

Word notes Sunday 6/3/2011 Tony Hodge
Submit to God, Resist the Devil

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: James 4:1-12

James has been showing the Jewish believers in exile how they are not living up to the fullness of their new life in Jesus Christ. They are tempted and suffer trials, argue amongst themselves and judge each other – nothing the church hasn't been prone to from day one yet things they should be free from. James identifies the root of temptation as being in our fleshly/worldly desires (James 1:14-16, James 4:1). It would be cruel to highlight these things and not provide an answer and so James gives us a neat one-verse summary of what to do.

This precise key to living in victory over temptation, in simple mnemonic form is James 4:7 - *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* There are two actions for us, and a result that follows. We can compare this with Jesus' experience of temptation in Matthew 4. Did he do what James urges us to do?

Submit yourselves to God. Submission means to come under authority, which in turn means to be obedient. Jesus did this both at the start of his ministry (Matt 3:15) right through to the end (Luke 22:42). Submitting ourselves means it is our responsibility, no one else can do this. It's also a choice. Jesus chose to go to the cross, he may not have felt like it, in fact he sweat blood in prayer over it yet he submitted himself to the Father's will.

Resist the devil. The devil - note the lowercase 'd', this can mean the person of Satan or more fully Satan and all his minions and their actions in seeking to prevent the Christian living in the fullness God has for him. While Satan himself may not be crouched on your shoulder every moment of the day he certainly has forces that are keen to get you to fail. How did Jesus resist temptation? He knew the enemy's tactics, which are to lie; to misquote God; and to try and get us to fulfil worldly desires not live in God's infinitely better will for us. Jesus resisted temptation by rebutting the devil's lies with God's truth.

Where is the battle? In our thought life, remember it starts with evil desires. We need to take our thoughts captive (2 Cor 10:3-5) and speak the Truth to wage this war.

He will flee from you. Jesus has won the ultimate victory. When we are in submission and resisting using the Word we will see victory. There may be perseverance, it may be tough, but there is no temptation to big that Jesus has not defeated and will give us the victory (Rom 16:20). Jesus spoke the Truth and Satan had to flee. NB that to be tempted even in the most foul of ways is NOT sin – to give in is. Resist!

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Submission.

James exhorts us to submit ourselves to God. Jesus chose submission to God throughout his life, if he truly “walked where we walk” this must have been in daily choices. What daily choices do you have to make to keep in submission to God?

Resistance

The enemy can appear to hold all the cards, we may struggle perhaps even daily with the same issues. In popular SF the Borg say “Resistance is futile” the Vogons: “resistance is useless” read what Jesus says in Jn 16:33.

Results

Does the enemy flee from you or does he have you worried, frightened, in bondage? If you have time and space split up into triplets or same-sex groups and share areas where you struggle. Determine now to resist, find scriptural truths that address the enemy's lies and commit to wielding them. Use the Thought-tracker scheme attached if it helps. Be accountable and support each other in your triplets to see the victory.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Leaders and Cell Leaders will be discussing outreach plans for Easter. What would the Cell like to do?

Includes the Easter Day Guest Service and publicising, leafleting, prayer walking etc for it, The Fun Day on Monday May 2nd – Cells will be asked to organise one or two activities or stalls.

Discuss so your Cell Leaders can come to the meeting on Thursday with ideas.

Taking Captive Every Thought

Situation	Immediate Thought	Emotion	Behaviour	New Thought	New Behaviour
<i>eg A racy film comes on the TV</i>	<i>It wouldn't do any harm to watch it</i>	<i>I feel a need for sexual gratification</i>	<i>I indulge my fantasies</i>	<i>I am the temple of God and His Spirit dwells in me 1 Cor 3:16</i>	<i>I will use my body to worship God and glorify Him.</i>
<i>eg I'm on my own again</i>	<i>No one cares for me</i>	<i>I'm hurt that others don't care</i>	<i>I eat to feel good.</i>	<i>I am the Apple of my Father's eye Psalms 17:8</i>	<i>I will feed on His Word to build myself up.</i>