

## 11-Resist the Devil and He Will Flee

Sounds easy but it's not. The devil is the king of liars. He doesn't announce his presence. He is sly and deceives us. He tells half truths so we can easily fall for his deception. There is a straight forward three step process that is the best defense against the evil one. The **first step is the key**---use your discernment to identify when the devil is at work. Any message that is not good or uplifting is an attempt by the devil to slip past your defenses. Test what you are hearing! If it is not totally true then it is the evil one's attempt to slip a fast one past you! Know what is good and your "devil detector" will sound the alarm every time he attempts to deceive you.

Once you have detected the devil's attempt to deceive you, it is time to remember who you are. **Step 2** is to remember you are the adopted child of the Creator of the Universe. When God adopted you into His family, He extended to you all the power of an adopted child. Use that power! Command the devil to flee! (**Step 3**) The power that God has vested in you through Jesus is waiting to be used against the devil's attacks. You just have to command the devil to leave and he MUST leave. Yes, you have that kind of power. Not power of your own but power given to you through your relationship with the Trinity. You are the adopted child of God, the brother of Jesus and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. You have been given all the resources you need to resist the devil!

I had been a believer for over 15 years before I understood the power that was available to me through the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I knew that my sins were forgiven. I knew there was an eternal home waiting for me. I knew that peace and joy had replaced chaos and despair! Once I got the insight into the power given to me, there was an immediate increase in the joy and peace I was experiencing. Casting out the devil meant not having to deal with lies, deception, guilt, shame and all the emotions that the evil one deploys to reduce our effectiveness for God's intended work. Not only did my "quality of life" explode but so did the depth of my quiet time every day. The interference from the devil was minimized so my "connection" was fantastic! My mind was more focused. There were almost

no distractions. What had been temptations that required "management" disappeared! Life is now like the song---"I can see clearly now"!

When I have shared God's ability to force the devil to flee from my life I often get "that look" as if I am on "happy" pills. So instead of taking my testimony at face value I challenge you to try it yourself! Turn up your discernment, apply your adopted status and use His power to get the devil to flee!

Verse:

**Matthew 4:9-11** "And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give to You, if You fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only'. Then the devil left Him and behold angels came and began to minister to Him."

### Personal Reflection:

Do you appreciate the power of Jesus to force the devil from your life? Have you asked Jesus to provide a hedge of protection when the devil is attacking?

### Group Discussion:

Share how you have called upon Jesus to provide a hedge of protection for you.

Share your doubts so the group can address them and encourage each of you.