

“Resist The Devil!”
James 4:7

Introduction:

1. As We Near The End:
 - Of Our Sunday Night Series:
 - On Victory Over Our:
 - Three Main Spiritual Enemies!
 - We Are Going To Return To:
 - What We Looked At Last Sunday:
 - Which Is - Our Duty:
 - Toward Our Ancient Foe:
 - Which Is The Devil!
2. Last Time:
 - We Looked At:
 - The Armor Of God:
 - From Ephesians 6!
 - Which We Need To:
 - Pursue & Put On:
 - In Order To:
 - “Stand Against The Wiles Of The Devil!”
 - As We Found In 6:11!
3. But - The Only Way:
 - We Can “Stand Against” Him:
 - Is By Being “Strong In The Lord, And In The Power Of His Might!” (6:10)
 - But Then - Paul Also Tells Us:
 - In 6:13 - “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand!”
 - To “Withstand” Means:
 - To Set Yourself Against:
 - Someone!
 - Or Even - To Be Actively:
 - Opposed To Someone!
4. And The Duty We Find Here:
 - In Ephesians 6:13 - Is The Same Duty:
 - We Find In James 4 - Which Is Where:
 - We Find Our Text For Tonight!
 - So - Let’s Turn In Our Bibles:
 - To James 4 - And Read:
 - 4:1-10 - “From whence [come] wars and fightings among you? [come they] not hence, [even] of your lusts that war in your members? / Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. / Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts. / Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. / Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? / But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. / Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. / Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded. / Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and [your] joy to heaviness. / Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up!”
5. Couched In The Middle Of These Verses:
 - We Find The Same Duty:
 - That We Have Toward The Devil:
 - That We Found In Ephesians 6!
 - But Here - In James 4:7:
 - It Is Given To Us In This Way:
 - “Resist The Devil, And He Will Flee From You!”

- So - To Withstand In The Evil Day:
 - Involves Resisting The Devil:
 - In That Day - Even In:
 - This Day - So That:
 - He Will Flee From Us!

6. And - To Withstand & Resist The Devil:

- Simply Means To:
 - Actively Oppose:
 - The Devil - And Everything:
 - He Stands For!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Known Someone Who Has A Contrarian Spirit? Who Always Withstands / Resists / Opposes Just About Everything That Is Said To Him?
 - In A Sense - This Is What It Means:
 - To Withstand & Resist The Devil!
 - To Be His “Contrarian!”
 - Knowing That The Devil:
 - Is Actually A Contrarian Himself!
 - To Everything That Is Right!

7. And So - Before We Finish Our Series:

- Next Sunday - On The Doom Of The Devil:
 - I Want Us To Review:
 - The Various Things We’ve Already Learned About The Devil:
 - In Our Series - And How We Can:
 - “Resist Him!”
 - So That - Through The Strength & Power:
 - Of The Lord - The Devil Will:
 - Flee From Us - So That:
 - We Might Have The Victory:
 - Through Jesus Christ Our Lord!” (1 Corinthians 15:17)

* So - First - We Need To Resist & Oppose:

1. ***The Devil’s Devices!***

- Which - If You Remember:
 - Is What He Used:
 - To Tempt Eve:
 - In The Garden Of Eden!
 - And - To Tempt Jesus:
 - In The Wilderness!
 - He Tried To Get Them Both:
 - To Question God & His Word!
- And So - To Resist:
 - The Questions Of The Devil:
 - We Need To Pursue:
 - Trust - In The Lord:
 - And His Word!
 - Because - The Scriptures Themselves:
 - Remind Us Of:
 - God’s Trustworthiness!
 - Even As Moses Said & Sang:
 - In Deuteronomy 32:1-4:
 - “Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. / My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: / Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. / [He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he!”
- The Best Way To Resist:
 - This Device Of The Devil:
 - Is To Maintain An Implicit & Confident Trust:

- In The Lord - That:
 - He Will Never Lead You Astray!
- This Is Part Of:
 - The Shield Of Faith:
 - That Makes Up:
 - The Armor Of God!
- Instead Of Being:
 - A Contrarian To God:
 - By Starting To Ask The Same Questions:
 - Posed By The Devil:
 - "Hath God Said?"
 - Be A Contrarian To The Devil:
 - And Resist His Questions:
 - With Trust!

* Then - We Also Need To Resist & Oppose:

2. *The Devil's Design!*

- Which - From What We Learned Before:
 - No Matter What For He Takes:
 - He Will Always Have:
 - The Same Functions:
 - As His Names!
 - As The Devil:
 - He Is An Accuser!
 - And - As Satan:
 - He Is The Adversary:
 - Of God & His People!
 - And So - To Resist & Oppose:
 - The Accusations Of The Devil:
 - We Need To Pursue:
 - Righteousness!
 - This Is What We Find In:
 - Hebrews 12:13-14:
 - "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. / Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!"
 - The Best Way To Resist:
 - The Design Of The Devil:
 - Is To Not Give Him Anything More:
 - To Accuse Us Of!
 - This Is Part Of:
 - The Breastplate Of Righteousness:
 - That We Found In Ephesians 6!
 - Instead Of Following After:
 - The Unrighteousness Of The Devil:
 - Be A Contrarian To Him!
 - And Follow After:
 - The Righteousness Of Jesus Christ!

* We Also Need To Resist:

3. *The Devil's Dominion!*

- And The Authority He Still Has:
 - Over His Allies:
 - The World & The Flesh!
 - Even Jesus Described Him:
 - In John 14 As:
 - The "Prince Of This World!"
- And So - To Resist:

- The World Of The Devil:
 - We Need To Pursue:
 - Heaven! Our True Home!
- This Is What Jesus Himself:
 - Tells Us In:
 - Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!"
- And - This Is What Paul Also:
 - Tells Us In:
 - Colossians 3:1-2 - "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. / Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth!"
- The Best Way To Resist:
 - The Dominion Of The Devil:
 - Is To Live As A Pilgrim & Stranger:
 - In This World!
 - And Be A Contrarian:
 - To The Devil - By:
 - Going Against The Flow Of:
 - The Fallen Culture:
 - Of His World!
 - Even As We Learned This From John:
 - In 1 John 2:15-17:
 - "Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. / For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. / And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever!"

* We Also Need To Resist:

4. *The Devil's Downfall!*

- Which - Was & Still Is Pride!
 - He Wanted To Be Like:
 - "The Most High!"
 - If You Remember From:
 - The Video Message From:
 - R. C. Sproul:
 - He Described How:
 - In The Middle Ages - The Church Thought The Best Way:
 - To Resist The Pride Of The Devil:
 - Was To Make Fun Of The Devil!
 - Even To Make Him Appear:
 - In Grotesque Forms:
 - In Order To Offend His Pride!
- But - The Best Way To Resist:
 - The Downfall Of The Devil:
 - Is Not To Make Fun Of Him - Or:
 - To Make Light Of Him!
 - But - To Pursue:
 - Humility - With All:
 - Of Your Heart!
 - This Is Even One Of Main Themes:
 - That We Find Surrounding:
 - James 4:7!
 - In James 4:6 - We Are Reminded That:
 - "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble!"
 - And - In James 4:10 - We Are Told:
 - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up!"

- Humility Is The Best Way:
 - To Resist The Downfall Of The Devil:
 - And Is A Contrarian Way:
 - Not Only To Live - But:
 - A Contrarian Way:
 - To See Yourself!
- The Devil Wants You:
 - To Pursue After:
 - Self-Esteem - Apart From:
 - Christ!
 - But - When You Pursue After:
 - True Humility - It Means That:
 - “In Lowliness Of Mind” You Even “Esteem Others Better Than Yourself!”
(Philippians 2:3)

* We Also Need to Resist & Oppose:

5. *The Devil’s Delusion!*

- The Devil Is Nothing But:
 - A Liar! And:
 - Not Only Does He Lie:
 - To Us - He Even:
 - Lies To Himself!
 - The Devil Thought:
 - He Could Even Get Jesus:
 - To Fall For His Temptations:
 - In The Wilderness!
 - But - As We Saw This Morning:
 - From John 14 - That Old Prince Of This World Had Absolutely Nothing:
 - In Jesus! And This Is Still True!
- And So - To Resist:
 - The Lies Of The Devil:
 - We Need To Pursue:
 - Truth!
 - Of Course - We Always Need To:
 - Pursue The Truth:
 - About God!
 - But - We Also Need To:
 - Pursue The Truth:
 - About Christ & Ourselves:
 - In Christ!
 - The Devil Wants You:
 - To Live In Despair:
 - And He Will Hurl Lie After Lie After Lie:
 - In Order To Do So!
- But - Be A Contrarian:
 - To His Lies!
 - Remember That - The Foundation:
 - Of All He Says:
 - Is Falsehood!
 - Even When He Uses God’s Word:
 - He Twists It & Contorts It:
 - To Say Something:
 - That God Did Not Say!
 - Remember The Counsel:
 - Of Proverbs 23:23:
 - “Buy the truth, and sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding!”

* Also - We Need To Oppose & Resist:

6. *The Devil's Danger!*

- Yes - The Devil Is Still Like:
 - "A Roaring Lion" - That - "Walketh About, Seeking Whom He May Devour!" (1 Peter 5:8)
 - And Though - We Must Never:
 - Underestimate Him - At The Same Time:
 - We Must Not:
 - Overestimate Him Either!
- And So - To Resist:
 - The Seeming Irresistible Power Of The Devil:
 - We Need To Pursue:
 - Grace! God's Grace!
 - We Find This In:
 - Hebrews 4:14-16:
 - "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. / For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. / Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!"
- And So - The Best Way To Resist:
 - The Danger Of The Devil:
 - Is Flee To The Refuge:
 - Of God & His Grace:
 - That He Has Made Available:
 - Through Jesus Christ!
 - In The Old Testament:
 - If Someone Shed Innocent Blood:
 - And - Did Not Do So:
 - With The Intent Or Malice:
 - To Kill!
 - God - In His Grace:
 - Had Cities Of Refuge:
 - Sprinkled Throughout The Land:
 - To Which They Could Run & Find Safety & Refuge - Until Justice Could Be Served!
 - Jesus Is Your City Of Refuge:
 - When The Devil Is On The Prowl:
 - For Your Heart & Your Soul!
 - And - To Be A Contrarian:
 - To The Danger Of The Devil:
 - Live In The Safety & Security:
 - Of God's Grace In Christ!

Conclusion:

1. So - As You Put On:
 - The "Armor Of God" - So That:
 - You Might Be Able To:
 - "Stand Against The Wiles Of The Devil!"
 - At The Same Time:
 - Actively Resist & Oppose Him:
 - By Pursuing Everything:
 - That Runs Contrary To:
 - The Devil & His Nature!
2. Be A Contarian:
 - To The Devil!
 - And Pursue After Everything:
 - That He Is Not!
 - Pursue After:
 - Trust!

- Righteousness!
 - Heaven!
 - Humility!
 - Truth! And:
 - Grace!
3. And - Where Do You Find:
- All Of These Things?
 - In & Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And - When You Oppose:
 - And Resist The Devil:
 - In These Ways:
 - What Promise Do We Have?
 - James 4:7 - “Resist The Devil, And He Will Flee From You!”
 - Because - No Doubt - He Sees Christ In You!
 - And The Devil Is No Match:
 - For Him!

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