



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 23

Lesson Title: Spiritual Warfare – Resist the Devil
and He Will Flee

Take Home Point: I belong to Jesus. Satan, take a
hike.

Warm-Up:

Have you ever thought about breaking out of earth's gravity by jumping just as high and as hard as you can? Of course not! You can meditate about it, sincerely want to do it, and even practice for hours every day, but you simply don't have the power to overcome that tremendous attraction. And it doesn't matter if you're at the ocean shore or on the highest mountain peak. Even the most athletic person doesn't have the strength to get higher than a few feet. What is the only way to do it? It requires an external power source; in fact, it takes an extremely powerful rocket to escape the pull of the planet.

Read: James 4:7

Observation (What happened?):

What is Satan trying to do to us? (Look up 1 Peter 5:8)

Whose authority makes resistance successful?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think the consequences are if we attempt to resist without submitting to God's authority?

Why does Satan flee when we resist him in the name of Jesus?

Insight:

What is our most effective tool in submitting to God's authority and resisting Satan? It is the Bible, the Word of God given to us for our spiritual benefit. It reveals to us the truth of spiritual warfare and how to have victory in Christ. Read Psalm 119 to see how important God's Word is for spiritual victory. Then look up Ephesians 6:10-18 and Matthew 4:1-11 to get a complete picture of our armor and weapons, and how Jesus himself wielded the sword of the Spirit to resist Satan's temptations. (Notice that in tempting Jesus, Satan misused Scripture. It's not enough to know a few verses – we need to be familiar with the whole word of God so we know when it is being misused. Many false religions have led people astray by emphasizing one particular verse or idea outside the context of the whole Bible.) God has given us "everything we need for life and godliness" (read 2 Peter 1:3-4) – all we need to do is accept his gracious gifts!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know what are your spiritual weaknesses and areas of temptation? Have you identified them and talked to the Lord about them?

Think of a recent time when you called on the name of Jesus to resist Satan and made him flee.