

Defeating The DEVIL



by
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DEFEATING THE DEVIL

Please open your Bibles to Ephesians chapter six and verse ten. I would like to preach a message entitled "Defeating the Devil."

We have noticed, number one: the reality of the devil. He is a real person. He is as real as anyone in this room is real, and he is powerful. But he is not omnipotent. He is not omniscient. He is not omnipresent. He does not grasp, comprehend, or understand spiritual truth; and the child of God in the power of the Holy Spirit of God can defeat the devil as old as he is.

Now, you must not underestimate his power. You must not overestimate his power. You must not ignore the reality of the devil because Jesus never did.

We have noticed, number two: the character of the devil. He is an accuser. If the devil could have his way in your life, he would discredit you before God. If that be true, and it is, then don't do those things by which he can accuse you of improper behavior. Don't do that!

He is an adversary. He will oppose everything you do for God. He is against you and he will do everything he can to oppose you. He is the enemy of God. He is the enemy of Christ. He is the enemy of the child of God. He is the enemy of all truth. If you are on God's side, you have made yourself an enemy. It is that simple!

He is also a roaring lion. This is a picture of the devil trying to scare you unto submission. He screams into your ears saying, "You will never defeat me. You cannot live for God. You cannot do what is right. You cannot serve the Lord." He intimidates you by the volume of his voice.

We have noticed, number three: the aim of the devil. He wants to devour you off the face of the earth. His desire is to swallow you up, leaving no trace that you have ever been here. He will devour your testimony. He will devour your faith. He will devour your witness for Christ. He will devour your family. He will devour your children. He will devour your church. His goal is your destruction; and, with that in mind, the devil has devoured a many of Christians. The devil has devoured a many of ministries.

Brethren! If you do not keep a short account of sin in your life, if you do not feed upon the Word of God every day, if you do not apply God's Word to your life through obedience, you are playing right into the devil's hands. You are playing in the underbrush where he lives. And he will devour you. That is, he will swallow you up, leaving no trace that you have ever been here.

You say, "Preacher, is there hope for me? I don't want to be ruled by the devil. I don't want to be dominated by the devil. I don't want to be swallowed up by the devil." Yes, there is hope for you. It is possible for you to defeat the devil.

With the time remaining, I would like to preach a message entitled "Defeating the Devil." In Ephesians 6:10-18, the Bible says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

So let me ask you something. How do you defeat the devil? Do you realize the fact that the devil is able to be defeated and that he is a defeated foe?

Listen to the Bible! In Genesis 3:15, it says, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

In John 3:8, the Bible says, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." In Hebrews 2:14, the Bible says, "That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." In Revelation 12:11, the Word of God says, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb." In Colossians 1:13, the Bible says, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness." In Romans 16:20, the Bible says, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." The Bible makes it very clear that Satan is a defeated foe. Not only is he defeated by the judgment of Christ upon the cross, but he can be defeated in your life personally. That is a biblical truth.

Listen folks! You can defeat the devil if you will live by biblical principles. You have three words in the New Testament describing what you can do to defeat the devil—the word *stand*, the word *withstand* (or sometimes translated resist), and the word *overcome*. Each of those three words indicates the means by which you can defeat the devil. You are to stand. You are to withstand. You are to overcome.

We are going to notice three things: Number one, it is possible for you to stand against the devil; number two, it is possible for you to withstand the devil; and then number three, it is possible for you to overcome the devil.

Notice, number one: it is possible for you to stand against the devil. In Ephesians 6:10, the Bible says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Brethren! It is possible for you to stand against the devil. It is possible for you to stand against the wiles of the devil--when he fires his darts of temptations at you, when he fires his darts of doubt at you, when he fires his darts of lust at you, when he fires his darts of greed at you, when he fires all kinds of sins to which your flesh is open too.

The Bible says, I want you to stand in the armour of God and, after you have done all, to stand. Question! How do you do that? In Ephesians 6:14-18, the Bible says, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." You are to stand having. You are to stand taking. You are to stand praying. Don't you see that? These pieces of armour are symbolic of some virtues that ought to characterize your life. These are not imputed virtues. These are practical virtues. These are things that you practice in your life.

The Bible says you are to stand having your loins girt about with truth. What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this. You are to be marked by truth and sincerity.

Listen folks! If you are not honest, if you are not telling the truth, if you are not transparent, if you are not genuine, if you are not sincere, you will not stand when the battle rages against the devil. You may be standing before the battle comes; but when the battle is over, you will have moved. You will have changed. You will have been defeated by the devil.

Then he said you are to stand having on the breastplate of righteousness. This is not imputed righteousness. This is practical righteousness. This is practical godliness. If you are going to stand against the devil, it will only happen as you are characterized by personal righteousness.

I am simply saying this. You are not going to stand when the battle comes if you don't do what is right. That simply means this: If your life is not characterized by doing what is right in God's sight, when the battle comes, you will have retreated. You will have changed positions. You will have compromised.

Then he said, you are to stand having your feet shod, or firm-footed, in the gospel of peace. The gospel speaks of your standing as the result of Christ. What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this. If you do not stand firm footed on the accomplishment of Christ's gospel, when the battle is over, you will have moved.

So you are to stand having your loins girt about with truth. You are to stand having on the breastplate of righteousness. That is, you are to stand having personal godliness. And you are to stand having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. That is, you are to stand having the strength of the gospel characterizing your life.

Then you are to take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Faith speaks of your confidence in God. If you are not willing to trust God, when the battle rages, you are going to fail. You are going to fold. You are going to quit. And when the temptations come, when the trials come, if you do not respond in faith, then having done all, you will not stand. You will have been defeated.

Then he says you are to take the helmet of salvation. That simply speaks of salvation truth. Your mind is to be settled on the great salvation truth of the Word of God. You should have a mind that is settled on Bible doctrine. You should have a mind that is settled on the truths of the Word of God.

Then he says, you are to take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Brethren! You are not going to stand in the day of adversity if you are not effectively using the sword. That is, if you are not effectively using the Word of God.

Then he says, you are to be praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. That simply means this: you are to stand praying with all prayer. That is, you are to stand praying with all sorts of prayer, all kinds of praying in the Spirit.

You say, "Preacher! What is the Bible saying?" It is simply saying this: If you are marked by truth and sincerity, if you are marked by personal righteousness, if you are marked by the accomplishment of Christ's gospel, if you are marked by faith and confidence in God, if you are marked by settled truth in the Word of God, if you are marked by prayer, if all of these things mark you, you are going to stand; and if they do not mark you, you are not going to stand.

If your life is not characterized by truth and sincerity but by something else, if your life is not marked by personal righteousness but by something else, if your life is not marked by the accomplishment of Christ's gospel but by something else, if your life is not marked by faith and confidence in God but by something else, if your life is not marked by the settled truth in the Word of God but by something else, if your life is not marked by prayer but by something else, when the battle is over, you will not be where you were before it started. You will have turned and run.

Brethren! You are to stand. But you cannot stand unless you possess and adorn yourself in the armour of God. You must stand having. You must stand taking. You must stand praying. And if you will do that, you will still be standing. Don't you see that?

We need Christians today who will stand before the battle, during the battle, and after the battle. We need Christians today who will come out on the other side, saying, "God is faithful! God is good! God is true! God keeps His Word!"

We need Christians today who stand the test. We need Christians today who are still standing after the devil has thrown every thing at them.

We have noticed, number one: it is possible for you to stand against the devil; but notice number two: it is possible for you to withstand the devil. In James 4:7, the Bible says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Withstand simply means to resist. What does that mean? It simply means this: The Christian who is withstanding is actively resisting. The Bible is simply saying you are to resist. In Ephesians 6:13, the Bible says, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." In James 4:7, the Bible says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." You don't find yourself just standing. You find yourself resisting. You are to resist; and if you resist, the devil will flee from you.

Question! Do you know how to resist the devil? You can resist the devil every time you are obedient to God. In James 4:7, the Bible says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God." Don't you see? You resist the devil by obedience. As a child of God, you are actively resisting the devil by being obedient to God.

Listen, folks! You don't resist the devil by engaging in temptation. You resist the devil only as you obey God. For example! You sit down and turn on the television set. Some sensual program comes on. Immediately you are tempted. What you could do is sit there and say, "I can handle it;" or you can say, "I know what I will do. I will obey the Word of God." In Psalm 101:3, the Bible says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." If you will obey, God says that is resistance. And, God says, the devil will flee. But that does not mean that he will flee forever. Mark it down! The devil will come back again. But he will flee in that moment.

We have noticed, first: that you resist the devil by obedience; but notice, second: you resist the devil by God's Word. That's what Jesus did.

Do you remember the story where the devil came at Jesus three times in the temptation? Every time Jesus responded, "It is written; it is written; it is written."

Now, when Jesus quoted those verses to the devil, he took the Word of God and then he obeyed the Word of God; and by His being submissive to the Word of God, the devil finally turned tail and ran. If you are going to defeat the devil, you must stand in the armour of God; and then you must resist the devil by obeying God, as it is expressed in His Word.

You say, "Preacher! What must I do?" All you need to do is obey God. You need to find out what the Word of God says and do it. It is that simple. By so doing, you are resisting the devil

Brethren! If you do not obey God, if you do not obey the Word of God, you are not resisting. The devil will not flee and you will be defeated by the devil.

So! You are to stand in God's armour. You are to withstand by being obedient to God as it is expressed in His Word.

We have noticed, number one: it is possible for you to stand against the devil; we have noticed, number two: it is possible for you to withstand the devil; but notice, number three: it is possible for you to overcome the devil.

In Revelation 12:11, the Bible says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." The context is talking about the devil. The Bible says they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.

Let me ask you something. Have you ever been in a place where you were aware of satanic work in your life through some circumstance, through some oppression? You have simply said to the devil, "You are defeated by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ." Don't you see that the blood of Jesus Christ defeats the devil? "By the work of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you in His name." That's what he is talking about when he said, they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb. It is saying, they overcame the devil because of the effectiveness and successfulness of the work of Jesus Christ. The devil understands that. He understands that his power has been broken by the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross. He knows that. He knows that to be true; and when you claim that truth and you stand upon the finished work of Jesus Christ, God honors that. And you overcome him by the blood of the Lamb.

Brethren! You can defeat the devil. Don't you let the world talk you out of that truth. Don't you let the flesh talk you out of that truth. Don't you let the devil talk you out of that truth. You can overcome the devil. He is a defeatable foe. You can stand in the worst of battles. You can stand in the worst of temptations. You can stand in the armour of God; and after it is all over, you will still be standing.

The Bible is simply saying this folks: You are to stand in God's armour. You are to withstand the devil by obedience to God as it is expressed in His word. And you can overcome the devil by standing upon the victory that Jesus Christ has secured. Any other attempts to defeat the devil will always wind up in defeat. If you try to overcome him with your brilliance, you will fail. If you try to overcome him with your determination, you will fail.

If you say, "Preacher I have made up my mind, I am going to live for Christ and do what is right," the devil will wear you down. But if you will stand in God's armour, if you will withstand by obedience to God as it is expressed in His Word, if you will overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, then the devil is a defeated foe.

Mark it down! You can defeat the devil in your life. You can defeat the devil by standing against him. You can defeat the devil by withstanding him. You can defeat the devil by overcoming him. In I John 2:14, the Bible says, "And ye have

overcome the wicked one." In Revelation 12:11, the Bible says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony."

Brethren! You can stand! And if you stand properly, you will still be standing when the battle is over.

As a child of God, you can defeat the devil by standing, withstanding, and overcoming.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

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