



Feb. 21, 2014

This Is A Word For Your Day

Overcoming Satan



James 4:4-8 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (5) Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? (6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (7) **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** (8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

Fighting evil, that tries to continually enter our lives, seems like a full time job! But the truth of the matter is, as long as we are in these mortal bodies, it is a full time job.

From our main study text, it is easy to see (**the text in red**) that we are to resist the devil. Now, that puts the ball in our court. It is our job to resist the devil. It also means, that in order to resist the devil, we must first acknowledge and be aware that there is a devil. We can't hope to resist something that we do not know is there.

Many long years ago, as a first time Pastor of a small church, I had the surprise of my life when one of my flock told me that they believed in God, but they did not believe that Satan really existed! Since then, I have found a great many people feel the same way and even a very greater number of people also live like he does not exist! How in the name of common sense, can you resist something that you really do not believe is there! If folks deny that there is a real devil, then it stands to reason that they would say that James 4:7 is wrong and not really God's Word, because James 4:7 says that there is a devil. What is happening here is that these devil deniers are really people that do not believe that the whole Bible is God's Word. This false way of life leaves them open for attack from Satan. The devil can hit them any time he wants to, because they can't spiritually see him as being real. Can you say "B l i n d s l d e d". A little later on, I found out that my "devil denying church member's" wife was practicing a form of open witch craft in their home by holding a public **Séance**. It really sounds like they didn't have to resist the devil because he already was a welcome member of their family.

Matthew 12:24-26 But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. (25) And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:** (26) **And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?**

Do you believe that the Bible is God's Word? If you do, then you must believe that Satan is a very real evil force that all of us must resist. He can show up in a lot of ways, some of them might even look good. One of the most evil persons that I ever met was a practicing priest of a large denominational church

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; **for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** (15) Therefore *it* is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

