

## Resist

*“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.”*

**James 4:7**

**Resist**—This word is made up of two Greek words, *anti* (meaning “against” and *histemi* (meaning “to stand”). Therefore, we get “to stand against.” This word finds its way into English in the word “antihistamine” (a substance that *blocks* production of certain chemicals). The key to understanding this word is the grammar. It is aorist, active, second person, plural. That means it is a single action, actively engaged in, personal, for every one of us. In other words, James is saying that each one of us is called to actively take a stand against the devil to make that stand a deliberate effort in our lives. This is not passive dismissal. It is not looking the other way or avoiding. It is the role of the peacemaker from the Beatitudes to stand in harm’s way for the sake of the kingdom.

But notice what James does not say. He does not say, “Fight!” He says, “Stand!” Don’t fall down, don’t collapse, don’t give in. Just stand against evil. God will do the fighting, you do the resisting. The picture we need to have in mind is the protester who stands in front of the approaching tank, no weapons, no conflict just resistance by placing himself in the way.

And look at the promise. “He will flee from you.” The word is *phexomai*. It means “run away from danger” (I know we only do one word a day but this is important). Do you see how powerful it is to just stand against evil? God says that when we take this stand, the devil runs away because he knows he is in danger. Without a shot fired, without any battle fought, we win. He runs. He is scared to death of the person who stands on trust in God. There is an old Sunday school song that goes, “Standing on the promises of Christ my King.” That is all we need. We might have to stand quite a while, but the victory is certain. It is a promise.

**STAND UP TODAY!** Let God put you in harm’s way and watch the devil run.