

RESISTING THE DEVIL

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Peter wrote the following helpful statement on resisting the devil:
“BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR: WHOM RESIST STEDFAST IN THE FAITH.” (I Peter 5:8-9).

The Features of Our Resistance

Peter tell us the features of our resistance: (1) Soberness (being seriously conscious of Satan and his desire for our souls), and (2) vigilance (being both wide awake and watchful—on guard for Satan’s attacks).

The Fact of Our Resistance

Peter states the fact that we must resist Satan. We are ordered to resist him because resistance will cause him to flee from us (**James 4:7**). Some saints apparently think the devil and his agents are not so bad after all, and they compromise (or worse) cooperate with him. Many would not have to resist so much temptation if they ceased willingly to frequent people or places where it abounds. To resist means to oppose, to fight against. Those who oppose those of us who resist the divine doctrines and practices (and their advocates) reject this plain command. Contrary to the belief of many disciples, religious controversy is not only permissible, it is required when Truth and righteousness are under assault (**Philippians 1:16-17**). Those who shelter the Lords enemies and oppose His defenders are traitors to the Christ and they partake in Satan evil deeds (**2 John 9-11**).

The Facility of Our Resistance

Peter indicates the facility of our resistance. We are to resist the devil “STEDFAST IN THE FAITH.” To be steadfast is to be firmly positioned or solid as a rock. Our firm position is to be “IN THE FAITH.” *The faith* refers to the Truth, the Gospel, the whole law of Christ. It embraces both the Gospel plan of salvation (**Acts 6:7**) and also principles of Christian conduct (**1 Timothy 4:1-3**). We are to contend earnestly for it (**Jude 3**), which involves resisting the devil by use of it. One cannot steadfastly resist Satan apart from the faith. To oppose error one must know the Truth.

It becomes immediately obvious why many saints have fallen for the “social agenda” and change-agent approach to religion, embracing the latest fads “ministries,” and assorted other gadgetry, instead of crying out against them.

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They know so little of the faith that they could hardly know what it authorizes and what it does not authorize. They have not learned the way to determine if a practice is authorized by Holy Writ. Many, having learned, no longer care. They are unable and/or unwilling to discriminate between things of the devil and things of the Lord. When they hear Gospel Truth forthrightly proclaimed, it is so strange to their ears they think it is false doctrine.

The great need of the hour in the Lord's church is more men and women who are grounded in the Truth like the Rock of Gibraltar. Such cannot be "CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY THE SLEIGHT OF MEN, AND CUNNING CRAFTINESS, WHEREBY THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE" (**Ephesians 4:14**). Such will not only be prepared, but will not need to be reminded to resist the devil and his emissaries; they will instinctively resist them. All others are doomed to be swallowed up by them as a lion devours its helpless prey.