

How Do You Stop The Devil? (Part 6)

In this final article in a series on ‘stopping the devil’ I want to suggest a strategy that sounds opposite the first strategy given (on Jan. 15th): *Standing your ground and ‘resisting the devil.’* Let’s first consider a vivid example of this ‘opposite’ strategy.

Joseph was the youngest of eleven brothers and was given special treatment by his father. Not only that Joseph shared his prophetic dreams with his brothers. All this made his brothers angry and envious.

On one occasion when Joseph’s brothers away from home tending their family’s flocks of sheep, Joseph was sent to check on them and bring a report back to his father. However, his brothers had something else in mind. They captured him, put him in a pit (a dry well) and sold him to a caravan of traders. They then dipped Joseph’s outer cloak in animal blood and returned to their father claiming that he had been killed.

In the meantime, the traders took Joseph to Egypt and sold him as a slave to Potiphar, the captain of the bodyguard of the Egyptian Pharaoh. By God’s grace, at the young age of seventeen, Joseph was so successful that Potiphar entrusted him with everything he owned.

The Bible also tells us that Joseph was “handsome in form and appearance.” It is no wonder that Potiphar’s wife was attracted to Joseph. She asked him to have sexual relations with her, but Joseph refused. She tried to seduce him day after day after day...

⁸ But he refused, saying to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not give any thought to his household with me here, and everything that he owns he has put into my care.⁹ There is no one greater in

this household than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you because you are his wife. So how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?”

—Genesis 39:8-9 (NET Bible)

What an attitude! Even though he was in a foreign country and considered dead to his family, he wanted to do right in God’s sight.

Now, we might wonder if Joseph was actually *tempted*, but that is not the point. The devil was on the prowl using Potiphar’s wife to seduce him. Whether he was attracted to his master’s wife or not, Joseph desired to be righteous. Yet with his master’s wife pursuing him relentlessly, what could he do to maintain his purity?

RUN!...And run, he did.

The Bible has much more to say about Joseph, but this much gives us another effective strategy in putting a stop to the devil: RUN! It almost sounds cowardly until you reflect on Joseph. He displayed a clear mind, unwavering self-control and a strong resolve to do God’s will. *Running* was the courageous choice.

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. —2 Timothy 2:22

This scripture tells us to run *from* youthful desires (regardless of our age). Yet, the key is to be running *toward* righteousness at the same time. Long before the devil springs into action we must have already made a conscious decision to place God ahead of our desires. We must be in pursuit of righteousness. Only then will we be prepared to run from the surprise attacks of the devil. Be courageous...and RUN!