



Resist

Are you resisting the devil or are you rather submitting to him direct or indirectly? Learning to resist the devil is a crucial part of our Christian walk. Why? Because we have an enemy in him. Not resisting the devil has robbed the body of Christ of many valuable benefits and blessings.

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

① Submitting is something we do voluntary. It means to arrange ourselves under. Whenever we find authority and leadership, we need to quickly submit ourselves.

a) Submission is a way of life for the believer. We cannot live life without it, and it helps eliminate potential issues and problems.

b) Submitting is Gods' will, but we have to be careful what and who we submit to.

② We are to submit to God. One of the ways we do that is by submitting to His word, leadership, or even government.

a) Romans 10:3 shows that submitting to God is simply being submitted to the righteousness of God which is through faith. If we are trusting in our own righteousness, we have not submitted to God.

b) Our submitting ought not to be to the devil, but to God and His will. Some people are submitting to Satan direct or Indirectly. They are yielding to him which is contrary to God's will. Whoever we submit to is Important as Submission itself. Again, we are to submit to God, not the devil.

③ To "resist" simply means to actively fight against.

- a) Many people are yielded to the devil and are not actively fighting against him. You cannot overcome what you do not resist or actively fight against. You should never be passive. The enemy steals more from passive people and believers. Because we have been given authority, we can resist the devil all day.
 - i) The way we resist is by actively fighting against the devil. We need to persistently resist the devil. The word resist means to actively fight against.
 - ii) Other people do resist the devil but do not do so actively. If we are persistently resisting the devil—he shall flee. If we actively fight against him, he shall lose his hold on us.

- b) We resist the devil because he is bad, and he is our adversary (1 Peter 5:8-9). He is not for us.
 - i) This does not say resist God. Some people ought to stop resisting God. If God has told you to do something or go somewhere, stop resisting Him. Resisting God automatically gets you submitted to the devil and you do not want that. You are either submitted to God or to Satan. There is no middle ground.

- c) What does resisting the devil look like? John 10:10 tells us how we recognize the devil. Any stealing, killing, and destruction is of the devil and must be resisted. This includes sickness, poverty, lack, failure, etc.
 - i) What you do not resist will harm, hurt you or even kill you. We need to resist the devil.

④ We have a promise of what will happen if we resist the devil. He will flee. You can take that to the bank.

- a) If we actively fight against the devil, he will flee. This also reveals that if he is not fleeing, it is possible that we are not resisting, or we do not know our God given authority. This has to be done continuously (1 Peter 5:8-9).

- b) The word “steadfast” implies being firm, strong, hard and continuously. One of the reasons the devil never flees from us is because we are not firm, hard, and immovable. This steadfast resistance is done in faith. As much our effort is involved in the resisting the

devil, our trust cannot be in our own abilities, but in the Lord. If we are trusting in our abilities, then He are not in faith and we can't resist-him steadfastly.

Satan may in some cases persist or even double down in his attacks against us, he needs to find or encounter a greater force of persistence in us.

Nehemiah resisted the enemies that were wanting to meet with him to do mischief, hinder and/or sabotage the work of the Lord. Nehemiah 6:4-5 *Yet they sent unto me **four times** after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the **fifth time** with an open letter in his hand;*

Joseph refused to backtrack on what he knew was the right thing to do from the Lord. Genesis 39:10 *And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph **day by day**, that he **hearkened not** unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

Ways to resist the devil

① Renewing our mind to the Word of God

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- a) We experience victory as we align ourselves to the center of God's will, but it all starts with renewing our minds. If our minds are not renewed, we will be out of God's will and we won't be effective resisting the devil.
- b) We can't achieve anything without the Word. Victory over anything begins with the Word.
 - i) John 15:5 Jesus said that *without Him we can do nothing*. Jesus is the Word. We can do nothing without the word.

ii) Matthew 4:4 "*But 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.*"

- Every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is the Word of God.

② Speaking the Word

- a) In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was being tempted by the tempter—the devil and during that encounter, He showed us how to deal with the devil. He kept the pressure and heat on until the devil backed off. He quoted the Word over and over. This certainly one way we can resist, actively fight against the devil. Our persistence will wear out the devil.
- b) We have an adversary that we have to actively and persistently resist. We do part of that by actively speaking the Word.
- c) **Speak Words of Faith**

(Section below is taken from my book *King David and Other kings. Life lessons for Today*)

One thing is sure, speaking words of unbelief is will not help us in our endeavor of resisting the devil.

And when the words were heard which David spoke, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. — 1 Samuel 17:31-32

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. —1 Samuel 17:34-

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David was a man of faith. So much was done up to this point to try to bring him to fear and cause him to back down, but David did not give in or budge. He knew his God. He had seen Him come through several times. David responded in faith in this time of pressure and crisis. **He never spoke any doubts or unbelief. He never talked of what might not happen, but only what he believed would happen.** When everyone else who was experienced in war was in hiding, David boldly spoke forth his faith. David knew what he was doing and was laying groundwork for the battle ahead. When you are preparing for battle, there is no time to think or speak your fears and negative thoughts, because if you do, you will get killed or defeated. You cannot even entertain the unbelief of people spewing negativity around you. And if you do, you must speak back and counter every single negative thing they say. You must speak forth faith and the promises of God. That's how you start to win.

Imagine what would have happened if David spoke his fears about Goliath. He would have been categorized the same as everyone else, and he would never have had a shot at taking down Goliath. He would have been dismissed just like everyone else. If David spoke like everyone else, we would never have heard of him as the giant slayer. It is important that you speak your faith and not doubt. People notice and pay attention to words of faith.

It is only because he spoke life, faith, and the promises of God that people around him noticed someone different was in their midst. They took his words before King Saul, and the king gave him a shot. Faith will get you to the top, but doubt, fear, and unbelief will cause you to sink.

The faith you speak will not go unnoticed; you will be challenged and confronted. Some people will try to shut you down because you are showing more courage than they are. The devil will always parade around you or have someone try to shut you up. Saul, Eliab, and Goliath all tried to shut David up and talk him out of his faith, but he overcame all of them.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4)

What are you speaking about your situation? Is it faith, or fears and doubt? Your victory could be determined by your confession because from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What you speak reveals the condition of your heart.

Faith always has a testimony. David spoke forth his faith and then followed it up with a powerful testimony.

③ Using our God given authority.

God has given you power and authority over all manner of sickness, diseases and over all the works of the devil—the enemy. We have been equipped to succeed in every encounter we have with the evil spirits. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have tested positive—of the power of God. This power heals the sick, cleanses the lepers, destroys evil spirits, and raises the dead. This same power causes me to triumph and increase on all fronts.

- a) Luke 10:19 Behold, 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.
- b) Mark 6:7 And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
- c) Mark 3:14-15 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:
- d) Matthew 10:1 “And when he had called *unto him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”
- e) Matthew 10:8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”

④ Countering words of unbelief. Speak Back— Counter The Negative Words

There is a place of countering words of unbelief and death spoken against us. (Section below is taken from my book *King David and Other kings. Life lessons for Today*)

And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

— 1 Samuel 17:44

We should never underestimate the power of words—positive or negative. Life and death is in the power of the tongue—our words (Proverbs 18:20-21). Words have the power to bring forth life or to bring forth death. We should never take this lightly.

Goliath despised and criticized David because he was a shepherd with no “experience.” He had no idea he was up against an anointed king. Had he known who he was up against, he probably would not have shown up to fight.

Goliath spewed all his negative words to instill fear in David, but David was not going to stand there and let those negative words take root in him. What did he do? He spoke back like a fire hose.

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

—1 Samuel 17:45-47

He spoke more than what Goliath anticipated. He was not going to retreat. He countered and spoke forth his faith and what he was going to do to him.

David was never afraid. I strongly believe that the words we do not counter affect us and they hardly leave our subconscious mind. They keep coming back time and again, and I think that is one of the reasons we must counter any negative words spoken against us. If David had not spoken back and left those words to linger over him, they would have instilled fear into his heart. This is the lesson we must learn from this fearless shepherd!