

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

RESIST THE DEVIL

James 4:7 “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

The opening verses of James 4 remind you that you are engaged in spiritual warfare. He writes about quarrels and fights. He says that the war not just coming at you from the outside, but also goes on inside of you. Note again verses 1 and 2, “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.”

Your life as a Christian is one in which you are and will remain engaged in this spiritual warfare. The Devil will never give up trying to lead you away from your faith in Jesus. He will attempt in every way possible to lead you into sin, rebellion against God, to incorporate the ways of the world into your life and to do what is abhorrent to God.

James in essence is saying in verse 7, your life as a Christian is not one of passivity, but one of you using what God has given you to stand up to Satan, confront him with God’s word as did Jesus during His 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. Ephesians 4:37 exhorts you to use all that God has given you to “give no opportunity to the Devil” to successfully lead you into sin. To give no opportunity means you, as any good soldier knows, must be alert, looking intentionally upon every activity in which you engage, every relationship you establish, every job you take, every T.V. program you watch, every book you read to make sure that the Devil is not hiding himself in these to deceive and lead you into unbelief, spiritual despair, a shameful life and resistance to God.

Ephesians 6:11 exhorts you, recognizing you are engaged in spiritual warfare to “put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the Devil.” Peter exhorts, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.” Take heed of the words of the hymn writer, “Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before. . . (LSB 662) Jesus overcame all of Satan’s temptations for you by the

power of God and His word. You also have God's word and the power of Jesus to defeat the evil one.

Prayer. Lord Jesus, as you defeated the Devil in the wilderness and on the cross so empower me to defeat him in my daily life. In Your holy name. Amen.

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus
Going on before. Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!

Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching on to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod. We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. Refrain:

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain. Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail; We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail. Refrain:

Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng, Blend with ours your
voices In the triumph song. Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing: Refrain:
(LSB 662)