

Resist The Devil

Text : **James 4: 4-10 ; Ephesians 6: 10-18**

S#1.

S#2.

A. This lesson will center on the second half of one short verse :

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

1. Command : “**Resist**” { *anthistemi* }
 - a. 1 to set one’s self against, to withstand, resist, oppose
 - b. Aorist active imperative ... Oppose now and keep on opposing
 - c. **Rom. 13: 2 – Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God**
2. Promise : “**he will flee**” { *pheugo* } 1 to seek safety by flight

B. We must be aware that Satan is real.

S#3.

1. Satan wants us to believe he is a cute little red imp with horns who carries a trident.
 - a. Satan { *Satanas* } 1 adversary, resister 1A (name given) the prince of evil spirits,
 - b. Devil { *diabolos* } 1 prone to slander, accusing falsely. 1A false accuser, slanderer
 - c. Tempter { *peirazo* } (**Matt. 4:3**) 2 to try, make trial of, test:
2. Jesus believes that Satan is real.

Luke 10: 17-18 – The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” 18 And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”

3. The prophets referred to Satan.

- a. **Isa. 14: 12-15 – How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! S#4. How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'** (NKJV)

- b. This is the same temptation presented to Eve ... “**You will be like God.**”

4. In addition to the devil and Satan, the scriptures refer to Satan in several ways.

- a. **Matt. 12: 24, 27 ... Beelzebul ... The prince of demons**
- b. **John 8: 44 ... The father of lies**
- c. **John 12: 31 ... The ruler of this world**
- d. **II Cor. 4: 4 ... The god of this world**
- e. **Eph. 2: 2 ... The prince of the power of the air**
- d. **I John 5:19 ... The evil one**

C. Satan is called the evil one because he seeks the destruction of souls. S#5.

1. *“Satan Hates You and has a horrible plan for your life.”*

2. **Gen. 3** ... Satan’s lies caused the fall of man.

3. Satan was the influence which caused Cain to kill Abel.

I John 3: 12 – we should love one another; **12** not as Cain, **S#6.**
who was of the evil one and slew his brother.

4. **Job 1 & 2** ... Satan oppressed Job in many ways.

5. Satan motivated King David to sin against God.

I Chron. 21: 1 –Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.

6. Satan seeks to destroy our souls.

a. **I Pet. 5: 8** – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

b. Satan seeks to murder, not to convert followers.

D. The devil is real and has great power, but his power is not unlimited. S#7.

1. Satan commands a host of spirit beings called angels, demons, powers.

a. **Matt. 25: 41** – Then He will also say to those on His left, ' Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

b. **Eph. 6: 12** – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **S#8.**
rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

2. Satan has much of the power of an angel.

a. **II Thes. 2: 9-10** –...the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of **S#9.**
Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, **10** and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

b. Remember how the angels in Sodom struck men blind. (cf- **Gen. 19: 11**)

II Cor. 4: 3-4 – And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who **S#10.**
are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

3. God limits the activities of Satan.

a. **I Cor. 10: 13** – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to **S#11.**
man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

b. God provides a way to escape; we must look for it and use it.

4. **Job 1** ... When Satan went before God, he had to ask permission to act against Job.
5. **Job 1** ... Satan can use the power of nature. (*Storms, lightening, earthquakes*)
6. **Job 1** ... Satan can use armies to accomplish his objectives.
7. **I Chron. 21: 1** ... Satan can influence the history of countries / leaders.

So how does one go about resisting this powerful adversary ?

S#12.

I. The very first step is to choose a side, i.e., to declare allegiance to God.

S#13.

A. There is no middle ground; everyone is on one side or the other.

S#14.

1. Jesus demands that we make a choice.

Matt. 6: 24 – No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. (**Matt. 12: 30** *For / against*)

2. There is no neutral ground; we can't try to be friends with both sides.

James 4: 4 – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

S#15.

B. As soon as we leave one we become the servant of the other.

Rom. 6: 17 – Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

C. Our last lesson emphasized the fact that God requires us to submit to His rule.

1. **James 4: 7** – Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you
2. We must take a very public stand for God.
 - a. **James 4: 5** – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (**Matt 10: 32** .. *confess*)
 - b. The closer we feel to God, the more conscious we will be of pleasing Him.
3. Many evil people will avoid you when they are planning something sinful.

II. We must equip ourselves to be able to use the word of God.

S#16.

S#17.

A. God has given us His word as our primary weapon in the war against Satan.

1. **Eph. 6: 17** – And take the ..., and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
2. The Hebrew writer tells us our sword is extremely sharp – lethal.

Heb. 4: 12 – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

S#18.

B. The effectiveness of even the sharpest sword depends upon the skill of the one wielding it. S#19.

1. Satan quoted scripture when tempting Jesus.

Matt. 4: 6 – (*The devil*) to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'" S#20.

2. Jesus understood the scripture well enough to know how to answer Satan.

Matt. 4: 7 – Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

3. You can also use the scriptures to defeat Satan's attempts to lead you astray.

a. **Psa. 119: 10-11** – With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. **11** Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. S#21.

- b. The inspired word of God can make us completely prepared for all we face.

II Tim. 3: 16-17 –All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. S#22.
(NIV)

- c. In order to receive the benefit of the word, it must be "implanted" in our heart.

James 1: 21– Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. S#23.

III. Prayer is essential to resisting Satan's temptations to sin. S#24.

A. Prayer unleashes the most powerful force in the universe. S#25.

1. **Eph. 3: 21** – Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

2. The limiting factor is not God's power, but our faith.

Mark 11: 23-24 – Have faith in God. **23** "Truly I say to you, whoever says to This mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. **24** Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you." S#26.

3. I may not have enough faith to move a mountain, but I trust in His deliverance.

Matt. 6: 13 – And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. S#27.

B. Some evils can only be overcome by the power of prayer and fasting.

1. **Matt. 17: 21** – But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

2. When is the last time you fasted as you struggled to overcome evil.

IV. We must learn to take sin seriously. (Recognize it as a threat to soul.) S#28.

A. The Apostle Peter instructed us to consider sin very seriously. S#29.

I Pet. 5: 8 – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

B. The Apostles Paul instructs us to keep on the alert against sin. S#30.

I Thes. 5: 8-9 – But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

V. There are times when we must retreat in the face of strong attacks. S#31.

A. God always provides a way of escape to get out of the range of Satan's attacks.

I Cor. 10: 13 – God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it S#32.

B. There are several circumstances from which we are commanded to flee. S#33.

1. **II Tim. 2: 2** – Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

I Cor. 6: 18 – Flee immorality.

2. **I Tim. 6: 11-12** – But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.
¹² Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to

3. **I Cor. 10: 14** – Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (**Col. 3:5** ... greed)

CONCLUSION :

A. We have observed only five of the many ways to resist Satan. S#34.

1. One must first make a public commitment to God
2. We must become skilled with the sword of truth.
3. The power of prayer is essential to our victory.
4. Sin is something that must be taken seriously.
5. There are times when we must flee temptation.

B. You don't have to stand against the devil alone. S#35.

1. You are not unique. You are not worse than others. *Everyone struggles.*
2. The design of the church is to provide a support group as we struggle.
3. It's not all about you ... others need encouragement

S#36. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 4: 4-10**

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **7** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Ephesians 6: 10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14** Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,