

The “3 Rs” Concept for Christian Living

Repentance—Resistance—Restoration

Last Week = Repentance

Summary of 1st Lesson:

Does true, genuine repentance = Salvation and a promise for a residence in heaven?

This week:

RESISTANCE

Two kinds of Resistance (spiritually speaking):

- 1. The kind of resistance a person would have when the Holy Spirit is prompting for a repentant heart from the sinner who has not accepted Christ as Savior.***
- 2. The kind of resistance a Christian would have when he is tempted to sin or make a choice that would be a detriment to himself or others.***

We talked about having a repentant heart last week.

Today we are centering in on the Christian being tempted and learning how to resist the temptations Satan has placed in front of us. Note: Satan does not give up tormenting and tempting the repentant Christian.

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

Ask yourself (first): Have you submitted yourself to God?

2nd: Resist the devil!

3rd: The promise for those who resist the devil...He will flee from you!

How do I resist the temptation from Satan?

In Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices, Thomas Brooks offers a list of ten ways the Christian can resist Satan's temptations.

10 Ways to Resist the Devil

1. Be Ruled by the Word. *Make the Word of God your rule and authority and strive to live in obedience to all it says. It will keep you walking straight and guard you from all manner of temptation.*

2. Beware of Grieving the Holy Spirit. *It is the Holy Spirit that gives the Christian the ability to discern Satan's temptations and to see his hand in and behind life's circumstances. If you grieve the Spirit, you drive off the one whose ministry involves guarding you against Satan's attacks. Note: See notes on last page.*

3. Strive and Seek for Wisdom. *There is a great difference between knowledge and wisdom, between accumulating facts and applying Scripture to those facts so they become wisdom. It is not the Christian with the most knowledge, but the Christian with the most wisdom, who is equipped to battle Satan's temptations.*

4. Resist the First Stirring of Temptation. *It is safe to resist temptation and dangerous to dabble in it. God promises that we can resist temptation, not that we can resist sin once we have begun to dabble in that temptation. "He that will play with Satan's bait, will quickly be taken with Satan's hook."*

5. Make every effort to Be Filled with the Spirit. *When it comes to fighting Satan's temptations, it is better to have a heart filled with the Spirit than a head filled with facts. Throughout the Word of God, it was said that particular people (prophets, saints and ordinary people) were filled with the Spirit. God does not fill people with the Spirit unless their heart is striving to please God. Note: Last Page Notes.*

6. Stay Humble (Be humble in thought and deed). *The humble person is neither drawn in by what Satan offers, nor terrified by his threats. A humble heart would rather lie in the dust than rise to prominence by sinful means; it would prefer to lose everything than to sin and be left with a guilty conscience.*

7. Be Constantly on Guard. *Satan strengthens his assaults when the soul grows drowsy and careless. So be constantly on guard. No Commandment Appears more frequently in the New Testament than to*

“Watch!” Total of 196 times in the Bible.

- *Watchfulness Should Be the Constant Attitude of the Christian Life (Romans 13:11; 1 Cor. 16:13)*
- *The Christian Must Be On the Watch Against the Wiles of the Devil (1 Peter 5:8)*
- *The Christian Must Be On the Watch Against Temptation (Matthew 26:41)*
- *Christians Need to Be On the Watch for the Coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:42; Mark 13:37; 1 Thessalonians 5:6)*
- *The Christian Must Be On the Watch Against False Teachers (Acts 20:29-31)*
- *As the Christian Must Watch for Jesus Christ...Let Us Not Forget That Jesus Christ Is Watching Us!*
 - ✓ *“I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God,” says the Risen Christ. (Revelation 3:2)*
 - ✓ *Christ is looking for something from us...Our love, loyalty and service*
 - ✓ *The things a man must do lies not in his hands...but, his heart. If your heart is right...you will do what is right!*

8. Commune with God Daily. *God is not hard to reach. He is listening to your thoughts and your vocal request and responses. It is as you join in communion with God that he gives you strength to resist Satan’s attacks. “A soul high in communion with God may be tempted, but will not easily be conquered. Such a soul will fight it out to the death.” Take full advantage of God’s means of grace.*

9. Do Not Engage Satan In Your Own Strength. *You need to draw the power, and even the desire, to resist sin from Jesus Christ and you need to do this every day. Commune with God, be on guard, be humble—do all of these things! But do not rely on them in the battle; instead, rely on Christ.*

10. Pray Constantly. *“Prayer is a shelter to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge to the devil.” So pray and pray constantly. Tell God of your own inability to detect and respond to temptation; tell him that you are utterly dependent upon his grace; tell God that Christ’s blood has been applied to you; tell God that you are his child; ask God to deliver you from temptation for the glory of his name.*

With that last statement (Pray Constantly), I want to center in on this statement and resolve to do just that!

“In the past year we have seen Satan make a decisive move in America. A move from being the secret spirit of civilized secularism where life is organized and supposedly rational, and God is not needed and Satan is

not feared, and very likely neither of them exists—a move from this secret place of power to a much more overt display of uncivilized, barbaric, crude, primitive wickedness.” (John Piper).

What I want us to do today is serve notice to Satan and to all his angels and to any of his servants who may be surrounding us today that:

- *We will not be intimidated. "We have not been given a spirit of timidity but of power and love and self-control!" (2 Timothy 1:7).*
- *On the contrary we are renewing, here and now, our dedication to the command and the promise of the Lord Jesus when he said: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you!"*
- *We rededicate ourselves to fight back, and not only to defend the spiritual ground we have gained, but to go on the offensive and to take new territory for Christ from the strongholds of the devil. We don't say this with a cocky or presumptuous spirit, as though we in ourselves were stronger than Satan. We say it in the name of Jesus Christ—the one who has sent us into the world under this banner: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me; go therefore. . . and I will be with you to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20).*

If the rise of Satanism and rebellion against the Church of Jesus Christ is another sign of the times—that the Lord's coming is near—then listen to what the New Testament says about the place of prayer in these last days.

- *Luke 18:7 speaks of the Lord's coming like this: "Will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night?"*
- *Luke 21:36 says, "Watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*
- *1 Peter 4:7 warns us, "The end of all things is at hand; keep sane and sober for your prayers."*

In other words prayer is not mainly a peace-time activity in the New Testament. It is surrounded by a sense of urgency and alertness and warning. It is a war-time instrument. It's made for battle.

Satan lies, and is the father of lies.

Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers and then he tempts

Resist the devil's tricks and Rely on the Word of God to give you the right answer to your questions.

Notes from the Lesson:

Actions Against the Holy Spirit

- **Quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19, Do not quench the Holy Spirit!)**
- **Grieving the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**
- **Blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:28-30: "Truly I tell you, all sins and blasphemes will be forgiven for the sons of men. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin. He said this because they [the Pharisees] were saying, 'He has an evil spirit'."**

Positive Action with the Holy Spirit

1. **Yielding to the Holy Spirit--Do not miss this truth: *Responding to the Holy Spirit in obedience is key.* This part of the conversation is yours—your willing submission to what the Holy Spirit tells you. He teaches you how to listen to the Father, communicating the truth in a way you can receive. According to your spiritual maturity, He shows you how to apply biblical principles to your life. Your part is to obey Him, and as you do, He strengthens you (1 Pet. 5:10,¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.).**

The first person mentioned in the people who the Lord filled with His Spirit:

Exodus 31:1-5, “Then the LORD said to Moses,² “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze,⁵ to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.”