

## Resist the Devil and he will FLEE!!

On 4/10/2024, during prayer. I heard “resist the devil, and he will flee.” I know this word was not just for me, but also for the people of God. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves then to God, resist the devil and he will flee! In this season of intense warfare- the Lord is declaring and proclaiming this battle cry afresh (RESIST THE DEVIL)!

This Christian life is a life of warfare and not of ease. We are in a war! All the miracles of Jesus in the bible was a war against the devil- he was engaging in warfare!

So we see in James 4, the Lord is admonishing us to take the lead- 1<sup>st</sup> by submitting unto God and then resisting the devil. The Lord is tired of his people sitting by passively allowing the devil to trample upon them when he has left them tools to combat him. Obviously, we know the battle is the Lord and victory is found in Christ Jesus, but we have a part to play in combating the enemy who is on planet earth where we are presently.

So lets break down James 4. Lets define the word submit: **it means that you are under the mission of someone or something, it also means to yield oneself to the authority or will of another. (so, when one submit unto the will and mission of the Lord Jesus, what is his will/mission? - to destroy the works of satan)**

**1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8- “he that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning; for this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil”**

**It’s the Lord’s will to destroy the works of the devil out of your life and off your life. Now if this is the Lord’s will then we have another mighty promise which says “**

**1 John 5:14-15, And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us 15: and if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him!!**

**So knowing that’s it’s the will of God to destroy the works of the devil, the Lord is saying “Fight Back!” Gird up your loins and Fight back! God is saying it is about time that we use the authority that’s in his son’s name and the tools that he has given us to put the devil in his place!**

For too long God’s people have been allowing the enemy to oppress, bully, harass, and intimate them without any resistance. God is saying I have given you the tools and weaponry to fight back-now use them. For some reason, we have this image of our God being nice and passive when it comes to evil; we make the mistake and assume that

love is easy, passive and soft. There are many examples where the Lord is executing wrath in the bible against his enemies; this is what the bible says about the Lord in Exodus 15:3- "The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name" And this same Lord has given us tools to combat our adversary.

Scripture says, "for the weapons our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" 2 Cor 10:4. In other words, the weapons we fight with are not weapons of this world. (meaning- you cannot use fleshly methods to fight a spirit). We must use the tools that our warrior King have left us.

For Moses it was a staff. Exodus 14:15-16 says, "then the Lord said unto Moses, "why are you crying out to me?" Tell the Israelites to move on, raise up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the waters so that the Israelites can go through on dry ground." I honestly believe the Lord sometimes is thinking, why don't they just use the tools which I have given unto them. Especially to God's seasoned saints he is saying, " why are you crying out to me?" Now obviously, I am not saying to not cry out to the Lord, but like any parent, at some point, they expect the child to grow up and use the wisdom and counsel that has been taught to them. We know that we cant fight the devil within our own might and power, but the Lord himself is in us. Luke 10:19 says, "look, I give unto you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Truth be told. We don't believe him yet)-

The people of God desperately need a revelation of who we are in Christ Jesus. Satan is a defeated bully, and with all bullies eventually, you will have to stand up to him and resist. Example: When satan was trying to bully Jesus- the bible says in Luke 4:13- that when the devil had ended all the temptations, he departed from him (why?) Because Jesus used his tools (which was the word of God) and resisted him- Jesus stood up to that bully and he fled.

Likewise: As Jesus had to use his weaponry to fight back so will you and I.

Lets examine some of the weaponry that God has left us to fight back with (1) The sword of the Spirit -which is the word of God (Eph 6:17). God's word is our sword, and the Spirit of God is willing to teach us how to wield it.

(2) God's peace. God says that his peace will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:7) How? By keeping your mind on him (Isa 26:3) Setting your mind on the Lord

helps you to meditate on him, think on that which is right; and his peace guards your heart and mind against the lies and feeling of the evil one. There are many ways to keep your mind on the Lord- reading his word or Godly literature, listening to worship music and remembering his goodness.

(3) Singing/praising- Isa 61:3 says, "to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion or the body of Christ, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified." As you sing unto the Lord, you literally change the atmosphere in you and outside of you! 1 Sam 16:23- and it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a harp and played with his hand, so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him (why?) Because of praise! 2 Chronicles 20- speaks about how God defeated the enemies of Israel while praising him. It says, " the King placed the singers and praisers on the front lines. (what, now as a marine, the last thing you want to do is place singers on the front line- you put your best on the front lines) and in Gods eyes for that particular battle- the best was praisers!!! The Lord destroyed their/his enemies as a result of singing and praising- so how much more will he destroy yours and mine.