

“Resisting the Devil”

James 4:7

Introduction

- I. We all have to deal with the influence of the adversary.
- II. Christians should be living their lives in ways that lessen the devil's advances.
- III. Let us see from the book of James some ways to “resist the devil”.
 - A. When to be “swift” and when to be “slow” (James 1:19-20, 26).
 - B. Be willing to “receive” the Word of God and “continueth *therein*” (James 1:21, 25).
 - C. Being a “doer” and not just a “hearer” (James 1:22).
 - D. Help those in “affliction” (James 1:27).
 - E. Stay “unspotted” (James 1:27).

Discussion.

- I. We can “resist the devil” by learning when to be “swift” and when to be “slow” (James 1:19-20, 26).
 - A. This is a difficult area for a lot of people.
 - B. Just think about the amount of time that James deals with the “tongue” (James 3:1-12).
- II. We can “resist the devil” by “receiving” God's Word and making sure that we “continueth *therein*” (James 1:21, 25).
 - A. The Scriptures are our defense and offense (Eph. 6:13-17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - B. Lack of Bible study is just welcoming the devil to influence our lives (2 Tim. 2:15).
- III. We can “resist the devil” by being “doers” and not just “hearers” (James 1:22).
 - A. Too many people know what to do, but refuse to do it.
 - B. We must be obedient to our God (Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46; John 14:15; James 2:24).
- IV. We can “resist the devil” by helping those in “affliction” (James 1:27).
 - A. Christians are to be benevolent (Gal. 6:10; Titus 3:8; cf. Lev. 25:35-38).
 - B. Ignoring this duty is welcoming the devil's influence (Prov. 28:27).
- V. We can “resist the devil” by staying “unspotted” (James 1:27).
 - A. Are we producing “the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)?
 - B. We should look for an “escape” and take it (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - C. We must continue to “walk in the light” (1 John 1:6-10).

Conclusion

- I. The adversary wants us all to be lost.
- II. Thankfully, our God has given us the means by which can resist.