

Gospel Therefore

Gospel Warfare

Knowing How to Fight

I Peter 5:6-11

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, August 5, 2012

Call to Fast – Ezra 8:21-23

Helpful Resources available in the Resource Center:

7 Basic Steps to Successful Fasting & Prayer

Fasting – a Hunger for God,

sermon CD by Brad Bigney

Fasting: The Misunderstood Discipline,

article by Don Whitney

I Peter 1:3 – 2:10

I Peter 5:6-11

Three big Gospel Imperatives

- I. **Take Aim at Your Pride – and Humble Yourself** – so that you can trust God with all the cares and concerns that pile up on us in this life.

1 Peter 5:6–7 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

- II. **Start Living like Homeland Security that’s on High Alert** – because you have an enemy that’s looking to take you out.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

- III. **Be Ready to Fight the Good Fight of Faith** – knowing that you will run into hard times

1 Peter 5:9 “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

- What does it look like to resist your enemy - Satan?
- How do you do that PRACTICALLY – really?

James 4 zeroes in on where the battle really takes place. It’s really not so much OUTSIDE of us with our enemy Satan... as it is INSIDE of us.

James 4:1-11

“Statements about Satan and spiritual warfare do not lie scattered randomly, like fallen leaves on the lawn of Scripture. The leaves live on trees, connecting to larger purposes and patterns.”

Power Encounters, David Powlison, p. 42

James 4:7 "... resist the devil and he will flee from you."

The command to 'resist the devil' is sandwiched in between two emphases on humility.

- **v. 6** "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God..."
- **v. 10** "Humble yourselves in the sight of God..."
- **I Peter 5:6** "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God..."

James says you resist the devil by drawing near to God, by cleansing your hands, by mourning over your sin, and by humbling yourself. That's all part of the package of resisting the devil.

When you read your Bible you see that the focus is on Christ – and US fighting sin – by putting forth effort and holy sweat to say 'No' to our own flesh.

"Mention of the devil tends to make everyone get giddy or queasy. When the devil becomes the topic of conversation, he's rather like that dominating relative who grabs the spotlight and microphone at your Christmas party. No one else gets a chance to be heard. In contrast, the Bible points out that the devil is at the party, but it rarely puts him in the spotlight." David Powlison, "A Fresh Look

at Idols of the Heart", Dec. 4, 2011, CCEF website

The Bible doesn't put Satan in the spotlight. It puts Christ... and then US with Christ living in us... drawing on His resurrection power to say 'No' to our own rebel desires that are still waging war with our soul every day.

I Peter 2:11 "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."

That's where the battle is really being fought... NOT on the OUTSIDE with Satan... but on the INSIDE with your own flesh.

If you really want to resist your enemy, Satan, then take aim at your own flesh and get serious about putting forth Gospel effort to fight sin in your life.