

RESISTING THE DEVIL

A Sermon Outline

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Text: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Thesis: To study means by which the Christian can resist the greatest enemy, the devil.

INTRODUCTION

1. What will you do if you are to face and overcome an enemy you cannot see physically or touch? We live in a world which is controlled by forces we cannot see!
2. The ignorance of many people about the devil have led them to be captive and vulnerable.
 - a. Many get scared every moment they hear of the devil, demons, evil spirit, witches and wizards, etc.
 - b. In some part of the world, especially Africa, many people run after miracle workers (“men of God,” “prophets,” “spiritual men,” witchdoctors, etc.) for help to overcome the enemy.
3. Some people are deceived and exploited, others live the rest of their lives hating a family member or a friend who may be blamed for bewitching them.
 - a. For example, in 2020, a **90-year-old** grandmother, was lynched (stoned) to death at Kafaba, a town in northern, Ghana by her own grandchildren. What was her sin? She was accused of being a witch.
 - b. Was it the first time? No, and it possibly going to happen again because people are ignorant of the real enemy which is not flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12).
4. Peter, in his first epistle, cautioned Christians to be watchful about the devil (1 Pet. 5:8-9). Based on his admonition, we will consider three main points about resisting the devil. To resist the devil, we must;
 - I. KNOW HIS PERSON,
 - II. KNOW HIS WORKS,
 - III. KNOW OUR POWERS.

DISCUSSION

I. KNOW HIS PERSON

A. Recognize his origin.

1. The devil is described with multiple names.

- a. He is called Satan (Job 1:6-8).
 - b. He is called an adversary (1 Pet. 5:8).
 - c. He is called the evil one (Matt. 6:13; 1 John 5:19).
 - d. He is called the devil (Heb. 2:14).
 - e. He is called Prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2).
 - f. He is called The Dragon, old serpent (Rev. 12:9; 20:2).
2. From the beginning to the end of the Bible, the Godhead; Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit are mentioned, and Satan is none of them. The Bible gives us 4 beings:
- a. Divine/Eternal Beings (Gen 1:1-2, 26)
 - b. Angels (created beings), (Heb 1:7,)
 - c. Human (also created), (Gen 1:27)
 - d. Animals (Gen. 1:20-25)
 - e. Satan can only be an angel.
 - 1) If he is not a divine being nor with flesh and blood (human or animal, Eph. 6:12), then he can only be an angelic being (Mat. 25:41).
 - 2) Remember the contention between Michael (the archangel) and Satan? Michael spoke to him like a peer (Jude 1:9)!
3. It is worth mentioning that Satan, as spiritual (behind the scenes) principal leader of the rebellious angels, has agents who work with him.
4. Demons, witches and wizards, sorcerers, witch doctors, false prophets, chanters, etc. possess no spiritual power today, they only deceive.

B. Understand his limitations.

- 1. The devil is not divine nor eternal.
 - a. He was not from the beginning but created (Heb. 1:7, Psalm 104:4).
 - b. He has no need to repent, he will not live forever.
 - c. He doesn't exist by himself (Job 1:6).
- 2. He is not omnipotent (Job 1:6-7).
 - a. Yes, Satan may be powerful, and perhaps a million times powerful than man (human) but he is not all powerful.
 - b. He has a Boss who is far above him and incomparable to him.
 - c. He came before the presence of God Almighty (Job 1:6).
 - d. He came to report to God.
 - e. Someone holds all power but it's not the devil (Mat. 28:18).

3. He is not omnipresent (Job 1:7).
 - a. Peter said your adversary the devil walks about (1 Pet 5:8).
 - b. The devil is not everywhere at the same time; however, his influence may be felt everywhere (Ps. 139:7-12).

4. He is not omniscient (1 King 8:39; Prov. 15:3).
 - a. The word *omniscient* means “to have infinite awareness, understanding and insight.”
 - b. Satan is not all knowing. He does not possess universal or complete knowledge.
 - c. Satan cannot read minds. He cannot know what your thoughts are.
 - d. Reading a mind is an attribute of God alone (Psalm 139:2, 23).
 - e. Jesus could read minds because of His Deity (Luke 5:22; 6:8).
 - f. Satan said Job would curse God; instead, he blessed the Lord (Job 1:9-12, 20-22).

II. KNOW HIS WORKS

- A. The devil deceives with lies.
 1. He is a liar and father of it. All liars are going to lake of fire (John 8:44, Rev. 21:8).
 2. He can transform himself to deceives. (Gen. 3:1-4, 2Cor 11:13-15).
 - a. We are not ignorant of his schemes (2 Cor 2:11).
 - b. The devil’s first appearance near the beginning of time involved deception.
 - c. Satan successfully deceived Eve with a lie. That is where the fall of man began (Gen 3:6-7). However,
 - 1) with all the powers Satan has, the most effective and best thing he could do to Eve was to lie to her.
 - 2) He couldn’t force her to force her to eat the fruit; she did it on her own.
 - 3) He only transforms himself to an animal to lie and to deceive!
 3. Brethren, you may have destroyed people in your mind because of lies.
 - a. You may have lynched your wife or husband emotionally.
 - b. You may have lynched your in-laws, parents, family members or co-workers because perhaps an agent of Satan called “man of

- God,” has lied and deceived you (Matt. 24:24).
- c. Satan is still in the deception business. Beware!

B. The devil is an adversary of man (1 Pet. 5:8).

1. Surprisingly, Satan lies to deceive us to disobey and rebel against God, then he goes to God to accuse man (Job 1:8-12).
 - a. Peter was clear - our adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to make us fall.
 - b. Peter is telling us being, that an angelic being called the devil has a surveillance on you. Peter says he walks about, spying on you!
 - c. Satan by himself cannot do anything to a man under God’s protection. But Satan as a roaring lion may devour us if we give in to sin.
 - d. So, his purpose of being an adversary is to destroy our reputation or relation with God!
2. Thank God he does not have that ability anymore (Rev. 12:10; 20:3).

C. The devil sets snares to trap man (Psalm 141:9-10).

1. Satan sets traps all around and entice people to lure them into his traps!
 - a. He tempts us with our own desires (James 1:12-15).
 - b. Satan tempts us to fall into his traps (Matt 6:13).
 - c. He is not at every place, but his traps are scared all around so beware!
2. Satan traps us with the three things which are in the word (I John 2:15-17).
 - a. Lust of the eyes
 - b. Lust of the flesh
 - c. Pride of life
3. Same was what he used to tempt our Lord (Mat. 4:3-11). We can recover from his snares through repentance (2 Tim. 2:26).

D. The devil threatens man.

1. He threatens and puts fear in anyone who is ignorant of his schemes.
 - a. Fear has made some prisoners (Heb. 2:15).
 - b. Fear diminishes faith.

- c. Fear is a weapon that scatters our minds and make us lose control of ourselves, our marriages, our businesses, etc.
- 2. Threats of different kinds are thrown at us by the devil.
 - a. Threat of failure and defeat
 - b. Threat of death
 - c. Threat of unforgiven sins.
- 3. We must not fear that which in the world (Matt. 10:28).
 - a. Fear is not from God, for He has not given us the spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7, Psa. 23:4).
 - b. We must not fear He who is able to destroy both the soul and the body (Mat. 10:28).

III. KNOW OUR POWERS

- A. We must be sober and vigilant (1 Pet 5:8).
 - 2. The word *sober* means: to be calm in mind, to be temperate, or circumspect (Eph 5:17).
 - 3. The word *vigilant* means to lookout, to be cautious, to be attentive, to be watchful.
 - a. Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but Satan and his agents (Eph. 6:10-13).
 - b. Because we are strangers and pilgrims here on this earth, (1 Pet. 2:11).
 - c. Because we are soldiers in a battlefield behind the enemy line trapped in a spiritual war (2 Tim. 2:3-4).
- B. We must steadfastly resist him in the faith (1 Pet 5:9).
 - a. The Greek word for resist is “anthistemi” which means to withstand, to oppose!
 - b. Satan cannot read human minds. He only came around, started a conversation to buy time so that he could lie and deceive.
 - a. Consider his visit to Eve in the garden; he went there to lie (Gen. 3:6-7).
 - b. Jesus said “away with me” Jesus resisted him! Jesus ended the conversation (Mat. 4:10-11).
 - c. By holding on our faith and draw near to God (James 4:7-10).

- a. Keep our personal Bible studies to know the will of God!
- b. Meditate on the Word and the awesomeness of God (Ps. 1:1-3).
- c. Keep nearer to God by hiding His word in our hearts (Ps. 119:9-12).
- d. Participate in the work of God and His Church. Example: personal evangelism, visitation, etc.

C. We must trust God and be obedient to His word!

- 1. We need to put our trusts in God and lean not on our own understandings. If we go on our own ways, we will get trapped (Prov. 3:5-6).
- 2. God Himself will crush Satan for us (Rom. 16:19-20).
 - a. We need to obey God and we will be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil (Rom. 16:19-20).
 - b. We cannot defeat Satan with our own wisdom, it is mission impossible!
 - c. God had made hedges around Job because he was obedient to Him (Job 1:12, 2:4-7)
 - d. Trust in God leads to deliverance of soul (Psalm 33:18-22).

D. We must put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18).

- 1. Be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His might (Eph. 6:10).
 - a. Be strong and of good courage (Joshua 1:7).
 - b. Our war is not against flesh (2 Cor. 10:3-4).
 - c. But against principalities and spiritual host! (Eph. 6:12)
 - d. We are soldiers at war and need to wear the armor (2 Tim. 2:3-4)
- 2. We must stand against him by putting on the whole armor of God. This we can do by wearing/holding;
 - a. The belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14; John 17:17).
 - b. The breastplate of righteousness (Eph. 6:14; Prov. 4:23; 2 Cor. 5:21).
 - c. The shoes of the Gospel (Eph. 6:15; 1 John 2:6; John 10:27; Eph. 5:15-17).
 - d. The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16; 2 Tim. 3:12; 2 Tim. 4:17).
 - e. The helmet of salvation (Eph 6:17; 1 John 5:11-13).
 - f. The sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17; Heb. 4:12; Psa. 119:105).

- E. We must pray with all prayers and supplication without ceasing (Eph. 6:18-19; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim 2:1-3; James 5:16).

CONCLUSION

1. In this lesson we have studied about the origin and nature of the devil, that he can only be an angel. He is not eternal/divine, nor omnipresent, nor omnipotent, nor omniscient.
2. We have also recognized his works that:
 - a. He deceives with lies.
 - b. He is an adversary of man.
 - c. He sets snares to trap.
 - d. He threatens to put fear in man.
3. We have the power to overcome him.
 - a. By being sober and vigilant.
 - b. Trusting in God and being obedient to His word!
 - c. By steadfastly resisting him.
 - d. By putting on the whole armor of God.
 - e. By praying without ceasing.
4. Because of ignorance, many people have fallen prey to the devil, but we are not ignorant of him and his works; therefore, we will resist him.
5. Invitation: Satan has imprisoned multitudes of people in the world. And if you are not on the side of those who have obeyed God, then you are standing on the devil's side. You may be on God's side if you:
 - a. Believe the gospel (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent and turn toward the Lord (Acts 2:38, 3:19, Acts 26:16-18).
 - c. Confess the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:37).
 - d. Be baptized (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 5:21; Acts 2:38).