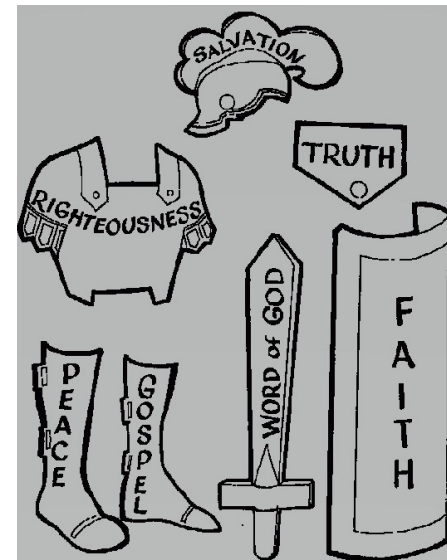




*Resist the
Devil*



Is the Devil Real?

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble."
James 2:19

The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus, commonly referred to simply as ***Doctor Faustus***, is an Elizabethan tragedy by Christopher Marlowe, based on German stories about the title character Faust. It was written sometime between 1589 and 1592 and might have been performed between 1592 and Marlowe's death in 1593. Two different versions of the play were published in the Jacobean era, several years later.

It is the story of Faustus using Mephistopheles as a messenger to strike a deal with Lucifer: he is to be allotted 24 years of life on Earth, during which time he will have Mephistopheles as his personal servant and the ability to use magic; however, at the end he will give his body and soul over to Lucifer as payment

and spend the rest of time as one damned to Hell. This deal is to be sealed in the form of a contract written in Faustus' own blood. After cutting his arm, the wound is divinely healed and the Latin words *Homo, fuge!* ("Man, flee!") then appear upon it. Despite the dramatic nature of this divine intervention, Faustus disregards the inscription with the assertion that he is already damned by his actions thus far and therefore left with no place to which he could flee. Mephistopheles brings coals to break the wound open again, and thus Faustus can take his oath written in his own blood.

There have been many stories spun about the Devil, Satan or Lucifer. Some popular notions depict the Devil as a hooved and horned creature with a pointed tail and a pitch fork. This is one of the cartoon varieties that is often served up and lodges in the minds of people and may influence their thinking about the Devil. Others say that the Devil

because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,

Debauchery can be defined as lacking morals
Sexual promiscuity

Be careful who we associate with
1 Corinthians 15:33-34 - *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals. ^[d] ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*

Scott Carty
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Ephesians 6:11 - *"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1 Peter 5:8 - *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

1 John 4:1 - *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the*

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ple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,

'and

"On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

For temptation

Christ rebutted with what?

Scripture

After 3 temptations, what happened?

The devil left him.

2a. We should use the Bible as defense

Ephesians 6:13-14 – *Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.* ¹⁴ *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, ...*

The belt of truth is God's word

We should know it

We should use its teachings at all times in all circumstances

2b. We should be watchful and constantly on guard to avoid temptation

Ephesians 5:16-18 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time,

is nothing more than a metaphor and is not real at all.

The Bible presents the Devil as a real character. It wasn't a metaphor that tempted Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1). Jesus said there is an everlasting fire that is prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). Jesus told some of the Jews who believed in him, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the

father of it" (Jn. 8:44). The Devil has created many lies, and some of them are about himself.

James Dunigan has written an article for this issue of BC about resisting the Devil. We will also include some outlines on resisting the Devil prepared by some men I study with monthly. I hope the outlines will provide some ideas for you to study further on resisting the Devil. The Devil is real and as God warned Cain, "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it" (Gen. 4:7).
...lsg

Resist the Devil and He Will Flee from You

James 4:7-8: "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

We are first introduced to the devil in Genesis 3:1-6. Adam and Eve had been given specific instructions by God not to eat of the tree of knowledge. "...but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God had said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" We know Eve understood these instructions because when questioned by Satan that was her ready reply. God tried to help her avoid sin by making even

touching the tree forbidden. Satan tempted Eve by appealing to her carnal nature, she gave in to temptation and she sinned.

Eve is held up to the Christian today as an example. Paul warned in 2 Corinthians 11:3 "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." The Devil likes to muddy the waters. He wants you to believe obeying God is just too hard. He uses any tactic he can to draw Christians into sin. In the case of Eve, he even went so far as to cause her to question God's motives. Sa-

tan blinds the minds of unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 4:4, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of the Son of God." The devil not only speaks what is false. He hides what is true.

Satan will pluck the word of God out of people's hearts and choke out faith.

Jesus told the parable of the four soils in Mark 4:1-9. In it the seed of the word of God is sown, and some falls on the path and birds quickly take it away. He explains in verse 15, "Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which was sown in them." Satan fights the word because he hates the faith that the word produces (Romans 10:17). Paul expresses his concern for the faith of the Thessalonians like this, "I sent that I might know your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor would be in vain." Paul knew that Satan's design is to tempt the faith of people who have heard the word of God.

Satan was a very active influence in the beginning of mankind's existence, and he is still sticking around today. The apostle Peter warns in his epistle "Be

sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" (1 Pet. 5:8-9). The devil is our adversary (one's opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute. Enemy). To combat him we should be sober and vigilant and resist him steadfast in the faith.

The key to fleeing the devil and the temptations he puts before us is to resist him. I fear we tend to wait far too long to begin resisting. We think we can handle a little bit of sin and get ourselves out of it before it gets "too bad." Remember the lion hunts on the fringe of the flock. He attacks the weak, the young and the sick. He attacks away from the shepherd. He attacks the inattentive! Knowing this Peter gave his warning.

Let us answer this question together. How do we resist the devil?

The best way to confront an enemy is to be fully armed and armored. Paul appeals to the Christian twice (2 Cor. 6:7, Eph. 6:10-18) to put on the weapons and armor God has given us to stand against Satan. 2 Timothy 2:3, "You therefore must endure

that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands ^[b] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

1b. Job 22:21-23 - "Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you. ²² Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, And lay up His words in your heart. ²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; You will remove iniquity far from your tents.

Resist the devil
What happens? He will flee from you
The best example of this is the temptation of Christ
It occurred very soon after He was baptized by John
Christ was surely weak after days without food
That is when Satan attacks
When we are weak

Matthew 4:1-11 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the tem-

communications corrupt good manners.

c. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

d. Heb 11: 6: But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

III. Conclusion - The Devil is out there

a. Be ready: 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

b. Be dressed properly: Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

c. Because where is the Devil? Ephesians 6:12 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.

d. Be ready for anything!! The Devil has a Big Nose!!

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Resist the Devil

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

This verse contains 2 statements

Submit to God

Submit = accept or yield to a superior force

Synonyms are *comply/conform*

Quality process at work includes the statement, conformance to requirements

To conform to requirements of God, we obey His written word

1a. Exodus 20:4-7 - "You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or

hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." A good soldier never goes to war without their tools of the trade.

We resist the devil by appealing to the word of God.

We resist the devil by appealing to the word of God. When Jesus was tempted of Satan as recorded in Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13 & Lk. 4:1-13, He faced three major temptations and in each of them He immediately appealed to the Word of God. He had been fasting days and nights and was hungry, instead of turning stones into bread at the suggestion of the devil, He said: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Cf. Duet. 8:3).

When Jesus was on the pinnacle of the temple and Satan said: "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone'" (Cf. Deut. 6:16). Jesus responded, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

When Jesus was shown all the kingdoms of the world and the

glory of them, Satan said: "And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.' Jesus replied: 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" NOTE: Mt. 4:11 says: "Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."

An important part of resisting the devil is fleeing.

An important part of resisting the devil is fleeing. This is not a slow, sauntering away. Flee means to run away from a place or situation of danger. RUN! Paul told us when tempted to commit "fornication" we should "flee" (1Cor. 6:1 8& 2 Tim. 2:22). Get up and RUN! When we are tempted to practice "idolatry", we should "flee" (1 Cor. 10:14 & 1 John 5:21). When we are tempted to commit other sins, we should "flee these things" (to 1 Tim. 6:11).

We gain our strength to resist and flee by watching and praying! Jesus said: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41). When we are tempted to sin, remember that we should appeal to the Word of God, flee,

watch and pray! If we are practicing these things, temptation will not lead us into sin.

Resisting Satan is not an option. Overcoming the devil does not happen by accident! “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Some Christians fail to overcome temptation because they never really try to resist the tempter. How can we resist him? “Resist him, steadfast in the faith” (1 Peter 5:9). What else helps in our resistance? It was mentioned earlier in this article. “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

Overcoming the devil does not happen by accident!

Can we say with the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 2:11, “We are not ignorant of his designs!” God bless and strengthen us all in this fight against the devil.

James R. Dunigan
Farmington, AR

Happy Moments

Praise God,

Difficult Moments

Seek God,

Quiet Moments

Worship God,

Painful Moments

Trust God,

Every Moment

Thank God.

The Devil's Big Nose

I: Information we know about the Devil

- a. Garden of Eden - Sin was created - Man made a choice God or Satan
- b. Characteristics of the Devil
 1. John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
 2. James 4: 4: 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.

C. How people react to the World

1. Not God but Mother Nature
 - a. Weather
 - b. Natural disasters
2. The lust from people's heart
 - 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world

II. Information from God's Word on how to resist the Devil

- a. James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- b. How do you resist?
 1. What do we think about?
 - a. Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
 - b 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
 2. Where do we go to resist?
 - a. Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- b. 1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil