

## Rebuking or Resisting the Devil?

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Resisting the Devil (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9) does not mean to rebuke the Devil. Resisting Satan does not mean talking to Satan. You should not dialogue with the Devil by speaking to him and rebuking him during the time of temptation. Our focus is to be on Christ and not Satan (Heb. 12:2; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21). The New Testament epistles which are directed to the Church reveal that you should deal with the Devil through resisting him. You do this by using the word of truth (Matthew 4:6-7, 10; Ephesians 6:17) and by faith claim your victorious position in Christ (Romans 6). The Christian is instructed to pray and talk to God - not the Devil (Matthew 6:9).

Victory is not a shouting encounter with the Devil but a truth encounter. Furthermore, you are instructed to live by putting your faith in the power of the Son of God for victory (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 6:10) - not by rebuking the Devil. Remember that you are not Jesus who directly encountered the Devil during his earthly ministry (Luke 4:8, 41) nor are

you one of the apostles that were specially endowed to deal with the Devil and demons in an open and direct fashion (Mark 6:7).

You cannot kick Satan around like a plastic ball. Yes, in Christ you do have authority over him and his power (Ephesians 1:19-23) but you should follow the example of Michael the archangel and not openly rebuke him (Jude 9). You are told to resist the Devil and wrestle with demons (Ephesians 6:12) who represent Satan by submitting to God as your Master (James 4:7) – not by scolding the Devil. We also resist the Devil by using the truth, faith, our position in Christ, a guarded mind, and prayer (Ephesians 6:14-18). You do not go on the *offense* (chasing down demons and rebuking them) but set up a *defensive* stand against spiritual darkness and wickedness (Ephesians 6:11, 13-14) and claim the victorious ground you already possess in Christ. This is the instruction given to Church Age saints on how to have victory over Satan and demons.