

# ***The “3 Rs” Concept for Christian Living#4***

## ***Repentance—Resistance—Restoration***

- 1. RESISTING the Enemy’s Strongholds and Temptations as We Walk the Trail Called “Life,”**
- 2. Learning to REPENT of Our Sins Daily for a Better Foothold in Climbing to the Mountain Top Before We Reach Our Journey Home.**
- 3. Preparing for a Total RESTORATION of Our Soul and Spirit (Becoming More Like Jesus).**

## ***Resisting the Evil Influences in a Ruthless and Restless World***

### **The Ruthless and Restless World...**

*There is a growing pattern of wickedness and lawlessness dominating our society today that throughout history was found in civilizations in the process of decline. It is a pattern evident in nations that rejected God’s Word as ultimate authority in their lives and is a pattern prevailing in many Americans today.*

***Scripture tells us that...“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.” – Matthew 24:12***

America’s rejection of Christ’s lordship and power is the reason behind all the bloodshed, violence, racial hatred, moral decay, drug abuse and outbreak of deadly sexual diseases in our society.

Lawmakers, educators and the media have made God an unspeakable subject. Even in prisons, there is a ban on religious mottos, including the Ten Commandments. Even worse, many of our churches no longer exalt Christ as Lord and king.

**God tells us in the Bible that Satan (devil), deceives the whole world and is the ruler of this world. (Ruler=John 12:31; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 John 5:19)**

*“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”  
Edmund Burke*

### **How true is it that Satan deceives the whole world?**

Many people don’t realize the full extent of his deceptions. What God wants to see is a world where people care for each other, but what he actually sees is a world where a billion people are slowly starving to death while the rest are busy partying and shopping and constantly scheming to increase their own private wealth.

## **How can we avoid and escape Satan's evil, satanic influences?**

*Satan is so clever and powerful that no human being can successfully resist his influence—without God's help. Therefore the key to resisting the devil is to sincerely and consistently draw near and remain close to God.*

### **4 Keys to Resisting the Influence of Satan, the Devil**

**1. Recognize and Acknowledge Sins and Repent of Them.** Our first step is to allow God to wash Satan's influence from our minds. This takes place through recognizing and acknowledging our sins and repenting of them.

**2. Submit to God.** When we begin to truly repent and submit to God from the heart, we begin to take His Word seriously and to obey His instruction and commands. God's Word is the instrument Christ uses—through the power of the Holy Spirit—to wash away Satan's influences from our thinking.

**3. Put on the Whole Armor of God. God provides us with a defense against the devil's influences:** *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:10-13)*

**Note: The one offensive weapon we can use to cut to ribbons Satan's attitudes and philosophies is the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (same verse).**

**4. Be Active in Daily Bible Study and Prayer.** Finally, Paul says, *"pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication."* To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18)

### **What is your goal in life?**

In our daily encounters with others, we come across all types of people with various attitudes and philosophies. If we're not careful, we can be influenced by wrong-thinking that hurts others and causes pain.

**Being aware of ungodly influences around us and resisting them can keep us out of danger.**

**To defend ourselves against ungodly influences, we need to come up with STRATEGIES that will keep us on target for positive results!**

- **Choosing our friends wisely is one strategy.** *“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character’” (1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV).* We must be careful not to let others’ wrong-thinking drag us down.
- **It’s important to guard our minds because what we think determines what we say.**  
No one has ever casually let something slip out of their mouth that they didn’t believe. Over time, contemplating and meditating on something profoundly affects what we believe. Words are powerful and what we verbally declare can come to pass. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]” Proverbs 18:21, AMPC).
- **Thinking in agreement with the Word of God empowers us to succeed and make wise decisions, but wrong-thinking that contradicts the Word creates barriers to success.**  
*“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23, NKJV).*  
**What we believe in our hearts dictates what we do and how we relate to others.**
- **It’s easier to recognize and resist bad influences around us when we keep ourselves grounded in the Word of God.**  
Keeping grounded doesn’t come from just a casual reading, but a deep study and contemplation of how what we read specifically applies to us and the situations in which we find ourselves. When we feel ourselves being pulled in the wrong direction, we can rely on God to strengthen us enough to withstand it.

***The hope for a conflict-free world may seem vain, yet God’s Word does promise true peace for the present, as well as for the future. The question is, how do we grab hold of it? I think we begin by understanding what true peace is and why it’s missing from our world.***

## **The Missing Peace**

***Peace is not merely an absence of conflict. The Hebrew word shalom conveys the idea of complete, sound, wholeness of life, harmony, right relationship. Ultimately, these things come only from the Creator of all things. Our Maker.***

**As believers in Jesus, we might know this fact intellectually, but do we know it deep in our hearts?**

In order to have world peace, first we need peace between the parties where it was originally broken. The story of shattered peace began long before nations started to war against one another. In Genesis 3, we see how people became alienated from God and one another. It happened when Eve and Adam made a grab for what belonged to God, trying to gain wisdom apart from their Maker, wanting to become masters of their own destiny. In one act of distrust and disobedience they, and subsequently we, tore themselves away from the only true Giver of life.

***In breaking our peace with God, we became broken. Because we are broken, we lack peace within ourselves... and so we are incapable of making lasting peace with one another.***

**But...There is One in Whom We Can Gain Peace...The Prince of Peace**

***That is why God sent Jesus to be the Prince of Peace. Through His death and resurrection, our peace with God can be restored.***

***We can't have the peace of God until we have peace with God.***

***While we are telling others about God's peace, we need to talk to ourselves as well. We need to remind ourselves that with our relationship to God restored through faith in Jesus, His resources are constantly available, regardless of the circumstances facing us.***

***That peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit, and needs to be renewed continually.***

***D. L. Moody was once asked why he urged Christians to be filled constantly with the Holy Spirit. "Well," he said, "I need a continual infilling because I leak!"\****

**We all "leak," and the more we want to shine God's gospel light, the more we need to be continually filled with His Spirit.**



**Pray for Peace**