

February 25, 2018

## Resisting The Devil

Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

We have been learning for the past few weeks about the enemies plan to destroy the believers and the different methods that he uses, but we also have been learning how to stand our ground and use the word of God to combat all of his attempts to overcome us.

2 Cor 2:11 "To keep Satan from getting the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his wiles and intentions." AMP

Eph 6:11-13 "Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. 12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. 13 Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]" AMP

Eph 6:11-13 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For 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. 13 Wherefore 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." KJV

Putting on the whole armour of God which He has supplied for each of us, is the defense that we must use to be able to stand our ground, we realize that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, other people or believers, but our fight is against the enemy and the spirit forces of wickedness in high places. Don't allow yourself to be blindsided by the roaring lion that he portrays himself to be. He is very serious about what he is getting ready to devour, his intention is not good, but he cannot devour just anyone. He is looking for an open door and it is our responsibility to make sure that he won't find any open doors around us. The devil will probably

leave for a time a short time, but don't be fooled by that, the season will pass and he will attack again. God is not going to resist the devil, that is what we have to do, this is our responsibility. When the enemy comes to devour, the evil day, what are we to do? The following scripture tells us; don't give in, resist, withstand the attack, when? at the onset, how? in faith, established, strong, immovable and determined.

1 Pet 5:8-9 "Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. 9 Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world." AMP

An example was given about being established in faith and what the word of God says. She had stepped on a scorpion in her closet, but having just finished a study on Luke 10, she knew that even if this were to happen that she had power over the situation, she reminded the enemy of what the word said regarding scorpions, that she had been given power and proceeded on as if nothing had happened. Having the enemy as a "pity party partner" is not the way to proceed, don't be calling all your friends and telling them about the attack that he is trying to put on you. It is our responsibility to stand, God has done everything that He is going to do regarding the enemies attacks, you must stand your ground.

Luke 10:19 "Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you." AMP

An example was given of the enemy trying to infect a young lady with chicken pox when she was a child going to school and how everyone around her was having chicken pox, their reports had caused there to be concern on the girl, because everyone was giving her a negative report, that it was only a matter of time until she would break out with the pox, her mother took her to the word, showed her that she was free from those kinds of diseases as mentioned in Psalm chapter 91 and she would not have the chicken pox, her daughter accepted what the word said, but a couple days later found spots on her stomach and became upset, thinking that the worst had happened, that she had chicken pox, being taken to the word again and reminding her that God's word said different, she went on her way, several days later discovered that the spots had disappeared, she was free of having chicken pox. They had stood their ground, quoting the word to the enemy and received what they were

believing God for. Resisting the enemy at his onset of trying to infect with anything.

Eph 4:27 "Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]." AMP

It has been established that in order to resist the enemy and his attacks, that we need to be extremely careful of having an open door or even a crack in a door that would give him access to our lives. Sometimes the afflictions that we might be suffering from may have another side to them, the medicine that we have been taking doesn't seem to be doing any good, but in seeking Gods healing we find that there are areas of our lives that need to be addressed. If we are bragging that we are never sick, are not sympathetic or have compassion for other people who are and being in pride about these thoughts, it might be the open door that we have allowed him into. Satan and demon spirits cannot destroy a person unless there is something already in that person that they can grab hold of and twist to their destruction, a person consecrated and living a sancified life cannot be effected by them. If no doors are opened the enemy cannot come in.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)." AMP

Jesus recognized that infirmities come from the enemy and are not from God. He was able to minister to the woman and she was loosed.

Luke 13:16 "And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" AMP

Acts 10:38 "How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, [a]in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him." AMP

Acts 10:38 "And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" KJV

Do we recognize where the attacks are from and take a stand at the onset? We need to get established in what the word says regarding any topic that the enemy might try to attack us with, don't be ignorant of the enemys devices, we are told never to do warfare with the devil. Deception occurs when a person believes the lies the enemy is telling him, the lies begin to produce reality in our lives. False perception empowers the lies and the enemy uses that false belief to create. Having a stronghold is only a matter of time before a solid stronghold of deception will begin to dominate

and manipulate that persons self-image, emotional status and over all thinking.

There is a book called "Snatched From Satan's Claws" that was written by a sorcerer in Africa, it tells about all the devices that Satan uses to teach those involved with the satanic rites, how they look at the believers in churches and can tell by looking at them if they are clothed with Gods spirit or are open and able to be deceived with whatever the enemy puts upon them. Some of the believers will have areas in their lives where they can be effected with the enemies schemes, especially if they have allowed anger, depression, self-pity, offenses, words spoken by them, unforgiveness, strife, critical spirits to become part of them, they are opening themselves up to the enemies plans, they have left doors open in which he can enter. There are those who are clothed with the whole armor that comes from God, for the sole purpose that we may have explosive and dynamic power to stand proud and upright, face to face against the roads the slanderer would try to pave into their mind.

Daisy, the cat caught a bird and was getting ready to eat it. What was wrong with the picture? the cat was down on the ground and the bird should have been high up above him, but he had managed to be caught because he came down to the cats level. We must be careful how we live our lives. The devil is after our mind, wanting to destroy us by taking control of our thoughts but when the first onset comes, don't entertain those thoughts, stand firm against them. \*When we make Jesus Lord of our lives, we make heaven our future home, undoing the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 "[But] he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. \*The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]." AMP

We have the name of Jesus and the power that goes with that, the devil is defeated and he knows what his end will be.

Jesus used the spoken word against the devil, saying "it is written" when He was in the wilderness and the enemy had to bow down to Jesus, then Jesus went into the temple and spoke the following words.

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity], 19 To

proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound]." AMP

We have a responsibility to resist and when we resist all the angels and powers of heaven will get involved in enforcing our victory, because we are victorious.