

# Submit to God and Resist the Devil

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**James 4:7-8** 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.

- I. Most people do just exactly the opposite – they resist God and submit to the devil.
  - A. They resist God’s wooing while submitting to the devil’s alluring.
  - B. They resist God’s threats of punishment while cowering before the devil when he threatens with failure and abandonment.
  - C. They resist God’s promise of eternal rewards and submit to the devil’s promise of feeling good right now.
  - D. They resist the plain, written Word of God and submit to worldly ideas and opinions that come right from the serpent’s mouth.
  
- II. To submit is to do things just the way someone else wants them done, instead of the way we want them done.
  - A. To submit to God means that in all that we do we seek his will and attempt to do what pleases Him.
    - 1. This is true obedience – nothing less than this is obedience.
  - B. To submit to God means that we lose our own will and his will becomes ours.

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- C. Submission is more than just taking orders – it is taking on the burden, cares, purposes, and goals of the one you are submitting to.
    - 1. A good employee will be this way toward his employer.
  - D. Those who submit to the devil are allowing him to control their lives.
    - 1. They may not realize it because they are concentrating on their own selfishness and seem to be getting their own way.
    - 2. But this is the devil’s deception as he leads you into his snare to destroy your life and your soul.
  - E. The sinner does not realize it, but his will has become the same as the devil’s will and all he does is for the furtherance of Satan’s kingdom.
  
- III. To resist the devil is to oppose him at every turn.

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- A. We should NEVER agree with him, or find ourselves on the same side of an issue as him.
  - 1. This requires some diligence because the devil is so good at deceiving us into thinking like he does.
- B. We should ALWAYS actively stand against him whenever he tempts us, threatens us, or tries to bridle us.

1. NEVER just sit idly by while he works his way right before us.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

- C. We should NEVER flee from him, but always resist him and watch HIM flee.
- D. We should ALWAYS work against him and be careful to never do anything that will help his cause or make it easier for him to win a battle, influence a person, or get any advantage.
- E. We are not ignorant of his devices, so we are thinking ahead and watching for his deceitful tricks and lies – and ready for him before he makes his move.
- F. He will FLEE – that means he will go away and quit bothering you for as long as you resist him.

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

IV. Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.

- A. God is more than willing to be close to you, and to have you close to him.
- B. It only takes our resisting the devil and drawing nigh to God to have God's presence in our life.
- C. If we are not resisting the devil we are working for him, and we cannot be close to God.
- D. To "draw" means to pull along, or to move forward by force applied in advance of the thing moved.
  - 1. In spite of the Calvinists view the Bible does say here that WE are to DRAW nigh to God – not that God has to do it for us; we DO have that responsibility, and therefore the ability to do so.
  - 2. Because of the infirmity of the flesh you will have to pull yourself up to God in order to "draw nigh."
  - 3. Much of you and the baggage you carry will not want to come along.
  - 4. Come to church; read and fill your mind with thoughts and precepts of God through his Word.
  - 5. Associate yourself with the true people of God and separate yourself from worldly, pleasure-seeking people, who care nothing for God.
- E. The closer you get to God the less the cares of life and the lusts of the flesh will mean to you.
  - 1. Therefore, the easier it will be to resist the devil and submit to God.
- F. Here is the final word on this battle when it is finally over:

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.