



“Resist the Devil  
and He Will Flee from You”

## “Resist the Devil and He Will Flee from You”

- God gave humankind free will to choose between good and evil
  - Deut. 30:19 - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live”
- God also requires that we say “No” to some things
  - Titus 2:11-12 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age”

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- Yet, we do not always say “No” when we should.
  - Rom. 7:15, 19 - “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do... 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.”
- How can we learn to say “No” more consistently?  
Where do we get the power to resist temptation?

# Will Power Can Carry Us Only So Far

- There is much to be said for determining and purposing that we will not do wrong
  - Dan. 1:8 - “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”
- Will power alone is not enough to fight against the power of the Adversary.

# The Power Of Godly Emotions

- There is great power in strong feelings
  - We assume that the best decisions are those made on a rational, rather than emotional, basis
- God gave us a three-part mind: intellect, emotions, and will. Our emotions are just as much a part of our thinking apparatus as our intellect and will.

# The Power Of Godly Emotions

- We are mind, heart, and will
  - Mark 12:30 - “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.”
- We must enlist our emotions in the cause of doing what is right. Don't just think “No” to sin; feel “No” toward sin.

# The Danger Of De-Emphasizing The Role Of Emotion In Religion

- In the religious world at large, many determine what is right simply by what they feel is right.
  - Feelings do not constitute authority
- Many make their commitment to God on emotions alone, but if the mind is not involved, the emotions pass and with them the commitment.
  - Emotional commitments are not stable
- Denominational preachers use emotions to manipulate and control adherents.
  - God's word guides and directs us without manipulation or abuse

# The Danger Of De-Emphasizing The Role Of Emotion In Religion

- In the Lords Church, we have correctly taught against these abuses of emotion.
- But have we gone to the opposite extreme, eliminating strong emotions from our service to God?
- Have we reduced our service to God to a matter of rational argument and will power?
- The fact is, intellect and will power alone, unaided by emotion, are no match for the Adversary.
- We cannot leave out one third of our being in resisting the Devil. He attacks the whole person, and we must fight back with the whole person



# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- The Scriptures teach that the drive to resist temptation has as much to do with the heart as the head.
- We obey the Gospel “from the heart”
  - Rom. 6:17 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”
- Hope purifies us
  - 1John 3:3 - “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- The grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness - Titus 2:11-12
- It is not merely rational understanding of God's law that keeps us doing what is right.
- It is also appreciation from the heart of God's grace

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- If we are not motivated by God's grace and love and respond to it with love and gratitude, we will quickly become self-righteous
- Godly zeal is the product of a grateful heart
  - Luke 7:36-50

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- The most powerful motivating force at our disposal in resisting the Devil is a deeply felt appreciation for the forgiveness God mercifully gives us
  - 1Cor. 15:9-10 - “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”
  - 2Cor. 5:14-15 - “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- The role of our hearts in resisting the Devil
- Humility, recognition of one's emptiness and helplessness, genuine penitence
  - Matt. 5:3-6 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- The desire for God's forgiveness
  - Luke 15:18-19 - "I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- Grateful, heartfelt relief, and thankfulness
  - 1Tim. 1:12-15 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- Deep love for God Who loved us first in spite of ourselves
  - Luke 7:47 - “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”
- The pure delight and fulfillment of lifelong service
  - Eph. 3:7-8 - “Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ”



# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- The Scriptures consistently point to love as the primary ingredient in our relationship to God.
  - Jesus pointed to the central importance of love - Matt. 22:35-40
  - Jesus taught that we will keep His commandments if we love Him - John 14:15; 1John 5:2
  - It is love that fulfills the law - Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:13-14
  - Service to God does not matter if we do not have love - 1Cor. 13:1-3
  - Love is the purpose of all gospel teaching - 1Tim. 1:5
  - Love is the greatest of these three: love, hope, and faith - 1Cor. 13:13
  - The commandments of God are not burdensome when we love Him - 1John 5:3; Matt. 11:28-30
  - It is the love of Christ that compels us to live for Him - 2Cor. 5:14-15

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- Joseph's firm "No" to Potiphar's wife was not merely a rational decision. He refused to sin against a God Who meant something to him personally
  - Gen. 39:9 - "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"
- Joy held Paul steady in the face of death for the Lord
  - Acts 20:24 - "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

# Putting Our Heart Back Into Our Service To God

- What do you believe?
  - It is more than just intellectually apprehending the truth
  - It is more than wanting to do the truth
- If all we invest is our mind and our will, we will fail. We must invest mind, and will, and heart.

## “Yes” To God Is Bigger Than “No” To The Devil

- When our hearts from deep love for God yearns to say “Yes” to Him, it will become easier to say “No” to the Adversary.
- “Reason brings us to the foot of the mountain; it is the industrious will that focuses our eyes toward the mountain peak; but, it is the passionate heart that urges us to climb the slope.” (*Evelyn Underhill*)
- Reason is the track, and will is the locomotive; but emotion is the steam that drives the train.

## “Yes” To God Is Bigger Than “No” To The Devil

- God, Who is the object of our vision, must be a God that we not only know and believe, but also Whom we intensely love from the heart
  - Mark 12:33 - “And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices”
  - 2John 6 - “This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.”

## “Resist the Devil and He Will Flee from You”

- We fight a losing battle trying to do the first works if we have left our first love
  - Rev. 2:4-5 - “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - unless you repent.”

## “Resist the Devil and He Will Flee from You”

- We will have the strength to say “No” to the devil when we can sincerely and from the heart say “Yes” to God
  - Psalm 40:8 - “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.”
- Put your back into it? No, put your heart into it!
- Only with the heart and soul and mind working in unison will we successfully resist the Devil and watch him flee from us