

RESIST THE DEVIL

You Resist The Devil With Your Will

- I. **Jesus resisted the devil with His will**—*Mt4:3*—When the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him
- A. He exercised His will and chose to resist the devil—Why didn't He turn the rocks into bread, jump off the temple, worship the enemy? Because He chose not to—*Is7:15*—Butter and honey shall he eat that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good
- B. He was made like us, with His own will and could've yielded to the devil like we can but He chose to resist—*Hb2:17*—In all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren; *Lk22:42*—Not my will but thine be done; *Hb4:15*—Was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin
- C. He didn't resist automatically—Many believe because He was Jesus, that He couldn't have yielded to the devil, that He obeyed God automatically, insinuating His will wasn't involved—*Hb5:8*—Learned he obedience by the things which he suffered
- II. **To resist the devil you will have to exercise your will**
- A. With your will you determine whether you will resist the devil—You can choose to resist him or you can choose to lay down, do nothing, let him run over you (Will—Faculty of the mind which is exercised in deciding to do or not do)
- B. The responsibility of choice falls on you—*Dt30:15*—See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; ¹⁶ In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.¹⁷ But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;¹⁸ I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish..¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live; *Js24:14*—Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served..and serve ye the Lord.¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve..but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- C. Your will is your will and God will let you do what you want—*Ps81:11*—**ER**—My people did not listen to me. Israel did not obey me. 12 So I let them go their own stubborn way and do whatever they wanted
1. God will not overtake you and force to do what He knows is best for you—You have a free will that God won't manipulate or coerce; He'll lay it before you and say this is how it is, this what you should do, but do what you will
- D. If you do resist the devil it'll be for one reason because you chose to—It won't be because some special touch from God forces you to do it; There's no spiritual wind of inspiration that will blow on you and make you choose to resist
1. He'll deal with you to do it, even stir in you the desire, but He won't make you do it
- III. **This decision to resist the devil, there is a severity to it because to resist the devil is severe** (Intense, requires great effort, causes discomfort, painful, tough, hard, rigorous, demanding, laborious)—This is not for the faint of heart

- A. You'll have to exert great spiritual effort to resist the devil-You'll get blood, dirty and sweaty doing this-**Lk22:44**-*Being in agony (struggle for victory) he prayed more earnestly and his sweat as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground*
1. The forces of darkness (fear, despair, spirits) are real and they will press on us and there's nothing easy about being under attack and pushing back-See Jairus
 2. There's grace to resist so you can do it and yet there's a severity to it
 3. Hold fast-Hell is fighting to get you to let go-**Hb3:6**-*Hold fast the confidence; Hb4:14*-*Hold fast our profession; 2Tm1:13*-*Hold fast the form of sound words; 1Th5:21*-*Hold fast to that which is good*
 4. Stand fast-Hell is fighting to get you quit-**1Co16:13**-*Stand fast (persevere) in the faith..be strong; Ph4:1*-*Stand fast in the Lord; Ga5:1*-*Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free*
- B. Many are looking for a way for it to not be severe-Faith is a fight and down here we are contending with an adversary – We're not in Heaven; The devil is defeated, it is finished, but down here there's a fight going on
- C. There's a grittiness in resisting-Resolve, tough, uncompromising, gutsy unflinching, unyielding in hardship, indomitable spirit, firmness of spirit
1. Resisting is refusing to yield-**Is50:6-CEV**-*I let them beat my back and pull out my beard. I didn't turn aside when they insulted me and spit in my face. 7 But the Lord God keeps me from being disgraced. So I refuse to give up because I know God will never let me down.*
 2. You can threaten us with that furnace, but we will not bow-**Dn3:18**-*We will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up*
 3. If it hurts me I won't change-**Ps15:4**-*He that swears to his own hurt and changes not*
 4. You have to find the dog/lion in you-There must be something in you that says, I will resist if I'm drowning in despair, destruction and sorrow; I WILL never yield to the devil or anything he's trying to do in my life

IV. Exercising your will vs. Your own strength-Just because I'm exercising my will and doing something intensely doesn't mean I'm doing it in my own strength

- A. Reckon these truths-1.Victory won't come without my will and intense spiritual effort 2.It's God who gives me strength to fight and the victory-**Ps44:5**-*Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. 6 For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. 7 But thou hast saved us from our enemies*