

Preface

When one of the disciples of Jesus wrote about living the Christian life, he warned his readers about the problem of evil, of Satan, the devil. He said *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings”* 1 Peter 5:8-9. Yes, this is Peter, the one who lied about knowing Jesus when the Rabbi was arrested and was being questioned by the authorities. This is Peter who cursed with an oath that he didn't know “the man.” See Matthew 26. So now, years later, he is writing about something of which he has personal knowledge. He once allowed the devil to deceive him, now he knows better.

Because the devil is prowling around, causing trouble to God's people he doesn't need to bother with those already in his camp, we need to resist his advances, his advice, and his attitude. Our pastor had a sermon that outlined four of the devil's most effective and destructing “punches.” They are DECEIT, DESIRE, DOUBT, and DISCOURAGEMENT. The devil tempts us with any and all of these – to be deceitful, to desire or lust after ungodly things, to doubt God and the truth of His Word, and to become discouraged when things do not go as we had planned, or when life becomes hard due to sickness, or loss of a job, or because of some personal tragedy, or a host of disasters that may have come our way.

So, what do we do? We submit ourselves to God. We resist the devil and he will flee from us. This is the advice from the Bible James 4:7. We have the upper hand in dealing with Satan, because we belong to God. *“My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception.”* 1 John 4:4-6 MSG.

Peter had failed the Lord, but became a powerful leader in the early church because he believed in the One who had been given all power and authority. Because of his belief, he thwarted the devil's design on his life. It must have driven Satan crazy to lose what he thought he had won that night around the camp fire.

That is what this book is about – ways of driving the devil crazy with the truth of God's Word. I can just imagine Satan saying, “Rats, I thought I had Peter. I won't give up, however. There are other temptations that I will throw in front of him.” And so it goes, the “father of lies” doesn't give up. Neither does God. *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.”* 1 John 3:8. And that is what drives the devil crazy! For every lie from Satan, God counters with the truth!

May our Heavenly Father's truths far outweigh anything the devil has to say!