

*Resist the Devil
through Truth*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

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Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

“He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.

“He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.

“He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.

“He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.

“Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble” (Psalm 10:8-12).

These verses refer to an adversary who continually looks for ways to bring us down as Christians. Satan knows that believers belong to the Lord and cannot be lost, but still he desires to minimize our effectiveness on the earth.

Hell's forces race around the world in search of those who can be devoured (1 Peter 5:8). Demons seek out Christians who can be swal-

lowed up by divisions and distractions.

In this booklet, we consider God's provision against Satan's organized armies of demons. Careful study of the original Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible reveals God's desire—that we would develop a system of faith built on unity. As God's precious people, we are instructed to receive the truth, precept upon precept and line upon line (see Isaiah 28:10). This way, we can become "sober"—quietly filled with doctrine.

Chapter One

ROYAL LOVE REQUIRES
NO RESPONSE

“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” (Ephesians 6:12-13).

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

“Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in

your brethren that are in the world.

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (1 Peter 5:7-10).

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

A Word of God ministry builds its people up in grace and distributes to them an inheritance, as it rightly divides the Word of truth. We study to show ourselves approved so that we will not be ashamed at the Bema Seat in eternity and so that we are thoroughly furnished to do works of divine good here on earth.

Christ cannot be divided (1 Corinthians 1:10). He desires that His people speak the same thing, have the same mind, and preach the same doctrine. Yet, ministries throughout the world fail to operate in the unity of the faith. As a result, resisting the devil becomes difficult, because many do not know how to resist the devil through a system of thinking in the Word of Grace.

Consider the doctrine of unconditional love. This is a love that depends upon God and survives, even without the object giving anything

back. Christ *so* loved us that He died for us *while* we were yet sinners. He did not die because He saw some value in us as the objects of His love. This is His royal law of love.

Do you have this love? Are you so substantiated by the love of God and so filled with it that the object of your love does not have to respond at all for you to keep loving? Or, do you require some response from the object of your love?

Foxes from Within

“Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes” (Song of Solomon 2:15). This verse is talking about us. *We* are the foxes, not the things that happen in our lives. Little things within us spoil the vine. They spoil the tender grapes of abiding in Christ as our provision.

When division develops because an object of love does not respond, then virtue love is not in action. This kind of love is conditional love, the kind of love practiced by the Pharisees during Jesus’ time on earth (see Matthew 5:46). As long as the objects of their love had something to give, they gave love back to them.

But that is not what it means to love through the Holy Spirit.

The Essence of Unity

During counseling, I have carefully listened to people talk without rebuking them. As they are speaking, God often whispers in my heart, “They do not understand My unconditional love.”

Without this love, there is no unity of faith in the local assembly, therefore God cannot command a blessing (Psalm 133:3). Churches stagnate because of this. In time, some people eat wormwood and drink poisoned waters (Jeremiah 9:15). Bitterness rears up in their souls, and they begin to wound others in the flesh (Lamentations 3:15). The wounds get deeper, and retaliation and reaction follow. One initiates this negativity and the other responds with hatred. They know each other after the flesh, and God is not between them.

Jonathan and David determined to have God between them (see 1 Samuel 20:41). And we who live in the shadow of Calvary—in the co-crucifixion, co-burial, and co-resurrection of Jesus Christ—should have God between us, in the unity of faith. There should be no murmuring, no criticism, no fault finding. Problems should be settled in the unconditional love of

grace and in the transparency of the light, in the meekness of sacrificial love, in the humility of mercy that rejoices against judgment. We should always be caring about meeting the needs of the guilty, loving the unworthy, becoming the victim for those who aggressively live in their flesh, and allowing the life of the Lord Jesus Christ to be manifested through our mortal bodies.

“For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

“So then death worketh in us, but life in you” (2 Corinthians 4:11-12).

God’s life must be directed toward the guilty. That is what really matters. It isn’t that they are not doing right. It is not an issue that they are wrong. It is an opportunity for the unity of my walk with God to be manifested. Christ has been revealed in me (Galatians 1:16), and the guilty ones are my opportunity to manifest Christ as a broken vessel—one who does not live in any aspect of self-preservation.

Chapter Two

RECOGNIZE THE ENEMY'S DEVICES

God gives a pastor-teacher to an assembly (Ephesians 4:11). His personality may not appeal to some, and he may be deficient in some areas. However, in all of these things, the pastor is given to help the saints become mature and to edify the Body of Christ. God will even use his weaknesses to mature the saints for the work of the ministry. In those assemblies, God wants the believers to come together in the unity of faith and live by every Word of God (Matthew 4:4)—not through the pounding of knowledge, but through the brokenness of a love that reveals Christ.

Our lives are to be developed through the knowledge of the Son of God, not the knowledge of some defense mechanism through Scripture. Not a single thing less than Calvary and a ministry of reconciliation will protect us from

the cunning craftiness and doctrines of the demons of the air.

Protecting the Assembly

Demons lie in wait to deceive. They seek people who want to be like the Most High, who are available to be divisive. This can be prevented when there is a commitment to speak the truth in love. Then, the members of the body will grow up into Christ in all things. The whole body will be compacted together and each one in it will be effectual in the work he does. This will then make increase in the body, which is simply evangelism. God adds unto the body that edifies itself in love.

This is how an assembly can be protected from the traps set to catch men (Jeremiah 5:26). There exists a community of demons operating to search out iniquities. They make diligent searches (Psalm 64:5-6), and they set evil nets that catch some (Ecclesiastes 9:12). They overwhelm the ones who are going through something (Psalm 142:3). They oppress the unconscious and subconscious minds of those who wounded and open to deception.

All Things are Under Us

“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

“Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

“Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him” (Hebrews 2:5-8).

Unless I humble myself before God, He cannot lift me up out of the pool of demonic infections. I must choose life.

Certain demons are assigned to attack and destroy our minds. Others work in attacking our physical bodies. Another class of demons specializes in constant destruction of relationships. Therefore, we must be aware of what is going on in our midst. We must recognize and consider these demons and begin to understand what they want to do to us.

After all these years, hell has developed a very detailed monitoring system. Satan is not omnipresent, so he orders his forces to collect information on us. Armies of demons study our countenances—the faces we make in certain situations. Other demons record our confessions. They catalog every weakness, and they organize ways to push the buttons of our flesh. They have files spelling out the history of our responses.

According to their information, demons can project evil imaginations and wicked counsel. Craftily, they promote demonic doctrines that may even use the Scriptures. Their counsel has an impact on marriages, so certain issues never get resolved. Ungodly counsel works its way into businesses and reinforces division.

Avoid Preoccupation

Even after we receive the truth, demons will do all that they can to undo its effect in our lives (Matthew 13:19). A particular army will try to prevent believers from thinking things through. For instance, a specific message may really touch you, but before the week is over, demons interfere and distract your attempts to think on those things (Philippians 4:8). Other demons work to get you to reflect on yourself and your prob-

lems. You become preoccupied with yourself instead of Christ, and demons supply the rationale to justify your preoccupation.

“Oh, I went to church, but I just stayed to myself,” you say. “No one really loved me.” These are demonic projections. Hell is counseling you to say such things, and then you justify your negativity.

This is an evil, satanic confession. It reveals a life that has not been laid down at the Cross. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we reckon that all things are of God. We will see that everything is for our sake. With that, our hearts will be established in the unity of faith and God’s precious love (Ephesians 4:5).

Chapter Three

DELIGHT IN DOCTRINE, MEDITATE ON TRUTH

“Let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart” (Zechariah 7:10*b*).

Any time we make a negative evaluation, we are thinking evil against a brother or a sister. We are not everywhere present. We do not have all knowledge. We will never know all the facts—facts that would disqualify any of us from making any type of evaluation of another person’s life.

Evil imaginations come from the image of Adam in the practice of self-preservation that followed the Fall (see Genesis 5:3). Such imaginations do not come from the New Man, whose knowledge is renewed and who is recreated in the image of Him who created us (Colossians 3:10).

Satan would love to have us be consumed with wrong meditations from the wrong source

so that we would live and act in self-preservation. God, however, has established a way to counteract his devices.

I love what the Word of God says in Psalm 77:12: “I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.” Through reflection and reiteration of truth, I will leave my normal patterns of thinking, my natural thought structure and constructs. Godly precepts will be established in my soul, and categories of doctrine will give me authority over Satan’s thoughts and begin to rule in my soul.

True Testimonies

Ezra expressed in Psalm 119:99 that “I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.” He expressed the characteristics of Christ—that is what a true testimony is. Christ’s characteristics became his testimony and his meditation.

Through meditation, we gain experiential understanding (Psalm 49:3). Meditations from His Word govern our hearts, the words of our mouths are acceptable to the Lord, and we go forward in the precious strength of our Redeemer.

Satan flees the presence of such strength.

The devil recognizes the power of those who do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly and who refuse to sit in the seat of the scornful (Psalm 1:1).

Delighting in God's doctrine and meditating on it day and night makes believers fruitful, even in the worst trials that hell can bring about. The heat does not affect them. Not a leaf on his life will wither. Beyond this, everything he does continues to prosper.

Fountains for Victory

Twice in Proverbs, the doctrine of the wise is described as a fountain of life and the way to depart from the snares of death (see Proverbs 13:14, 14:27).

The Lord wants us to be a garden enclosed, a fountain sealed, a spring shut up, protected from the attacks of the various demon armies. He wants us to have such a supply of doctrine that our testimonies reflect our meditations. We actually live out the truth we have meditated upon through the Spirit of God.

The Lord says, "I create the fruit of the lips" (Isaiah 57:19a). He is the author of our confession and the source of our strength. The counsels and the imaginations of our evil hearts no longer control us. Daily, we purpose to think as

God thinks—even in the smallest details of life.

Hell will look and look, but our lives will say to the devil just as Jesus said to the devil, “Get thee behind me, Satan.”

CONCLUSION

Let us be swift to hear and slow to speak, receiving the Word of God with meekness. As we are faithful to do this, the Holy Spirit will faithfully transfer to our memory centers the truth we have received. There it will be a supply to our human spirits.

Then we will have God's viewpoint, which establishes a conscience of grace and unconditional love within us. We can operate in the unity of faith, having oneness with the brethren. We can develop a supernatural ministry from Christ to those who are wounded, who have withdrawn, or who have gone against us, and we will have no lingering negative thoughts and no memory of what was done.

Now we stand in the dominion of Christ, under the covering of the Lord, and Satan must flee. He must flee because of our position in the New Covenant made between the Father and the Son and established by Christ's Blood. Satan

flees because we stand as new creatures under the covering of mercy that endures forever, the covering of standing in grace, and the covering of God's patience and peace.

We live under God's covering where we can build ourselves up in the most holy faith. There, neither circumstances, nor people, nor details of life will be able to rob our hearts from the fellowship we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ's name, bless the Word of God that we have received, and send every one of us into the depths of understanding warfare. May we live in an image derived from You—an image that will give us a derived imagination that becomes the thoughts of our hearts and the vision of our souls as we resist the devil. Bless us in Christ's name. Amen.