

Life Group Notes

How to resist the devil

James 4:1-10

To begin

- What do people think of the devil today?
- What popular sayings can you think of that invoke the devil's name?

Further questions

As you think about these questions, it's worth remembering the advice of CS Lewis:

'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is too believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors...'

1. The Bible makes the following observations about the devil:

- He is a liar – John 8:44
- He is an accuser – Revelation 12:10
- He is a tempter – 1 Thess 3:5; Matt 4:3
- He is a murderer – John 8:44
- He holds the power of death – Hebrews 2:14

How do you see the devil at work among the Christians to whom James writes in verses 1-3?

2. Who is the devil? (Invite some answers then look at some of the following as appropriate: the serpent (Genesis 3 cf 2 Cor 11:3); a fallen angel (Isaiah 14:12-15); Satan (= adversary) (1 Chr 21:1; Zech 3:1-2; Job 1 & 2); the evil one (Matthew 6:13); Beelzebub (Matt 10:25); prince of demons (Matt 9:34); prince of this world (John 12:31).

3. Do you ever feel that the devil is tempting you to do certain things? What does v4 say about responsibility for sin? How does 1 Corinthians 10:13 help?

4. It's worth remembering God's grace (v6)! How can God's grace help when we fail or feel under attack from the devil?

5. James gives four particular instructions to help us resist:

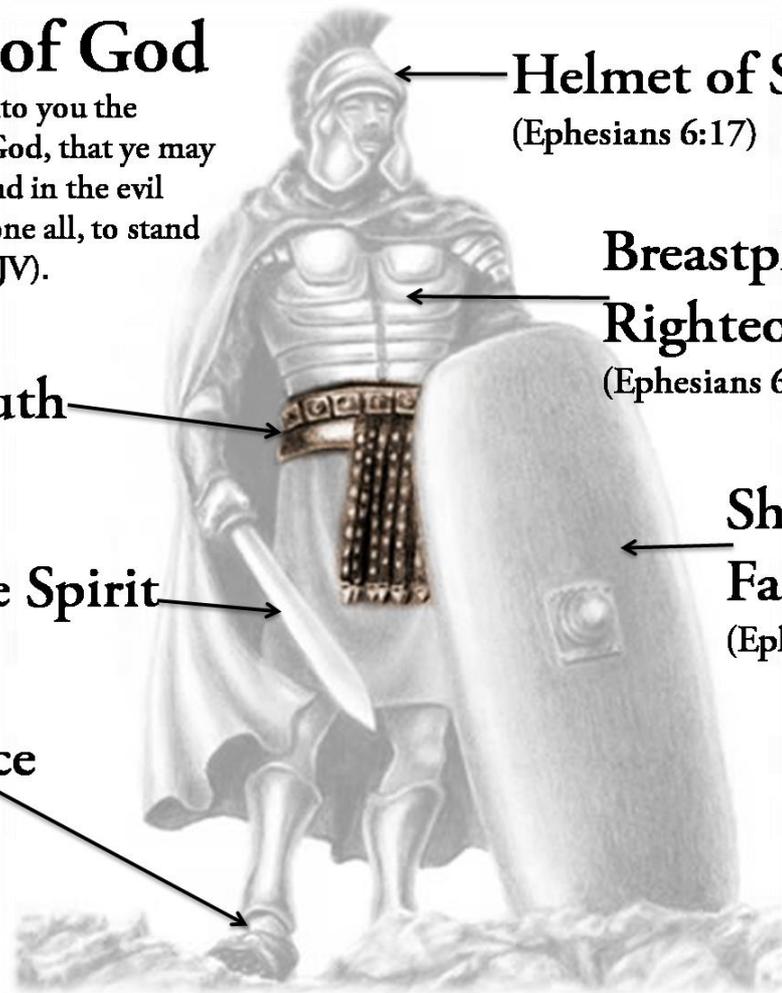
- V7 – submit to God. How should we put God first?
- V8 – come near to God. How can we find fellowship with God?
- V8 – wash our hands and purify our hearts. How does repentance help God to help us resist the devil?
- V9 – grieve, mourn and wail. OK, perhaps we won't do that literally in our culture, but it helps us realise that sin is serious and needs to be overcome!

6. In resisting his temptation by the devil, Jesus refutes the devil's misquotation of Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11). Why is it important to learn from the Bible? What Bible verses help you to take your stand against the devil's schemes?

7. Be reminded of the armour of God! We have it to protect and fight back! Ultimately, Jesus wins!

Armour of God

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 6:13 KJV).



Helmet of Salvation
(Ephesians 6:17)

Breastplate of Righteousness
(Ephesians 6:14)

Belt of Truth
(Ephesians 6:14)

Shield of Faith
(Ephesians 6:16)

Sword of the Spirit
(Ephesians 6:17)

Feet of Peace
(Ephesians 6:15)

To finish

You might like to end by saying the Lord's Prayer together, perhaps pausing on 'Lead us not into temptation..... but deliver us from the evil one' (literal translation).

Tim Edworthy

24 July 2017