

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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**Sermon Notes Outline
July 18, 2021**

T I T L E: RESISTING THE EVIL ONE

T E X T: James 4:6-10

I. RESISTING THE DEVIL BEGINS WITH A PROPER THEOLOGY REGARDING HIS EXISTENCE.

These are suggestions in dealing with the devil that come to us outside this particular context where we are commanded to resist him.

A. He is real.

If you believe the Bible to be the divinely inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God then you believe in the reality of the evil one.

Jesus believed in the devil and dealt with him on a very personal and confrontational level.

Matthew 4:1–4 ---- 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

B. He is an opportunist. (He comes at us in some fashion when we are most vulnerable.)

Matthew 4:2–3 ---- 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

C. He is intelligent and crafty beyond mankind's most vivid imagination but by no means is he omniscient.

He is the consummate psychologist or psychiatrist or sociologist with an understanding of the fallen nature of man that is unsurpassed by no one except the Lord Himself. (He knows your buttons and when to push them.)

D. He is strategically focused on mankind in general and especially determined to wreak havoc in the family of God on a personal as well as a corporate basis but he by no means is omnipresent.

(We probably deal with one of his minions more often than we deal directly with him...due to the fact that he is not omnipresent.)

However, make no mistake, he has a multitude of minions to carry out his agenda.

E. He can be resisted successfully.

Note the promise in verse 7. ...and he will flee from you...

II. RESISTING THE DEVIL INVOLVES OWNING OUR SINFULNESS WHICH MEANS THAT HUMILITY OF MIND, HEART AND SPIRIT, ETC. IS MORE THAN JUST NEEDED, IT IS INDISPENSABLE.

What are the sins that the early Christians needed to own?

One commentator put it like this....To sum up, frustrated inner desires lead to murderous thoughts, arguments, failure to pray, and prayer with wrong motives (4:1-3). A heart beating to the rhythm of the world leads to anger with God and opposition to His words and works (4:4). These conditions lead to quarreling and fighting among believers.

A. It is indispensable to our personal forgiveness.

James 4:6 ---- But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says,
"GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE
HUMBLE."

B. Genuine humility of mind, heart, and spirit, etc. is expressed or evidenced in practical ways.

"Cleanse your hands"— Stop your sinful behavior.

"Purify your hearts"— Stop your stinking thinking.

"Be miserable and mourn and weep"— Be genuinely remorseful for your sins.

"Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom"— Do not take your sin lightly... or in a jocular fashion.

**III. RESISTING THE DEVIL INVOLVES A HUMBLE CONFESSION OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS WHICH RECOGNIZES THAT VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL ALWAYS BEGINS WITH CONTRITENESS OF HEART BEFORE THE LORD.
V. 10**

A. Humbling ourselves in the presence of the Lord involves considering our spiritual maturity or condition in light of His perfect holiness.

The Publican and Pharisee in the temple.

B. When the Lord fulfills His promise of exaltation in the life of those who humble themselves before Him it will stand in sharp contrast to the values of our contemporary culture.

Conclusion: