

RESIST THE DEVIL

God Do Something About The Devil

I. The responsibility for resisting the devil (his schemes) lays at the feet of the Church

A. You resist the devil—*Js4:7—Submit to God, resist the devil and He will flee from you; VO—Fight against the devil and his schemes and if you do he will run away in failure*

1. You be sober, vigilant, resist—*1Pt5:8—Be 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*
2. You be strong, you put on the armor, you stand against the wiles of the devil—*Ep6:10—KJ—Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*

B. Nobody can resist the devil for us

1. You can't delegate your God-given responsibilities to others—Many want others to resist for them—*Js5:13—Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing..*
2. You can't resist the devil for people—You can't believe for people
3. People praying for you doesn't release you from your responsibility to resist
4. The flesh is lazy and wants other people to do it for them—*Pr20:4—The sluggard will not play by reason of the gold; therefore shall he beg in harvest and have nothing*

C. God does not resist the devil for us

II. **Many under attack address God in prayer, but never resist the devil**—*2Cor12:7—And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet (strike with fist; treat with violence—W18—Beat in contention; Contend against) me, lest I should be exalted above measure ⁸For this thing I besought (ST—Invoke, call for, pray—Th—Beg, call to, call upon—W18—Ask or pray with urgency) the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness*

A. The devil was attacking him—The thorn was a messenger of Satan, a scheme of his; Don't speculate beyond that; All you need to know about that thorn is that verse

B. The purpose of the thorn was two-fold—1. Buffet him 2. Keep him from being exalted

1. The thorn was against him (See buffet definition)—It wasn't there to help him
2. The devil didn't want him exalted—*2Cor12:7—YL—That by the exceeding greatness of the revelations I might not be exalted overmuch, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of the Adversary, that he might buffet me, that I might not be exalted overmuch*
 - a. Exalted above measure—Renner—Huper—Over, above, way beyond measure, greater; Airo—Lift up, raise, exalted; Supremely exalted, magnified, increased, lifted up to a place of great prestige
 - b. God wants us exalted—*1Pt5:6—Exalt you in due time; Js4:10—Lift you up; Ps18:33—Sets me upon my high places; Dt28:1—Set you on high above all nations; Ps92:10—My horn shalt you exalt*
 - c. Revelation exalts you—Comes to steal the Word before it exalts you—*Mk4:15*
3. Many say the thorn was from God to keep Paul out of pride—It was a messenger of Satan to buffet him; The devil came to get him out of pride? God outsourced his humility it to the devil? — He doesn't come to get people out of pride—*Jn10:10*

C. When he was under attack, he didn't address the devil, he addressed God

1. He besought God three times and got no results—The devil was still there
2. Do you get rid of the devil by asking God to do something about him?

3. Praying to God, beseeching God, is NOT resisting the devil-Therefore, Praying to God does not make the devil flee from you
 4. Many are unsuccessfully trying to pray the devil away-They continue to have problems because the never resist the devil and just pray to God
 5. You don't pray the devil away, you resist him away-Often the answer to what we encounter is not to pray for God to do something, but to resist in faith
 6. Many of my people are praying to me but very few are resisting the devil-For many the first move under pressure is to ask God to do something; Resisting the devil is a foreign concept to them and all they know is to ask God
- D. God corrected him-Had he been doing the right thing God would have gotten rid of the devil for Him and not said anything to Him
1. Grace for what? Strength for what?-You don't need grace and strength to ask someone to do it for you, you need grace and strength if you have to do something – You need to be strong to resist-*Ep6:10-11*
 2. God is not encouraging him to hold on tight in his suffering-This is not grace is to put up the devil, but to grace to do what God told you to do with the devil which is resist him and see him flee

III. God never told you to pray and ask Him to do something about the devil

- A. When Jesus was being attacked by the devil, He did not respond by addressing God in prayer, but by addressing the enemy with The Word-*Mt4:3-11*
1. What Jesus did worked-What Paul did didn't-*Mt:4:11, 2Cor12:8*
 2. When under attack whom did Jesus address?-Whom should you address?
- B. Many pray to God to do something about the devil-This is a unscriptural prayer – You can't pray and make God responsible for what He made you responsible for
1. What can you pray?-Believe you receive what you need when you pray, ask God wisdom, thank Him for His grace but then you have to push back
- C. Many ONLY address God in prayer and NEVER address the enemy with The Word
- D. Spiritual laziness-People like idea of praying to God instead of resisting the devil because it means they do nothing and God does everything