins tempting with the greatest need, Jesus was hungry so food was the first, then he began to question Jesus about really hearing from God. The devil does the same to us, by questioning if we really believe that God is going to meet our needs, provide us with anything we have need of and heal our bodies, set us free from addictions or use us, causing us to begin to doubt God's promises. The devil wants to keep us

trapped.

Matt 4:1-11 "1Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.4But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.10Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." KJV

We must continue to resist the devil, even if he doesn't leave the first time, we must not give up, and we must with diligence put out a firm steady effort to accomplish that which was undertaken.

The devil is the god of this world, the prince in the power of the air. He received this authority when Adam gave it to him in the Garden of Eden. But because of what Jesus has done, he is dethroned in the believer's life. There is a reward in resisting the devil.

Rev 12:10-12 10And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." KJV

Satan is the accuser. Who is telling you that you are unworthy, that you're no good? The devil knows that his time is short and he is going to do everything he can to cause us to fail and destroy us, but we will overcome him, by the blood and the word of our testimony.

2 Pet 2: 7-8 "7And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)" KJV

Lot had to get a new set of friends and find a new place to dwell, his soul was vexed but God delivered him out of it.

It is not too late to turn things around, God is greater, and He is for you. Don't let the enemy deceive you, telling you that you are unworthy. This is one of his tricks.

"Some are getting ready to enter into the finest hour of your lives, but yet it is the darkest hour. Your encountering tremendous adversity and many times before you enter into your finest, it will be the darkest of your life, but you keep resisting the devil, keep pressing in and you will break out into the glorious sunshine of the Lord Jesus Christ." a word given by Pastor

Offering teaching:

It was God's plan and purpose for His people to be blessed, but He warns them after this has happened to remember that it was He that gave them the ability to do so. It is His plan for us to have these same blessings but we have the same responsibility to acknowledge Him, it is His way of knowing our hearts. God is a multiplier. When we bring the tithe into the storehouse and when acted upon, it releases the wealth that is already in the world to be channeled through our hands.

Deut 8:13-14, 18"13And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day" KJV

2 Cor 8:9 "9For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." KJV

Most church people believe that Jesus took care of some things, ie: sin, healing, etc, but not in the area of finances. Paul teaches in Philippians 2 that Jesus brought all the blessings to us, not just one or two. Isaiah 53 teaches that Jesus would bring all the blessings to the church. Jesus redeemed us from the law and the curses. Everything that was needed was in the Garden of Eden in the beginning.

In the 2nd chapter of Philippians, Paul gives more teaching regarding Jesus becoming poor for our sakes. Isaiah 53 tells us the whole of what Jesus did for us. Many believe that Jesus came for only one thing or the other, but the word tells us that He came to make everything right in our lives. Everything that was needed was in the garden in the beginning. God's wants us to have all His blessings not just a few, seeking the kingdom of God will enable us to attain all these blessings.