

SATAN CAN BE RESISTED

Matthew 26:41

Introduction: It is an amazing fact about wild animal's behavior in their environment. They stay alert, they listen, they flee at the slightest unusual sound. They are constantly alert and watch for any sign or sound of danger. Now, if only we Christians could be that way with Satan and his devious actions toward us. We could be, for God has provided a way for us to resist Satan.

I. CHRISTIANS ARE VULNERABLE TO SATAN'S METHODS

1. Satan is as quick as our thoughts.
 - There is no natural defense against him.
 - We can be "ensnared" and not know it, "used" and not suspect it.
2. Satan gets away with his deeds because it all seems so natural.
 - It's natural to want to get ahead, to stick up for your rights.
 - It's natural to take advantage of opportunities, to protect one's self and family.
 - It's natural to want the best, to put self first, to keep what's ours.
 - It's natural to cater to our appetites.
3. Satan uses things within our own selves.
 - He uses our self interests, self satisfaction, self pleasing.
 - He uses our natural desires.
4. We have no warning that he is even near, therefore:
 - We must believe what God says about Satan, learn how he operates.
 - We must know his weaknesses and strengths and have a plan of resistance.
 - We must go into action at the first hint/clue of Satan's presence.

II. CHRISTIANS MUST WATCH, PRAY AND RESIST SATAN (*James 4:7*)

1. We must be ready BEFORE temptation comes by "watching" and THEN praying.
2. We must RESIST for there is no automatic defense against Satan.
3. The name of "Jesus" is our strength, but if we never use it, then we have no strength to resist.
 - Resist means to fight - fight against Satan.
 - Resist means to submit - submit to God.
4. We try to resist Satan without submitting to God and that kind of resisting is by the flesh only.
 - Submitting ourselves to God is placing ourselves under His control.
5. Sadly, some do submit to God, however they don't even try to resist Satan.

III. CHRISTIANS MUST DEVELOP AN AWARENESS OF SATAN

1. In order to make Jesus real to ourselves we must think of Jesus' continuous presence.
2. In order to make Satan real, we must think of Satan's continuous presence as well as Jesus'.
3. Those who handle poisonous snakes never take their eyes off the snake!
4. An constant awareness of Satan's presence is urgent for Christians to be victorious over Satan.
- If we can see Jesus as Savior, then we also need to see Satan as our enemy.

CONCLUSION:

1. We must take Satan very seriously.
2. The reason most of Christians are not what they should be for the Lord Jesus is mostly because of Satan's work in their lives.
3. Christian! Concentrate on Satan's presence and remember, he is set on rendering you useless to the Lord Jesus and His Church.