

January 22, 2012

## **Resist the Devil** **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

"This is the day to rise and shine for the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee, so arise now for in this hour I will show you my power for in my presence weakness shall bow so trust me and you will see that I have been working all the time to bring about my purpose and plans in your life. This is not a day to set back and wonder or wish and think "Oh if I had only done that or this or that" but a day to press in to kingdom living for all that I have is yours health and abundance I have given you so step out, step out and yes a step of faith it must be. So step out and possess what God has given you."

A form of containment which the enemy uses against the church is to just stay the way we are not reaching out to others. Fear and discouragement are ways that the enemy is able to do this and he keeps us from possessing the promise that God has spoken to us. In Jesus there is no containment.

Many times when we have heard from God, and have received a victory we will get blind-sided from the enemy, it is intended to confine us again putting limits on us and causing us not to take another step of faith because of the attack from the enemy. We must not let this cause us to have fear and lose self-confidence. God has never changed His mind about us.

The following teaching is the principles from the Bible on standing firm, learning how to resist the devil and not letting him have his way in our lives. Also, how to get back on our feet once he has come against us, making us to think that we cannot get back what we have lost, but we must remember that Jesus paid the price, He is in us and through Him we are able to overcome anything the enemy throws our way.

The book of Ephesians is the "Alps of the New Testament"

Ephesians chapters 1-3 raises us up in heavenly places with Jesus, tells us who we are and that all things are under our feet, and that we are reigning in heaven with Him and that principalities and powers are subject to us.

Ephesians chapters 4-6 the practical aspects of life, getting along with one another, home, husband-wife relationships, children and parent relationship

**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*

Stand or withstand are used 4 times, emphasizing that we can stand against the wiles of the devil in order to be successful, that we will not be defeated because of a lack of knowledge. However we cannot have faith beyond our knowledge of the word of God. Paul tells us through this passage how we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ and how we can stand against anything that the enemy tries to overpower us with. We cannot give up, thinking that there is no way to overcome, and The Word tells us that we can. We must be strong and of good courage like Joshua was told. We are not to try and be strong in our own ability.

We must know who we are in Jesus, knowing our identification with Him. Our past mistakes must be forgotten in order for us to know that identification. What He did for us, shedding His blood, erases the past and the mistakes that were made. By being identified with the past we are contained, this must be broken in order for us to be free in Him.

The emphasis on verses 10 and 11 is standing and not falling.

A wile is a settled plan or method to bring us down, through deceit, trickery or craftiness.

Resisting the devil means not to accept the plan that he has, not being deceived into thinking that his plan is from God. God has a plan as does the devil and many church people accept the plan from the enemy as being the plan from God, because of the ways that the enemy presents the plan through deceit, trickery or craftiness. We can stand against that.

Resist means act against something, to strive against, to resist the adoption of a plan, withstand and defy. Not adopting the devils plan and to strive successfully against something. Adopt means to bring into, care for it, it becomes yours.

If we don't resist and we adopt the devil's plan of him never intending for us to have anything in life and to never rise up but be pushed down, we will bring it in to the soulish part of us and it will affect our thoughts, emotions and imaginations and then we will accept it as God's plan, Imagination is a power to frame pictures in your mind of things that are not present to your senses, When we think on these long enough they become real to us, they can trigger emotions in us and make us think things have happened which have not. We can become angered, upset and defensive, whatever the situation might be, and then we will accept defeat because of the wrong imaginations.

Recognizing our identification in Him and framing pictures in our mind of what we are in Jesus Christ will cause us to rise higher and higher. God's plan was never that the church and His people be beaten down by the enemy; God's plan for us is that we keep the enemy under our feet.

The devil is a mighty opponent, but we have been given the power that we need to defeat him.

In Matthew 28 and Mark 16, Jesus tells us that He, Jesus has been given all power and we are to go into the world, because we have been given power to overcome the devil.

**Eph 4:27 "Neither give place to the devil" KJV**

We must be careful of the packages that the devil tries to deliver to us, they look good on the outside, but by opening the door and allowing him in, not having our spiritual eyes open, we are tricked into accepting things that are not from God. Inside those packages are offenses, shame-

based mentality, temptations and all things negative. But he tricks us into receiving them because the outside looks so good.

In the Books of Peter and James they are writing to their people, and the church as to how to resist the enemy. Peter described him as he is, he did not embellish him at all.

**1 Pet 5: 8-10** *"8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."* KJV

**2 Chron 16:9** *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars."* KJV

The Lord is running to and fro right now seeking someone, while the enemy is also walking around looking for someone to devour. We must realize that the enemy comes to everyone, but depending on how we handle him and if we allow him into our lives, this will determine the outcome.

Anything that comes to destroy is not from God.

By humbling ourselves, submitting to God and not trying to do it in our own strength. The devil will flee.

**James 4:6-8** *"6But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."* KJV

**James 4:6-8** *"6But He gives us more and more grace )power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it). 7So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you. 8Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery]."* AMP

The following scriptures tell us how Jesus totally defeated the devil. He didn't do this for himself or for God, but He did it for us, His body of believers.

**Col 2:14-15** *"14Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."* KJV

Barclay tells us "on the cross He stripped the demonic powers and authorities of their power and made a public spectacle of them as if they had been captive in a victor's triumphant procession"

Other translations tell that "He despoiled the infernal dominions and realms, He dragged their

rulers as captive in procession and through the cross He led us all to triumph in victory and He tore the swords from all the hands of the spirit rulers and powers in the spirit world."

It is an "open road to the cross" all hindrances, all oppositions, all of the law that they couldn't keep was nailed to the cross. We have an open road; there are no road blocks, such as other people or ourselves.

Jesus stripped every demon spirit of their weapons and power. All demons and evil spirits don't want us to know today that Jesus disarmed them in the fight that went on in the bowels of this earth. He took the keys of death and hell from them triumphing over them. Jesus stripped the devil of all his authority. The devil doesn't want the church to hear this message or understand what was done.

The power of God is waiting to work on your behalf because of what Jesus did. We have the power and ability to resist the devil.

**Heb 2:14-15** *"14Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."* KJV

Other translations of this scripture say the following:

"By dying He might crush him who wields the power of death."

"Jesus destroyed the authority of the lord of death and allowed us to be partakers of Jesus victory over him."

"Might render him powerless who had authority over death that is the devil and set at liberty the captives."

"That he might paralyze him who had dominion over death."

The devil is paralyzed, and there is a time when he will be thrown into hell, the bottomless pit.

**Luke 10:18-19** *"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 19Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* KJV

**Luke 10:18-19** *"And He said to them, I saw Satan falling like a lightning [flash] from heaven. 19Behold! 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

Other translations say "over the entire the power of the enemy" "trample on all the power of the enemy" "nothing will be able to stop you"

This is the power that we have over the devil. Don't be identified with adversity or defeat but be identified with who we are in Jesus. If you don't know this you will allow and accept every adversity that comes your way.

**Eph 1:17-19** *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." KJV*

Paul is praying for the Ephesians and for us. In this he is praying for a spirit of wisdom and revelation or a spirit of knowing and seeing. God speaking to us is the spirit of wisdom and revelation. We do not understand what Jesus' inheritance in the church is, He shed His blood for the church and the church is not understanding, we are not stepping up to who we really are, we are not understanding the power that has been given to us. God used all the power when He raised Jesus from the dead.

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

We are seated with Him in heavenly places, therefore, the devil is under our feet we have been made more than conquerors, we have been given all the authority over the devil and all demon spirits, but we must act as though we have that power.

**Joshua 10:24-25** *"And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. 25And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight." KJV*

Joshua went after the giants of the land, just as we must go after the "giants" in our lives. He told the captains to put their feet on the giants putting a picture in their minds. We must have the picture in our minds of our feet on the devils head.

"This is the day to rise and shine for the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee, so arise now for in this hour I will show you my power for in my presence weakness shall bow so trust me and you will see that I have been working all the time to bring about my purpose and plans in your life this is not a day to set back and wonder or wish and think "Oh if I had only done that or this or that" but a day to press in to kingdom living for all that I have is yours health and abundance I have given you so step out step out and yes a step of faith it must be. So step out and possess what God has given you."