

# TO RESIST OR TO PERSIST?

**Philadelphia Church**

**Pastor Derek Forseth**

**Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**

## QUOTE

**The devil doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He often comes as everything we've wished for. Pray for wisdom and discernment.**

**-anon**

# TRUTH

**There is nothing as important as God's will for our lives. Our health, comfort, purpose and all that we strive to attain matters little compared to our pursuit of God's will.**

**-pd**

## PHILIPPIANS 3:7-11 NLT

**I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. <sup>8</sup> Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ**

## PHILIPPIANS 3:7-11 NLT

<sup>9</sup> and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, <sup>11</sup> so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

**EPHESIANS 6:12 NLT**

**For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**

## **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-22 NLT**

**Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup> Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not scoff at prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. <sup>22</sup> Stay away from every kind of evil.**

**Resistible Warfare: to withstand the enemy in battle.**



**RESIST - EPHESIANS 6:13 NLT**

**Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.**

**RESIST - JAMES 4:7 NLT**

**So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee  
from you.**

## **RESIST - 1 PETER 5:8-9 NLT**

**Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.<sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.**

## QUOTE

**Temptations unchecked can become behaviors. Behaviors unchecked can become habits. Habits unchecked can become a lifestyle.**

**- Anon**

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- 2. Resist being selfish and self-centered.**
- 3. Resist being spiritually lazy, not desiring to grow spiritually.**
- 4. Resist compromising biblical values.**

**- M. A.**



**Non-Resistible Warfare: this requires persistence, because our resisting doesn't win the battle or bring it to an end.**

## JOB 2:3-6 NLT

**Then the Lord asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil. And he has maintained his integrity, even though you urged me to harm him without cause.”<sup>4</sup> Satan replied to the Lord, “Skin for skin! A man will give up everything he has to save his life.**

**JOB 2:3-6 NLT**

**<sup>5</sup> But reach out and take away his health, and he will surely curse you to your face!” <sup>6</sup> “All right, do with him as you please,” the Lord said to Satan. “But spare his life.”**

## QUESTION

**Am I doing battle by resisting the enemy or by persisting when there's nothing I can do to change the circumstances?**

## 2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10 NLT

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. <sup>9</sup> Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. <sup>10</sup> That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## **MATTHEW 4:1-11 NLT**

**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup> For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. <sup>3</sup> During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. ...**

## **MATTHEW 4:1-11 NLT**

**<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup> and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” <sup>7</sup> Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’” <sup>8</sup> Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ...**

## **MATTHEW 4:1-11 NLT**

**9 “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” 10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” 11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.**



**ROMANS 8:18 NLT**

**Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will  
reveal to us later.**

## **2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-12 NLT**

**We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. <sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. ...**

## **2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-12 NLT**

**<sup>11</sup> Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.**

**<sup>12</sup> So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.**

## QUESTION

**When I feel like I'm under attack I need to ask the Lord to help me resist the devil or show me what You want me to see as I persist?**

**GALATIANS 6:9 NLT**

**So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time  
we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.**

**QUOTE**

**By perseverance, the snail reached the ark.**

**- CH. Spurgeon**