

# Resisting the Devil

Scripture is: James 4:7

## INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

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

Can a believer fall into condemnation of the devil?

- ✓ The answer to that question is yes you can fall into condemnation of the devil
- ✓ But no he can't take away your salvation even though you fall into condemnation of the devil.

Just as we saw the last Lords day when we read in the scriptures that there is a sin unto death and there is a sin not unto death. This is talking about the believer who sins.....

The reason why a believer sins is because his flesh is still of the lineage of Adam when Adam sinned.....and therefore a believer is still subject to his flesh. Romans 5:13-15.

- ✓ **1 Corinthians 15:22** **For as in Adam all die**, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Now.....because of mans flesh he is able to be tempted and drawn away from the things of God. That is why 1 John 5:16 speaks so clearly of seeing his brother, sin a sin.....

**1 John 5:16** <sup>16</sup> If any man **see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death**, he shall ask, and he shall give him life **for them that sin not unto death.** **There is a sin unto death:** I do not say that he shall pray for it.

1. How difficult it is still for the believer to continue living in this fleshly body and still to serve Jesus Christ as a righteous servant.
2. How difficult it is to do that which pleases the Lord.
3. How difficult it is to do right?
4. How difficult it is to not sin?

But.....

1. But how easy it is to let your Lord down?
2. But how easy is it to turn a blind eye to sin?
3. But how easy is it to hurt a brother?
4. But how easy is it to condemn others before you know their reasons why they do the things they do?
5. But how easy is it to ignore the scriptures which care for your soul?
6. How easy is it to ignore the council of Gods elect (believers).
7. How easy is it not to love a brother in Christ?

**1 John 3:10** In this the **children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil:** whosoever doeth not righteousness **is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, **because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.**

**1 John 4:20** **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:** for he that **loveth not his brother** whom he hath seen, **how can he love God** whom he hath **not** seen?

8. A person who goes around and does not love his brother in Christ, the bible says he still abides in death, because he is not of God.
- ✓ The reason why there may be so many trials in our lives as a Christian may not be because we are doing so many things right, but it may be because we are doing so many things wrong? – Like allowing Satan into our lives?
- ✓ The answer to all these questions is given to us in the scriptures, but those who call themselves Christians prefer to rather ignore what the bible has to say, because they don't read it anyway to find the truth.
1. How many of Gods people suffer each day with strife in their lives, but yet don't do anything about it, or ask why are they always going through these trials;
2. Where some may say that it is the Lord who puts them through these trials to make them a better person.
3. Whilst that may be true in some instances, where the Lord will chasten those that are his children for sure....but..
4. But..... it may be because they have "chosen" to ignore what the Lord has told them in the first place.
5. As a Christian we need to distinguish what is the chastening of the Lord, and what is the strife from the Devil?

**A. Let's consider that the Bible has to say about these issues of trials.**

- ✓ Turn with me to James 4:7, and then 2 Corinthians 10:1-3,4-18

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

**2 Corinthians 10:4** <sup>4</sup> **(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

When speaking about condemnation it is easy for a believer to fall into the condemnation of the devil. But when he falls into condemnation of the devil it does not mean that he has lost his salvation because a believer can never lose his salvation once he is saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit he is always saved.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of **our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

- ✓ Then in the gospel again John the apostle says the same about the believer that he has eternal life.....eternal life is not for a season?.....God knows that you will still sin.....you will sin a sin unto death and you will still sin a sin not unto death.....so how can you lose your salvation I ask you?
- ✓ Salvation is everlasting? Don't let others mislead you? to bring another gospel to you. Remember John 3:16.
- ✓ It does not mean if a believer will sin a big sin or a little sin, that he will lose his salvation. No he can't lose his salvation ever.....Jesus said.

**John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

- ✓ It is not necessary to live a defeated life: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.
- ✓ This is one of the very first verses in the bible that I ever committed to memory. Because I wanted to remember Gods promise to me even when I knew that I would go through many trials in my life, and it has served me well to have committed this verse to memory in time of need.
- ✓ **1 John 4:4** Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Q. You might say preacher I don't believe you, I don't believe that you can fall into the condemnation of the devil if you are a believer?

Q. You might say, I believe that when a believer turns to worldly things it is because he is worldly.....and therefore he does those things of the world?

#### **A. Yes but how does he get worldly?**

A. The fact that a believer does those things of the world is because he has taken his eyes off God, for that moment and has placed it on the world for his counseling? Which brings forth the sins of lust and pride.

B. But a believer can fall into the condemnation of the devil, where the devil will cause many believers to wane (decrease) in their faith and to begin to lose hope and so turn back into the world from which they came. Remember what God said to the people in the NT, come out from them ye my people, and be ye separate.....2 Corinthians 6:7

C. God told them time and time again..... **2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- ✓ So how do we cut down or stop these unnecessary trials in our lives which are not from God.
- ❖ Even the Apostle Paul warned Timothy that some of the qualifications of a preacher was that he was not to be a novice, because pride would be his downfall.

1. But notice what Timothy listed as the conclusion of that pride.
2. He would fall into the condemnation of the devil?
3. Which proves that a believer can fall into the condemnation (blame) of the devil.

**1 Timothy 3:5-7** <sup>5</sup> (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) <sup>6</sup> Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

4. So even the believer can fall into condemnation, but that is not to say he will lose his salvation. It means that the person has been influenced by the devil to do those things against the Lord.
5. James has even given us examples from the OT how Job was under the condemnation of the devil.

**James 5:11-13** <sup>11</sup> Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that **the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.**

<sup>12</sup> But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; **lest ye fall into condemnation.**

<sup>13</sup> Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

James is reminding the believer here in James 5:11-13, that it is as the patience that Job had in the Lord, and that it was either a yes or no in what God had to say, not what man had to say. His yes in the Lord should always be yes, and his no in the Lord should always be no as the scripture dictates for the believer to be.

- ❖ The believer is not to be swayed by every wind of doctrine but to be steadfast in the Lord.

**Ephesians 4:14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**So how do we stop doing the wrong things which case us strife.**

- ✓ **There are basically two questions that we should be asking ourselves**
  1. **Why do you fall into condemnation of the devil?**
  2. **And how do you prevent it?**

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

**2 Corinthians 10:4** <sup>4</sup> (**For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal**, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

1. The first thing we need to know and remember is that we are fighting a spiritual battle?
  2. And the second thing that we need to know and to remember is who are we fighting that battle against?
- ❖ If we don't know who we are fighting against than how can we know who our enemy is and how can we know how to prepare ourselves for battle?
  - ✓ Well the bible says that we are fighting against the Devil.
  - ✓ And the second thing that the bible tells us is that our weapons of our warfare are not carnal. (which means that they are not physical weapons that we can use to defend ourselves.)
  - ✓ The bible also tells us that the weapon we are to use is "a mighty weapon through God" to pull down that stronghold.

That means it is Gods weapons that we should use to pull down the strong hold against us as believers.

- ❖ So what is that weapon which we use which is mighty through God?

Let's take a look.....

The first weapon of God we are to use is: to first:

1. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God.
  2. Then, to Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- ❖ The arming process of Gods weaponry of resisting the devil is found in Ephesians 6:11-20.

**Ephesians 6:10-20** <sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be **strong in the Lord**, and **in the power of his might**.

<sup>11</sup> **Put on the whole armour of God**, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles** (schemes) **of the devil**.

<sup>12</sup> **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood**, **but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers** of **the darkness of this world**, **against spiritual wickedness in high places**.

<sup>13</sup> **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**.

<sup>14</sup> **Stand therefore**, **having your loins girt about with truth**, and **having on the breastplate of righteousness**;

<sup>15</sup> **And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**;

<sup>16</sup> **Above all, taking the shield of faith**, **wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked**.

**17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

**18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

**19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,**

**20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

1. Even in the OT the people of God were warned and told how to equip themselves against the devil.
2. Look at Psalm 11:1-2. How the psalmist wrote that he first needed to put his trust in the Lord. Is it not what Ephesians 6:10 said, - to be strong in the Lord?

**Psalm 11** <sup>1</sup> **In the LORD put I my trust:** how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?

**2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.**

**3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

1. That is why 1 Peter 5:8-9 tells us as believers that it is **faith** which is able to protect us in the days when we are facing the hidden enemy which we cannot see, the devil himself.
2. But with the shield of faith we are able to deflect those fiery darts and as arrows which are put in a bow and shot towards the believers of Jesus; who are able to stand firm, not to give even an inch to Satan and his cohorts. The rulers of darkness.
3. If you think that we are not fighting against organized crime then think again. We are fighting to defend ourselves from spiritual forces in high places. The “rulers” of darkness.
4. “Rulers” mean that we are fighting against those who are being ruled by others who bring upon the believer these trial and tribulations which we now suffer as a result.
5. So you better have on the shield of faith, which will help you to stand against the whiles of the devil himself.

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

1. The believer is to be vigilant. Which is to be on guard because it is the Devil who is walking about as roaring lion seeking, which means he is hunting as lion hunt for its prey.

2. Notice that when a lion is hungry he will roar loudly to let every other animal around him that he is hungry, and he is going to be on the prowl to get his prey and “devour” them to feed his insatiable hunger. That is a picture of what the devil is still busy doing!!!!
  3. The Devil is loose and seeking whom he may “devour” my friend.
  4. Which means the devil is walking about to see whom he can overwhelm. Which means he wants to catch his prey, so that he can devour or consume or overpower them, or to get them to sin openly before the Lord.
  5. The Devils hunger is only filled when he can get the believers to sin before the Lord exceedingly. Look at Job as he was tested by the Devil.
- ❖ When the devil comes and he surely will at some time or other, the only one who will be able to stand up to his fiery darts, which are set to bring down the believer as the devils enemy as he tries to feed on the righteous saints; is to have the shield of faith.
6. The only way to resist, and resist does not mean to run? It means to stand. The bible says who is able to stand? Which means we are not to turn and run from those that present evil before our face, like the sodomites do, and the TV does, to try and soften up the believer to think that evil is good.
- ❖ **No !** - the bible warns us against that. It warns us against softening up to sin. It says woe you who call evil good.

#### Isaiah 5:20

**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**

#### Isaiah 5:21

**Woe unto them** that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

#### Isaiah 5:22

**Woe unto them** that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

#### Luke 11:47

**Woe unto you!** for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and **your fathers killed them**.

7. Just like in Deuteronomy 23:18, when the Lord warned Israel against whores and sodomites coming in amongst the Israelites. He referred to the sodomites as dogs.
  8. So we need to see it the same way as the Lord sees it. We are to refer to those who do such things by what God calls them in the bible as dogs, or sodomites. **Not soften the sin** up by giving them the name gays, or queers, or lesbians. No call them by the name God called them - **sodomites** or whores or whoremongers in the case of men.
- ❖ Look what Paul called them in the NT. – He called them by the same name God did.

### Philippians 3:2

**Beware of dogs**, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

- ❖ Even Jesus himself used these strong words to condemn those who were sodomites. Look what he calls them in the Book of Revelation.

**Revelation 22:15** **For without are dogs**, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

- ❖ So we are to stand as a soldier in the Lords army, equipped with the spiritual weapons of His war against the Devil.
- ❖ Just as in an army you are not allowed to turn and run from the enemy. That is treason and will result in possibly the death penalty. We are to stand firm not giving an inch to the Devil and his cohorts. TBN, CNN, ABC, FOX, SKY, etc..
- ❖ Turn off the Hell vision, which is run by the likes of Rupert Murdoch, the greatest pornography producer in the world, and who owns the sole copy writes to the NIV and its printing.....you are giving in to the devil.

**Rather Put on the whole amour of God.** Which is able to make you stand against the whiles (the schemes) of the devil?

1. We wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (those for e.g. who pass laws to have babies killed in the womb for convenience....or who make it lawful for same sex marriages.....shame on you.
2. We are not wrestling against flesh and blood my friends. The bible is not referring to Carnal things? That we are wrestling.
3. We are to Stand – you loins fitted with the armor of truth – which is the word of God. So we are to stand for truth.....not go along with the lies of our society because they say that it is ok to kill babies.
4. Having also put on the breastplate of righteousness for protection – presenting the truth to everyone.
5. Putting on the shoes of the gospel – which means going out and spreading the gospel. Tell people that there is a judgment to come. Don't soothe them to make them happy, and not to offend them. **No!!! tell them the truth, or you will send them to Hell my friend!!!**
6. **But above all**, to stand **when the Devil is attacking you**, you need to have a shield. But not just any shield. You need to have the **“shield of faith”**. The only way you can stand against an attack from the devil which will come when people or society are **up against you for what you stand for**, is to have that shield in place. Because it is that shield which is able to quench **“ALL”** the **“fiery darts” of the wicked.** The fiery darts are those burning embers that people throw at you to get you to buckle under the pressure of standing up for what is right for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Just like when you talk against homosexuality and call them sodomites, they will say that you are unkind and being wicked and unloving. And will try and lay guilt upon you which you have called wicked, to turn the tables of their wickedness upon you, just like in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is with that shield which you will be able to quench and put out that fire against you. Don't turn and run!!! You have the sword of the Lord.

7. You are also instructed as a believer to take the helmet of salvation into battle, and when you do, **you are also to take the sword of the Spirit with you, which the bible says is the word of God.**
  8. But when you enter into that battle, **make sure that you are all prayed up. Do nothing in your own strength,** and **watch and persevere** in prayer for ALL the saints, who you are able to assist in prayer.
- ❖ If you feel that you are being bombarded with the world and that there is no way that you can stand then you are probably not wearing the armor of God.
  - And therefore you are unable to resist the devil.
  - ❖ But the word of GOD says in James 4:7 Submit to God, and Resist the devil - and he, **WILL FLEE FROM YOU.**

PRAYER.....CLOSE