

## No Trespassing IV: Resistance is NOT Futile!

You may recall the old Star Trek the Next Generation in which an alien cyborg race that seems impossible to stop attacks the galaxy. They are called the “Borg” and their favorite saying is, “*Resistance is futile, you shall be assimilated.*” If there is any really good sci-fi illustration of the methods of the devil, it is found in those words. “*Stop fighting...you can't beat me. I know your every move. I have you cornered. Why waste your energy. Are you sure you want all this trouble in your life?*”

### 1. Review

- a. We have been learning these past few weeks about Spiritual Warfare and about its nature and the sources that are behind evil in this world.
- b. We have learned that most of the trouble in the world is really unseen, invisible and in the spiritual realm.
  - i. We have seen that our enemies are not people...but spiritual forces, principalities, power and rulers in the heavenlies.
- c. One of the illustrations we have used is that of owning land and having a problem with trespassers. We know we own the land. We have the title to it. But trespassers keep on contesting our ownership rights. And even though we own the land, the trespassers will act as if they do, UNLESS we CONFRONT them with the truth.
  - i. Jesus has won the victory over the devil. He has given us the deed of our lives that says, “paid in full...by the blood of the Lamb.”
  - ii. Yet, the devil keeps trying to wrest control of our lives from us by infiltrating our lives with old lies and subtle temptations.
  - iii. And unless we learn how to CONFRONT him, take our stand against him, and command him to leave by the authority of the one who defeated him, he will set up shop and build his stronghold in our lives.

### 2. There are two thrones are at war.

- a. Satan took over the earth when Adam surrendered dominion to him, but God has reclaimed the earth in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- b. The church is called to advance the influence of the Kingdom of God and make Christ head over all.
  - i. We make Christ head over ourselves first and dislodge Satan's influence over ourselves.
  - ii. Then we will have the power to do so in the world as well.

### 3. There are several key words that all have a similarity in the scriptures:

- a. STAND, STAND FIRM, RESIST.
  - i. Eph. 6:11 *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil.* AND 6:13 *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**.*
  - ii. Stand – histemi
  - iii. Resist – antihistemi
  - iv. Stand Firm – steko (which is the perfect tense of histemi)
- b. What do these three words have in common?
  - i. Quite a bit actually.
  - ii. For one, stand and resist are very similar.
    1. Did you notice the word Histemi and antinistemi sound similar to something we have in our drug stores?
    2. Histemi is a chemical that your body produces in response to a wound or to stress, in which the blood vessels constrict and swelling is allowed.

- iii. Now let me say something about stress.
    - 1. Stress is the conflict between what we want to happen and reality.
      - a. Battlefield stress is when our instinct to live conflicts with the reality and fear of death.
      - b. Daily stress, job stress – we struggle with controlling life and the reality that we cannot control it.
      - c. **Stress is the result of trying to live in our own strength or in conflict between what we know we *should* do and what we *are* doing**
    - 2. Stress releases histamines into the system.
      - a. Stress has been shown to cause the body's defenses to literally attack itself
    - 3. Now think about how we live the average day:
      - a. We try to stand up on our own all the time.
      - b. We try to live in our own strength.
      - c. We try to deal with life's troubles on our own.
      - d. We literally try to "stand" on our own two feet but the problem is that it is self-destructive.
      - e. We are never told to stand in our own strength in the bible.
      - f. We are always told to "stand in the Lord" or "in his strength."
  - iv. In contrast to the word for STAND (histemi), the word used in your bible for RESIST is anti-histemi – very similar to antihistamine. (anti = opposite)
    - 1. It is the opposite of standing in your own strength. It is more than just standing.
    - 2. It is active action done in the Lord, not a passive action done in the flesh.
    - 3. There is no *STRESS* in resting in Christ.
      - a. If you rearrange the words of RESIST you might find that it spells - IS REST
  - c. Think about your body. It is a miracle that it works as well as it does. Every part functioning (at least for most of us).
    - i. What happens when your bodily resistance is worn down? You are susceptible to viruses and colds aren't you?
    - ii. And how does our resistance get worn down?
      - 1. Perhaps we haven't been eating the way you should, or resting the way you should.
      - 2. Maybe you have been eating junk food instead of fruits and vegetables.
      - 3. Maybe stress (doing things in your own strength) is wearing you down.
  - d. Now parallel this with our soul.
    - i. What affects your spiritual stamina?
      - 1. Diet – do you partake daily in God's word and other spiritual reading?
        - a. Or do you indulge instead in television, games and entertainment?
      - 2. Rest – do you spend time talking intimately with God? Or is your conversation with Him just "hit and run" or three times a day just before a meal?
4. The point I want to make is related to the subject of book that I read as a young Christian. "Sit, Walk, Stand" by Watchman Nee.
- a. In this book, he lays out the three stances of a Christian.
    - i. **Sitting**: Assuming our new identity in Christ and appropriating all that is Christ's as our own. It is about identity and rest.
    - ii. **Walking**: We are taught to walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh. This is learning the life of obedience to God.

- iii. **Standing**: which is what we are really talking about today. Standing against the devil and his plans.
    - b. Watchman Nee reminds us that we will not be able to STAND against the enemy unless we have learned to do the first two steps of sit and walk. If you aren't resting in Christ – that is trusting and appropriating what Jesus did for you, then you will be helpless against Satan's attacks. Similarly, if we aren't walking by the Spirit but rather by the flesh, we can expect to fail.
      - i. **Satan's objective isn't really to get you to sin...but rather to make it *easy* for you to sin by getting you off of the position of triumph in Christ.**
        - 1. Through our thoughts and feelings he assaults our rest in Christ and our walk in the Spirit.
        - 2. That is why we have armor. (which will be discussed next week)
5. **How** do we STAND against the trespasser?
- a. Are we supposed to walk up to him and yell in the top of our lungs, "GET OUT!"
    - i. When Danielle was a little girl, we had a bottle of "Shout." When there was a stain in the clothing, we would tell her to "shout it out." She would pour some on the clothing and yell, "Get Out" as loud as she could.
    - ii. Is there a special word formula to getting the devil to stop his lies or his influence in our lives or someone we care about?
  - b. And what if he doesn't obey us when we confront him? What do we do next?
    - i. Some of us have loved ones who are being oppressed by the devil through lives that are being lived in either opposition or outright rebellion toward God.
    - ii. How do we confront the powers of darkness that are at work in their lives?
    - iii. And how do we deal with the recurring powers of evil that seem to be at the motives behind people we deal with every day?
  - c. The principle of RESISTANCE.
    - i. James 4 7 "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*"
      - 1. There are two imperatives in this passage...submit to God and resist the devil.
        - a. The devil cannot lead you into sin without consent of your will.
        - b. If your will is "submitted" to God, the devil has no power over you.
        - c. Your ability to resist is made perfect by your submission to God.
        - d. **Before we can stand against Satan, we must bow before God.**
      - ii. The Greek word for resist means to arrange in battle AGAINST.
        - 1. It is essentially a defensive action.
        - 2. It is about fortifications standing their ground before an onslaught.
        - 3. Resist means to defend ourselves against the devil's attacks.
          - a. We don't cower.
          - b. We don't ignore him.
          - c. We resist, we defend.
          - d. We are to flee various evils
            - i. (flee immorality 1 Cor 6:18,
            - ii. 1 Cor 10:14 "flee from idolatry")
            - iii. flee youthful lusts (2 Tim 2:22)
          - e. But we are not to flee from the Devil.
  - d. Resistance – defense:
    - i. There is a difference between the warfare waged by our Lord Jesus when He was on this earth and the warfare we are to wage.

- ii. **Jesus' warfare was offensive.**
  - 1. He took back the ground that the enemy had stolen at Eden.
  - 2. He warred against Satan to gain the victory.
  - 3. The Cross took that warfare to the very threshold of hell itself.
- iii. **The Christian's warfare is strictly defensive.**
  - 1. We have the ground already. We fight only to keep it, not to gain it.
  - 2. We are at war to maintain and consolidate the victory that Jesus Christ has already obtained.
  - 3. The resurrection proclaimed Jesus victorious over the whole realm of darkness.
  - 4. So we do not fight to obtain victory, we are called to RESIST challengers!
  - 5. Our task is that of HOLDING and not attacking.
    - a. It is not a matter of advancing. It is a matter of holding onto the victory.
    - b. The Greek word for "stand firm" (STEKO) means to persevere and not give up; to hold your ground.
      - i. It occurs 11 times in the NT, and it is the perfect tense of the word "stand" or histemi. Its use means to be constant and persevere.
    - c. We are called to STAND FIRM against the devil.
    - d. Ephesians 6:14 says, "*Stand firm therefore, having...* (put on the armor of God).
  - 6. **How are we to stand firm? By doing so "in the Lord"**
    - a. "*Those who trust in the Lord are as Mt. Zion which cannot be moved, but abides forever.*" (Ps. 125:1)
      - i.
- iv. **We do not fight for victory. We fight from victory.**
  - 1. We do not fight in order to win, because in Christ we have already won.
  - 2. We REST in the victory already given to us.
  - 3. If you fight to GET the victory, then you have lost the battle before you have begun.
    - a. Think about when you are under attack...at your job or your home...so you pray and fast and struggle and resist for days, and yet there is no victory. Why?
      - i. Because you are trying to fight INTO victory and in so doing relinquish the ground that belongs to you.
      - ii. You see victory as somewhere out there in front of you.
    - b. Our power for STANDING lies with our first understanding our position in Christ.
      - i. If you are not "sitting" in Christ, then you cannot stand against the enemy.
      - ii. If you don't understand the concept of resting in Christ and in who you are IN Him, then you cannot possibly experience the victory He won on your behalf.
  - 4. Because the victory is Christ's, it is ours also!
    - a. If we stop trying to gain the victory and instead seek to hold our ground (resist the devil and he will flee from you) the devil is routed.
    - b. We don't ask God to enable us to overcome the enemy, but we praise Him because He has already given us the victory.
    - c. It is a matter of believing what has already been accomplished.
    - d. Such a belief will profoundly affect our actions and our attitude.
    - e. The simpler our faith in this fact the less we will pray and the more we will praise Him.

5. **The bible does not say**, “We will be more than conquerors” but rather it says, “We ARE more than conquerors.” In other words, “We are already conquerors.”
  6. We do not struggle to occupy ground that is already ours.
    - a. You don’t have to argue about the title to your property with a trespasser.
      - i. You have the deed. It is a fact.
      - ii. You don’t have to go out and purchase the land again from the trespasser.
    - b. Yet that is what many of us act like we need to do.
6. Let me tell you a story about a couple of incidents where God’s people learned to “resist” in the power of God.
- a. Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir attack Judah.
    - i. 2 Chronicles 20:11 Jehosaphat cries out to the Lord concerning this attack: *“For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”*
    - ii. In response, a prophet stands up: *Verse 15 and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. Verse 17 You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, **stand and see** the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for R366 the LORD is with you.*
      1. Explain
  - b. Exodus 14:13 *And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. **Stand still, and see** the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."*
    - i. Explain.
  - c. Psalm 35:1 *Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me. 2 Take hold of buckler and shield And rise up for my help. 3 Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation." Verse 9 And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD; It shall exult in His salvation. 10 All my bones will say, "LORD, who is like You, Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him, And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?"*
    - i. God fights our battles!
7. Judges 2:13 *they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. 14 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them*
- a. Do you have a diminished resistance to evil?
  - b. Choose this day who you shall serve.
  - c. Decide if the blood of Jesus on the cross is worth your allegiance.
  - d. Will you tolerate prayerlessness, will you continue to toy with a pet sin, will you play with fire?
  - e. **Your faith, or ability to stand in a time of need will be directly proportional to the intimacy of your relationship with Jesus.**
  - f. When we stand we are taking up our identity, and our position in Christ.
    - i. There are some other things that affect our ability to live a life that has power to resist the enemy as well.
      1. Knowledge of the Word of God – Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and countered the devil’s misuse of the God’s word with the Word.

2. Humility vs. Pride – If we think we know it all or have a false confidence that is based upon knowledge instead of dependence on Christ, then our pride will lead us to fall. Dependence on Christ is true humility.
  3. Sin –
- g. If you have been compromising in the easy times you will find that you have no resistance to your enemy when the going gets tough.
- i. We are at war. We are in a spiritual war.
  - ii. Our victory is assured, but only those who are willing to walk with their eyes fixed on Jesus will experience it!

## ADDITIONAL NOTES NOT USED IN THIS SERMON

### 8. Formulas?

- a. Matthew 18:18-20 , John 16:23-24, 26
- b. The “name of Jesus” is a statement that tells us that God has entrusted everything to Jesus and that Jesus has given this gift of authority to you and I, if we are “in Christ.”
  - i. Peter said, “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk” (Acts 3:6)
  - ii. Paul “turned and said to the spirit, I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out at that very hour.” (Acts 16:18)
- c. These are examples of God’s commissioning of Himself to you and I.
  - i. God has given us the authority to act in His Name.
  - ii. All that takes place is a result of the IMPACT of the Name of Jesus upon the dominion and situation.
  - iii. Imagine someone comes to me with a letter from a friend. It bears my friend’s signature and it asks me for a sum of money. I do not ask the messenger for their credentials,. I don’t refuse based on the messenger, I do so based upon the request of my friend’s name.
  - iv. God has entrusted us the Name that is above every Name.
  - v. The Name of Jesus is the God’s greatest legacy; He takes responsibility for what is done in that Name.

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9. 1 Peter 5:9 *“But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”*

### 10. Formulas?

- a. John MacArthur writes that “The way to resist the devil is not with special formulas or words directed at him and his demons, but by remaining firm in the Christian faith. This means to live and obey God’s word.”
  - i. I partially agree with this statement in general, but believe that there are specific instances where we must address the enemy when he is trespassing and tell him to leave by the authority we possess in Christ.
  - ii. 2 Cor 10:3-5 “for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

### 11.