

Title: How to Resist Evil
Pastor: Fred May
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James 4:7 (NASB)

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

A. Follow Christ's Example

Matthew 4: 1-10 (NIV)

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

1. Never take it personally

Always treat it as an attack against God's Word. Respond with . "It is written..."

2. Be vigilant in weakness/ vulnerability (vs2)

– **Pain, loss and trauma attracts predators**

3. Discern the true intent of the evil one (vs6)

– **To disrupt relationship through deception, misinterpretation and flattery [vanity & presumption]**

Romans 16: 17-18 (HCSB)

¹⁷ Now I implore you, brothers, watch out for those who cause dissensions and pitfalls contrary to the doctrine you have learned. Avoid them; ¹⁸ for such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattering words they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Proverbs 2: 16 (NASB)

¹⁶ To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words;

- **To sabotage/ undermine your destiny/ purpose (vs9)**
- **Take captives for his purpose**

II Timothy 2: 25-26 (NIV)

²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

- **Commandeer your gifts and calling**

II Timothy 2: 15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus

Romans 11:29 (NASB)

²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable

4. Defend the common faith

- **Avoid controversy; discern agenda (unforgiveness, bitterness, rivalry etc)**
- **-Remember David and Saul, Joseph and brothers**

Jude 1: 3-4 (AMP)

³ Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is the sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God] ⁴ For certain men have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favour) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

5. Know your weapons

Ephesians 6: 16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- shield of faith
- confession (what is written)
- helmet of salvation

- internalisation / memorisation
- sword of the Spirit
- declaration/ creed

Luke 4:13 (NLT)

When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left Him until the next opportunity came.

B. Prepare and practice in times of peace

1. Malachi 3: 8-12 (NASB)

⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, How have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. ¹¹ Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes, says the LORD of hosts. ¹² All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land, says the LORD of hosts.

2. Declaration

"We declare that we will not rob God in tithes and offerings. Our nation shall not be cursed with a curse. We shall bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be provision in your house. We will prove you faithful in this and see how you open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. You will rebuke the devourer for our sakes, so that he will not destroy the harvest. And all nations will call us blessed and we shall be a delightful land."

3. II Corinthians 9: 6-8 (NLT)

⁶ Remember this - a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. +

⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

4. Declaration

We declare that the farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop, but he who plants generously will get a generous crop, and that this law of reciprocity applies universally. Therefore I will decide in my heart, not my head, how much to give. I won't give reluctantly or in response to pressure, for God loves a person who gives cheerfully. So I will give cheerfully for you continue to provide generously for all my needs so that I will always have everything I need and plenty left over to share with others. +