

Spiritual Authority

Spiritual Warfare is a very important aspect of the believers life. Scripture makes that clear, but many teachings on spiritual warfare being taught and circulated these days are not rooted and grounded in the teaching of scripture.

There are some believers who believe they not only have the authority to rebuke the devil, but they believe they must be about the business of rebuking him continually. There is no biblical basis for such a belief as within many believers today that are binding and loosing in their own names, such as saying; I Bind you or I loose you or I rebuke you in the name of Yahusha. This kind of teaching is dangerous and not correct according to scripture.

A more correct way would be to say Yahusha rebukes you, Yahusha Loose you, Yahusha Binds you. The same would be true when casting out demons. We need to leave (I) out of everything, because (I) will get you in trouble as it is a form of Pride and besides we can do nothing in our own abilities or strength, the authority we have been given is in his NAME and by his SPIRIT.

Scripture does not give believers the authority to rebuke the Devil, but to resist him. Therefore submit to Yahuah. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8. Draw near to Yahuah and He will draw near to you. **James 4:7-8**

We're told to **submit** to Yahuah, **resist** the devil (by refusing to give into his temptations & harassment's) and **humble** ourselves. As we do this, we are resisting the devil and he must flee. As we draw near to Yahuah, He draws near to us.

This means to beware of the Devil and resist him, to be sober and vigilant (as in alert) of Satan's tactics and influences, to flee the Devil's kingdom, his values, and his wisdom, and embrace Yahuah's kingdom, values, and wisdom. This has more to do with moral values than spiritual warfare.

Be **self-controlled** and **alert**. 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 your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

Resist" here is the identical Greek word (anthistemi) found also in two other Scripture portions — that is, **James 4:7** ("**Resist** the devil") and **Ephesians 6:13** ("...to **stand your ground**" "to **withstand**").

Let's breakdown these three Scripture portions in relation to resisting the devil, beginning with **1 Peter 5:8-9**.

- (vs. 8) "Be **self-controlled**" "Be **sober**..."
- Strong's Concordance reveals that this Greek word has the meaning of "to **abstain** from **wine**."

•Vine's Greek dictionary tells us that this word "...signifies to be free from the influence of **intoxicants**."

The message here is clear, intoxicating drinks lessen our ability to resist the devil and his attacks.

- (vs. 8) "Be ... **alert**" — Satan wants to catch you napping.
- (vs. 8) "Your **enemy** the devil" — never forget that his desire is to "rob, kill, and destroy" you.
- (vs. 9) "Resist him, standing **firm in the faith**" — "in the faith", is a strong defense against the devil.

*But he gives us grace. That is why Scripture says: "Yahuah opposes the proud but gives grace to the **humble**." **Submit yourselves, then, to Yahuah. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

Come near to Yahuah and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:6-8

- (vs. 6) To resist the devil, live a life of **humility**. The proud and arrogant are high-profile, easily-hit targets for the devil.
- (vs. 7) To resist the devil, stay "**submit[ted] ... to Yahuah**".
- (vs. 8) To resist the devil, "**Draw nigh to Yahuah**". The nearer you live to God in your daily life, the more difficult you make it for the devil to harass you.
- (vs. 8) To resist the devil, "**Wash your hands, you sinners.**"
- This speaks of **repenting of sinful conduct**. If we continue with unrepented sin in our lives, we do not have a secure foundation from which to resist the enemy of our souls.
- (vs. 8) To resist the devil, "**purify your hearts**" — from which, Yahusha said, sinful conduct originates **Matthew 15:18-19**.

Finally, be **strong in Yahuah** and in **his** mighty power. [11] Put on the **full armor of Yahuah** so that you can **take your stand** against the devil's schemes. [12] For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. [13] Therefore put on the full armor of Yahuah, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of **truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Yahuah. [18] And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

- This entire portion teaches us to "**stand [our] ground (13) ... against the devil's**

schemes •• “**Stand your ground**” is translated from the same Greek word for “resist” in 1 Peter and James.

•• (vs. 10) To resist the devil, we must “be **strong** in **Yahuah** and in **His** mighty power”, that is, fully **depending on Him**.

•• (vss. 11, 13) To resist the devil, we must “put on the **full armor of Yahuah**” listed in verses 14-

18 — **His** armor, **all** of His armor.

Yahuah calls us to be **self-controlled**, which means allowing Yahuah to be in control of our will and heart and seeking the Spirit to enable us. Then, we will know what not to do and be able to guard the areas in which we are weak. This will allow us to have discipline and restraint as we are obedient to Yahuah and his word. It means not allowing distractions to derail or remove us from His will and plan; that way, we will not be distracted from what Yahusha called us to do **Prov. 16:32; 25:28; Rom 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:12; 9:25-27; 1Thess. 5: 22; Titus 2:12; Heb. 12:2**

It is not necessary for a believer to rebuke Satan because Yahuah has given us **His** full armor to stand against evil Finally, my brethren, be strong in Yahuah and in the power of **His** might. 11 Put on the whole armor **of Yahuah**, that you may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of **3**the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.13 Therefore take up the **whole armor of Yahuah**, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.14 **Stand** therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Yahuah;18 **praying** always with all **prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, being **watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. **Ephesians 6:10-18**.

Consider the spiritual warfare passage above. Paul told the brethren what they were fighting, and then told them to put on the whole armor of Yahuah. Look at the components: salvation, righteousness, truth, the preparation of the Gospel of peace, faith, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Yahuah.

The weapon Paul mentioned was the word of Yahuah. Think about how Paul waged warfare, praying to Yahuah, preaching the Gospel. After mentioning the sword of the spirit, Paul urged his readers to pray.

The most effective weapons we have against the devil are our faith, wisdom, and knowledge about Yahuah and His Word. Even Yahusha, when tempted by Satan, did not rebuke him but answered him with Scripture **Matthew 4:1-11**.

Nowhere in Scripture are we taught to rebuke the devil or his demons, but we are taught to cast them out. The New Testament views rebuking as the sole prerogative of Yahusha as an expression of His Lordship and sovereignty over the spirit realm.

The only acceptable scriptural condition for a believer to rebuke anyone is when he lovingly corrects a brother fallen into sin (**Luke 17:3**) So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.)

Throughout the New Testament, rebuke is understood as the sole prerogative of Yahuah. This is why the archangel Michael said when challenged by Satan, "Yahuah rebuke you" **Jude 9**. He left spiritual warfare to Yahuah of Hosts.

2 Peter 2:10 teaches us that we are not to "revile angelic majesties." The earlier context indicates that these self-willed false prophets were engaged in reviling fallen angelic majesties/demons. We are taught in **2 Peter 2:4-12** that this is something which is characteristic of false prophets, so it is a warning for believers not to engage in such practices.

We are warned twice in Scripture against reviling (uttering reproaches, assailing with abusive language) and such practices. If we are warned not to do these things then, why do so many professing believers and their leaders regularly engage in such practices?

Both passages give us the answer. They are acting out of ignorance. "These, like unreasoning animals ... reviling where they have no knowledge ..." **2 Peter 2:12**. "But these men revile the things which they do not understand ..." **Jude 10**.

25 When Yahusha saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." **26** The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." **27** But Yahusha took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. **28** After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" **29** He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer. **Mark 9:25-29**

Yahusha's disciples could not cast out the demon, but Yahusha could do so with a single command. Yahusha did not rebuke His disciples and say they had little faith. He did not say they were in sin. He only said they needed to pray. Yahusha's disciples did not have all of the power of Yahusha. We do not have the right to rebuke Satan. That is Yahuah's job.

You may recall the time when the seventy disciples returned to Yahuah rejoicing about the results of their ministry. They remarked, "Adonai, even the demons are subject to us **in Your name Yahusha**" **Luke 10:17**.

But then Yahusha pointed out that the great marvel of this was that the devils were subject to them because their names were "written in heaven." In other words, because they were saved, because of their relationship with Yahusha, they had authority over the Devil in the **name of Yahusha**.

All believers must be aware that Yahuah has equipped them to overcome Satan's power. The Apostle Paul said that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (of a fleshly or earthly nature), but **mighty in Yahuah** for pulling down strongholds" **2 Cor. 10:4**

Yahusha has given all His followers, all those who know Yahusha personally as their Messiah and Savior, the authority to use **His** name to expel the forces of evil. To all believers, Yahusha said, "**In My name** they will cast out demons..." **Mark 16:17**.

Remember when Peter resisted Yahusha's decision to return to Jerusalem, knowing that He would be crucified there? Yahusha did not rebuke Peter, but turned to Peter and rebuked Satan. "Get behind me Satan" **Matt. 16:23**

As believers, we need to be aware of the reality of the presence of evil. As we struggle to stand firm in our faith, we must realize that the enemies we are up against are not merely human ideas, but real forces that come from the powers of darkness. Scripture says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" **Ephesians 6:12**.

Satan is on a leash; Remember Job? Satan had to have specific permission for the things he did; and even then Yahuah put perimeters around him. **Job 1**

Consider Paul's thorn in the flesh. This was a "messenger of Satan sent to buffet" Paul. **2 Cor. 12:7** Did Paul rebuke it? No. In fact he freely admitted that this messenger of Satan was a gift from Yahuah to keep him humble.

In **Luke 22:31,32** Yahusha warned Peter that Satan would sift him like wheat. But, Yahusha had prayed for Peter; and Peter would be restored to be able to strengthen his brothers. Though Satan would try, he couldn't destroy Yahuah's child.

Peter learned that he could not stand on his own understanding, not even his personal knowledge even after walking for 3 years with Yahusha. In fact, Peter would later write to harassed believers & reassure them that even though they were enduring great trials, it was for their testing & purification and eventually, their glorification. **1 Pet. 1:6,7; 2 Peter 5:10** Peter didn't rebuke Satan for the trials. Rather, he rejoiced in his Sovereign Yahuah; and taught others to do the same.

Even in the betrayal of Yahusha, Yahuah gave permission to Satan & Judas Iscariot to do their wicked plan **John 13:21-27**.

We are reassured that though we may suffer awhile, the Yahuah of all grace will establish, perfect and strengthen us. Yahusha promised that we belong to the Father and no one can pluck us out of His hand. Nothing can destroy us, or cause us to perish. **John 10:27-28** We have the blessed assurance that **the battle is Yahuah's!** His power & deliverance is by His work on the tree as promised in His Word. All we do is get close to Him, like a small child scampering to Daddy when a big bully comes around. Once the bully gets one look at our Father, he flees.

Why would I even try to personally punch at the devil, when my Savior & Father has already assured me that the battle is his, not mine; and he will be faithful to keep me? Even in the face of temptation, persecution & all the demons of hell, I will never perish! **John 10:28** Rebuking the devil is Yahuah's job; Yahuah said to Satan, "Yahuah rebuke you. **Zechariah 3:2**, not ours. It is neither commanded us, nor given to us as an example Spiritual warfare. Instead let us resist Satan & turn our eyes to Yahuah, our Protector.