

Father, we just thank You Father. We are standing in the beginning of a New Year and we look back, we thank You for Your provision for all of 2022. Even in the darkest, most difficult days You came through and I just want to thank You Father. Thank You, thank You, thank You Father. I pray Father, once again reach out and touch Your people. Bless Your people, meet Your people at their point of need. Above all, our need is You, more of You O Lord. As we go back to the Word, I pray that our spirits will be alive to receive what You have for us this year, to give direction for this year. Speak to us, Lord, for You have not come to condemn; You have come to save. To seek, to save the lost, that is what You always come to do. Thank You Father, thank You Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

So you got the promise – Repent/Turn! Revive! He will revive us. When He revives us, we have looked at four or more examples of what God is able to do. The impossible becomes possible. That is why in 2023 you have to step up your faith. In 2023 we will teach you more. See there is something about faith, the definition of faith is given in *Hebrews 11:1*,

Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

So when we have looked at Repent, turn and revive, we are looking at things unseen. I know your hope rose because now everybody has somebody in mind who has to get saved, who needs to come back etc, all these hopes are in your mind, all that is in the unseen. *Faith is the substance of things unseen, the evidence of things unseen.* So God brings faith and hope together. So everything you have heard today so far you are hoping for it in the future. But if you really hope that it will come to pass, for anything, your hope has to have evidence. Your hope has to have proof. And the evidence of your hope is faith.

'I believe I am saved' – so your hope is that, when you die or Jesus comes, you will go to Heaven. That is your hope. But what is your evidence? You never read your Bible, you never pray, you reluctantly go to Church, your hope has no evidence. If you are hoping for something, the evidence of it is faith. That is where we need to understand, that is why the Bible says that you can receive grace in vain, because actually you are hoping for something which is not real because it has no evidence. Like the simple example we used during the weekday teaching – you decide to go shopping and you have a list of things that you have decided to buy. Where does your assurance come from? From your wallet or your credit card. That is the evidence, otherwise you are just window shopping. But you are planning to buy, so what is the evidence that you are going to buy all these? You know you have something in your wallet. In the natural that is true, but in the spiritual also something has to be true.

You are hoping for something, your hope of salvation. What is the evidence? Then there is this hope of glory. What is your evidence? Hope of salvation is one thing and the hope of glory is something else. What is your evidence? The evidence is faith. And faith has its works. Faith without works is dead. So if your faith is dead, your hope is in vain. Always get it right, don't get caught in this business and the business of this world and miss out on something that is fast approaching.

So we heard something today, God pushed Israel with their back against the wall; 3 and half years of pure, white dust, breathing in and breathing out. Then he comes there and says, 'How long will you falter?' and still nobody said anything. I hope by now you have made up your mind one way or the other. See God gives us the autonomy, the freedom to choose. *'I set before you life and death, you choose.'* That freedom is there, you cannot stay between two opinions. You have to make your choice. Elijah is speaking on behalf of God, 'If God is God choose God, if Baal is god choose Baal.' Jesus comes and tells the church of Laodicea, 'Either be hot or be cold.' Don't stand in the middle, make up your mind.

You know, if you make up your mind how easy it is for us (pastors); we struggle Sunday after Sunday because most people have not made up their mind. So most of the preaching is to make/help people make up their mind. But if the people have made up their mind they don't need much teaching. That is what I am saying, make up your mind, be committed and God says, 'I will turn you. Come near Me.' The people came, the Bible doesn't say that people repented

the altar; the Bible says that Elijah repaired the altar. God is not allowing them to do anything. Elijah repaired the altar. When the fire came, they turned. So you have to believe that fire will come, 'I believe Lord, that it will be Your work in me and I will turn. And I believe for it, Lord. Do Your work in me, let Your fire come. I am praying for that O Lord, I want to turn. I heard this, I understand this, but Lord, I am weak. You turn me.' Then the rain comes and there is revival.

Like I said, have you noticed always that revivals don't last? Why is that revivals don't last? Even in a church or in a nation why doesn't it last? It is because there is an enemy of revival.

John 10:10

¹⁰ ***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I (Christ) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

There is a thief; there is somebody who is out there to steal your repentance, your turning and your revival. He is out there. He will steal. Revivals will come and revivals will go but you have to be careful.

James 4:7

⁷ ***Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***

The third part of the promise God gave me is the word 'Resist!' two things He said He will do – He will cause us to repent and He will cause us to revive, but He says, 'You have to resist the devil.' So the entire promise in three words:

REPENT! REVIVE! RESIST!

Believe and ask God for Revival in your homes and in your households. The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy and God says, 'Resist.' God has two armies,

He has an army in Heaven

Revelation 12:7

⁷ ***And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,***

He has an army on the earth

Revelation 12:11

¹¹ ***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.***

So God has two armies; one is in Heaven and He has an army on earth. These are the resistance. There are called the resistance. And you have to become part of the resistance movement. In the Second World War the Nazis, German forces literally ran over Europe. They were so fast, country after country falling one after another. France fell within days and weeks, but among the French there was what was called the resistance. Every country had their resistance. And the resistance made life for the Nazis difficult.

The devil is running a mock in the world, but God says, 'My Church is part of the resistance.' *Resist the devil, submit to God.*

We have to learn. Maybe we failed, all of us failed in 2022, God is giving us a new beginning, a fresh beginning and saying, you know what, 'Resist, so that My revival continues. And you can be a man/woman after God's own heart.' You can really please God with your life, with your walk of faith.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***

What is he doing? He is seeking, the devil is seeking. He is walking around. If it was visible it would have been easy, but he is not visible. But he is seeking and his demons are seeking whom he may devour. So the first warning God gives us is about resistance; learning to resist – *be sober and be vigilant*. Don't give the devil any opportunity. He is looking for

opportunities. The devil is compared here to a lion. What does the lion eat? Meat. Does he eat vegetables? No. He eats meat, he eats flesh.

Romans 8:13

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The thief comes to steal and kill, because what does he want? Flesh. If you live according to the flesh you are giving him opportunity every day. So the first rule of resistance is – don't give the devil opportunity.

If you live in the flesh you will die, but if you want to live there is a way of living – *if by the Spirit*. That is a new way of living. If you, by the Spirit, put to death the work of the flesh you will live.

Galatians 6:8

⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

See the devil is seeking, but the opportunities are given by us. What is he looking for? An opportunity. It will begin soon, very soon the opportunities will begin. Maybe it is already working in your minds, but as soon as the service is over you have a choice. Are you going to give him opportunities? Are you going to sow in the flesh? For most of you young people sitting over here, sowing in the flesh means watching all the junk, absolute junk. That is why you are not able to hear anything. You are watching junk most of the time. You are watching Korean, Japanese, Indian, English, whatever. (You are smiling, you are eternally damning yourself) you are feeding the devil, that is why when the Word of God comes you are not able to receive it. So this year 2023 you have to make a decision what you are going to see and what you are going to hear. That is how Eve fell; she looked and she heard and she fell. There is no other way you can fall; you see and you hear and what you look at and what you hear matters. And those are not kosher voices. Those voices are after your soul. And God is saying, 'Don't give the devil an opportunity.'

2023, whether you are young or old u make a decision that you are going to be very careful about what you do with your eyes and with your ears; what you are going to hear and what you are going to watch or see. Make a decision.

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

So the answer is this – if you want to give the devil no opportunity what should you do? The answer is – live by the Spirit. And if you are saved He is in you; He is a real Person. He is in you but the problem is that you don't converse with Him. You don't listen to Him. You don't ask Him – 'Should I?' See that is why we like Baal; Baal has no problems with the flesh, he thrives on flesh.

We don't ask the Holy Spirit. Even today after you go home and you sleep, when you wake up it is a holiday. Will you ask Him what He wants you to do today? You are asked to walk in the Spirit. 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' for He knows what will happen if you don't listen to Him or if you and I do anything on our own.

We have to learn to give the devil no opportunity, otherwise 2023 will be exactly like 2022, if not worse. That is why the Bible says – *Be alert, be vigilant, be sober*. Two different things they are not the same; being alert and being sober are not the same. Be alert and be sober! Who can warn you? We have two choices, when you are talking about the flesh you have two choices. You can be either sensual or sensitive.

God says, 'You have two choices; you can either be sensual or be sensitive.' If it feels good do it – that is sensual. But the Word of God and the Spirit of God is not talking about that, it is about being sensitive. Are you sensitive? Will you be sensitive? When the revival begins that is one of the things that actually happen – you become sensitive. Do you know when the Welsh revival took place, everything shut down? Nobody had to do anything; every pub shut down, every theatre shut down, everything shut down because there were no customers. The bar tender is sitting over there and nobody is coming, because they all got saved. So they shut it down. There was nobody to watch movies or drama, everything shut down during the revival because flesh died. No customers. Think about it.

Think about United States of America where 60% to 70% claim to be Christian, if revival takes places almost every junk that comes out of USA will shut down because there are no customers. Netflix will shut down, Amazon prime will shut down. All these commercial sport channels will shut down, do you know why? There will be no customers. That is what happens. That is what God is talking about when revival takes place. He says, 'Resist. Give him no opportunity. Do not give him any opportunity.' In 2023 make those resolutions – *Submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

1 Peter 5:9

⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Be steadfast in faith. Where does faith come from? From hearing the Word of God. You have heard and the Spirit makes you sensitive and you resist the devil. You say, 'No'.

Philippians 3:3-4

³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

You have to look at verse 4, it is interesting. Apostle Paul says, 'If I want to be confident in my flesh, I shall give you my resume...' ***⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:***

Do you know a lot of us have confidence in our resume? That is the problem. We have confidence in our flesh. This man has an entire list of spiritual things. 'According to the law – this, this, this is who I am, according to the Law blameless, but all that is in the flesh; I have no confidence in the flesh. I will trust Christ.' And because he did not have any confidence in the flesh, do you know what he did? He never gave the enemy an opportunity. He refused to give the enemy an opportunity. Do not put confidence in your flesh. We all put and we fell and we fell miserably, because we put confidence in the flesh – 'I can do it.' No! 'Lord, help me. I aint going that way.' Flesh is strong if you have no prayer life. Flesh is strong if you have no life style of fasting. We have gone on a seven-day fast and we will be breaking our fast this morning, how many of you fasted? You are very strong in your flesh if you haven't fasted. Why do you fast? It is because you have no confidence in the flesh. That is the reason you fast, consistently, to kill the flesh.

We are assuming that the lives we are leading are according to the will of God. We are assuming. God says in 2023 let it be different. Resist the enemy, give him no opportunity. The devil doesn't care. He can use failure or success to destroy a person. No confidence in the flesh, give no opportunity. How do you give no opportunity? What is the solution? Resist the devil and walk in the Spirit.

Second one,

2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

The second thing is – give him no advantage. It is a term used in Tennis; when your opponent fails you get the advantage. Do not give the devil an advantage. What gives him advantage? *Ignorance of his devices* gives him advantage. Ignorance of the Word of God gives him advantage. Ignorance of how God operates and how the devil operates gives him advantage and God says, 'Do not give him advantage.' Ignorance is a killer, especially in the spiritual realm, because he is good at deception.

In modern days world, the most celebrated festival is Christmas. It is a festival; it is no longer about the birth of Jesus Christ, it is a commercial festival. For hundreds of years after Jesus was born there was no Christmas. In the book of Acts there was no Christmas. The early church never celebrated Christmas. They did none of these things because God made it very clear. He knew how all this will become Baal worship. It will become commercialized. Nothing of that took place in the early church. Then when the Roman Empire became Christian Christmas came.

Now listen carefully so that you realize why I disappoint you every Christmas. In the 4th century, there was a catholic monk called Nicholas, Saint Nicholas they called him. See 1600 years ago you had only legends, you are not sure if it is true, you have no facts. So like Indian and Greek mythology so many stories were added about Nicholas that he was a kind man, nice man, he helped people and all these stories. But what was his name? Saint Nick and do you know in English who is the old Nick? It is the devil, he is called the old Nick. Saint Nicholas.

Europe first started celebrating him, they called him father Nicholas. The Dutch brought it to New Amsterdam. New Amsterdam was the old name for New York. Now they brought it into US as Satan Claus. USA is the one which makes everything into an industry. The modern day santa claus which you see was first published in Haber's Weekly, but it was made famous in 1931 by Coca Cola company in their advertisements. He is supposedly an old man who lives in North Pole with his wife where he spends the entire year with seven of his servants who are elves, making gifts. Now where was Christ born and where is this dude? And every year he comes down on his reindeer and slides down the chimney, drops gifts for the children, eats the cookies and drinks the milk that the children keep for him. Do you know what the devil did? He got into Christmas and turned it around.

Today Christmas is not about Christ. Take a look at this, I will show you four slides
This is what he supposedly looks like



Look at him and that is the Elf beside him. The elf is not a human. The seven elves of santa claus are not humans. It is a supernatural creature. If you want you can call him a demon.



This is father Christmas. If this is father Christmas then who is Christ?



This is what an Elf looks like. Okay we didn't know these things when we also celebrated in the beginning, but now that you know, what are you going to do about it? I am talking about one thing which is so popular among Christians about which they have no idea how this guy has taken advantage because the greatest, biggest festival of Christians in the world is Christmas, but who got in? Santa got in and he took over the whole festival. And without realizing we are now celebrating Saint Nicholas more than Christ. It is not about Christ anymore. All of you who went to the malls and the airports did you see Christ anywhere? No. Who is there everywhere? Santa Claus. And what are the colors you are wearing? Red and green. Okay red is God's color and green is also made by God but who has taken over?

Now listen carefully, this Christmas, Netflix had a mini series on Santa Claus with Children, they will say that it was all for fun, but it was not a joke, while the children were dancing they changed the letters around. Look at this picture.



Santa became Satan. You just have to interchange a letter. What are they showing? Do you know what they are doing? They are desensitizing us to Satan. And the whole audience was laughing. Satan is the one who comes as Santa and he desensitizes us. This happened this Christmas. When we tell you to stand on the truth and rip away all the things which are not connected with Christ because God is truth, Jesus is truth and the Spirit of God is truth, the Word of God is truth, the Church is the pillar and the foundation of truth. Anything that you take or do in the name of Christ, be very careful where they are taking you. And the whole audience was laughing at that show, how did you reach there? It is because you gave him that advantage.

That is why the Bible always says that you should always ask questions – where is it written? Why should I practice in my life anything that is not sanctioned by the Word of God? If I do that it is an idol. What is an idol? It is a person, it is a place, it is a thing, it is an idea that replaces God and His authority in your life and it is an idol. We are just looking at a small little example. You go down into the cities and ask any average young kid what is Christmas connected with? They do not know Christ. It is Santa Claus. First of all that fellow is not real. Christ was born in Bethlehem, this guy was born in Norway. He is married and has seven elves who are his servants who help him with gifts. Who are elves? So first you sanctioned the elves, then you sanctioned Harry Potter. That is how witch craft got into your house, because Santa came with his elves.

Can you tell all this to an average Christian? They get mad. But what you do, does it agree with the truth? So you gave the devil advantage. God says don't give advantage to the enemy. Now we just took an example of what happens during Christmas, but every day in our daily lives we all give the devil an advantage. Santa is not harmless because Satan is not harmless. Elves are not harmless; if elves are harmless then demons are harmless. And father Christmas has replaced the Holy Spirit in your Christmas story.

So the Bible says – resist him. There is this constant battle in this world to claim Jesus and this Christmas was the worst, the drag queens in Christmas programs and in the White House. It was one of the worst. Everybody is claiming Jesus and turning Him around into what He is not. So we need to understand what we are fighting in every area of our lives. The Bible says – resist. Don't give him advantage. Every temptation that the devil offered Jesus Christ was offered to Him in terms of advantage, but if Jesus had listened to him, the devil would have had advantage. That is how he offered – 'If You are the Son of God, if You do this...' it was actually an advantage for Jesus but if He would have listened it would have been an advantage for the devil. How did Jesus resist? ***'It is written...'***

The simple question is – do you know what is written? To resist and not to give in to the devil do you know what is written? Jesus was not ignorant of the devil's devices. He had hidden God's Word in His heart and the Spirit of God brought it out to Him so that He could resist the devil.

So the first thing is

- If you do not want to give the devil opportunity what do you do? Walk in the Spirit.
- If you do not want to give the devil advantage what do you do? Walk in the Word.

Third thing,

Ephesians 4:25-27

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. ²⁶ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil.

The third thing is – do not give him place.

- Give him no opportunity
- Give him no advantage
- Give him no place

This simple question is – how do you/I not give him place? You have to read the whole chapter, then you will understand. There is a small thing given over here, what is that? Do not lie to one another, do not get angry. The next verse will say, do not steal, work. So what is God saying over here? He is saying, if you do not want to give the devil a place be careful about how you walk with another.

- If you do not want to give the devil opportunity, then walk in the Spirit.
- If you do not want to give the devil advantage, then walk in the Word.
- If you do not want to give place to the devil, then be careful how you walk with one another.

Be angry, but do not sin and give place. So God is saying, in 2022, anger, offense, unforgiveness. He says, you know what, inter-personal relationships if they are not right, right in your own life, in your home, you have given space for the devil. He is happy there. In verse 30 it says – *do not grieve the Holy Spirit*, because the Spirit of God dwells in you and when you give place to the devil he comes in and the Holy Spirit is grieved.

Matthew 6:12

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

See, everything is now brought into the inter-personal relationships. In 2023 you have to make that decision – you know what I am going to walk in forgiveness. Do you know why? It has got nothing to do with the other person. I will not give the devil a place in my life. If I give place to him the other two stops; the turning/repenting is stopped and the revival is over. It is gone, it is over because you gave him opportunity. I gave him advantage and I gave him place. Offense comes. And the Bible talks about these things – God is warning Cain, 'Cain, why are you angry? Sin is crouching,' but the thing is that when sin got it, do you know who got in? The devil got in and a little later Cain killed his brother because the devil has been a murderer from the beginning.

Do not think that when sin gets in the devil is outside. When sin gets in the devil gets in. And God says, give him no place. We are so conscious about sins that are physical because we are taught about that through the Law, which are real. But we are not conscious about spiritual sins. When Jesus spoke He was always speaking about spiritual sins; He spoke about anger, He spoke about unforgiveness, He spoke about offense. This is how revival dies. Enormous revival

takes place, fantastic revival, the revival leaders are anointed, full of the Holy Spirit but then there is conflict between two of the leaders and before you know the revival just fades away, they break and they go in two different directions. How did it happen? They gave him advantage.

It has happened in homes between husband and wife – you turn and repent, revival is coming and then over something silly the battle begins. And before you know it is all gone. Or you lie, or you steal. Not working is stealing, by the way. And some of you young people, boy Oh boy, you are lazy! I am telling you, you will not thrive in the secular world, there they demand work. They will say 8 hours but usually it will be for 12 hours. Ask those who are working in the companies, you suddenly realize what work is. You are not prepared. In the Kingdom of God growth is hard work, it is not easy work, it is not for lazy bones.

So get this picture in, do not give the devil place, because an idle mind is the devil's workshop. So we have to keep this in mind – do not give the devil opportunity, walk in the Spirit. Do not give him advantage, walk in the Word. Do not give him place, walk in healthy relationships with one another in 2023. We have to make a decision, do not have silly fights. Stupid fights, believe and stand for what you believe but you are not going to change anybody except yourself. One of the things which I learnt as a person and as a pastor is that I can't change my congregation, I can only change myself. I can only preach but only God can change a congregation. One thing you need to realize is that you cannot change anybody, most of the fights which we are picking up are useless fights. 'You never change!' that is how fights begin right? God says, 'That is true, I had the same opinion about him/her. But they will change. If you let go of trying to change him/her and allow Me, I can work on him/her and he/she will change.' Do not give the devil an opportunity, do not give him advantage and do not give him place.

Spiritual sins are very, very serious. They are so subtle. For me, in the Bible, the most subtle of all the sins in the Bible that took a man to grave and to hell is Ahithophel, I still can't figure that man out, because the Word of God says that he was wise and his wisdom was like God Himself speaking. But he carried offense in his heart and nobody knew it, absolutely nobody knew it, it was so hidden and every day he is before David because David is king. When David asks him for counsel he gives him fantastic counsel but David doesn't have any clue what is in this man's heart. He was just waiting for an opportunity, and the opportunity was right when Absalom took over.

I heard a man of God say, 'Time doesn't change anybody; it just reveals who you are.' When Absalom switched to this side what was in Ahithophel came out. That is why we keep saying that these things have to be dealt with now. Many of the things we do not do simply because we do not have the power to do it. The day you get the power what you will do you do not now. We have to deal with these things, resist the devil right from the beginning, deal with them right now, most of you are young, you have heard and you understand. Put no confidence in the flesh and do not be ignorant of the viles of the devil. Resist him daily. Why does God say that man cannot serve both God and mammon, why does He bring money there? Money means power. Money is power, if your flesh is not dead do you know what money will do? If you have money do you know what you will do?

That is what David is looking back and saying, 'What did I do!?' he didn't do any of these things when he didn't have power; he did these things when he became a king. Would you ever think that this was a man after God's own heart? That he is capable of doing these things? We would have never thought. But do you know what? That is the same thing about all of us, anyone of us. That is why God says, resist him. Do not be ignorant of his devices. Let me ask you this question – go through your concordance and check through the name called Demas, how Paul talks about Demas. Demas was a co-worker with Paul. Did anybody realize at the end of his life that Demas would love the world and depart? But it was always there in him. That is why the Bible says, don't let this year pass this way, because if you or I am not sowing in the Spirit then I am sowing in the flesh and the problem is that the flesh is getting stronger and stronger. It is not getting weaker. Just because you grow older in age and your body loses its strength it does not mean your flesh has become weak. Only your body has become weak, but your flesh has not lost its strength.

It just doesn't have a vessel to live through, but the flesh is as strong. Understand the truth, your body may become weak, you may not be able to do the things which you want to do, that does not mean that your flesh has changed. Like I told last week, what is death? Death is like taking your shoes off; your soul leaves your body and the body is dead, it feels nothing, it is just laying there, people take the body and bury it. But when that rich man went to hell he could feel everything he felt in his body which has been buried over there, he is able to feel everything in hell, because his flesh is

alive there. Flesh is a spiritual entity, he says, 'I thirst. I feel the fire, I am burning.' Nothing goes, absolutely nothing goes.

So just because you are getting older and your body is getting weaker it does not naturally mean that your flesh is getting weaker, no it is not, unless you are killing your flesh daily and allowing your spirit to grow stronger. This is the reality God is showing us, because what happens when you are young is that you think this has to do with your youth, pastor says all that but when we grow older we will change. But you know what, it doesn't happen that way. It simply doesn't happen like that. That is the deception of the enemy. That is why to a young man called Cain God is saying, 'Cain, Cain, why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen? Handle it now otherwise it will control you. You think you can control it. No Cain, you cannot control it later. Learn to control these things early, do not sow in the flesh.' He did not listen.

So 2023 make it very clear, 'Lord I will not give the devil an opportunity. I will not give him advantage. I will not give him place.' *Give no place to the devil* - the Bible says. And it talks about inter-personal relationships.

- By walking in the Spirit you don't give him opportunity.
- By walking in the Word you don't give him advantage.
- By walking in fellowship, in love with one another, forgiving one another you don't give him place.

That is how you resist, you don't give him place. So make these decisions, I will not give him place. The worst case scenario, honestly the best case scenario and the worst case scenario both is a home. Best case scenario is a home where the husband and the wife submits to one another, loves one another. That is the best case scenario. The worst case scenario is the home because that is the closest inter-personal relationship where the devil comes and sleeps and we have to be careful about these things. You know what, God has given us an awesome promise, because it is more than about money, promotion and wealth. It is about souls. It is about souls that we have been praying for so long. At the end of the day you will realize that nothing matters. The only thing that matters is salvation.

Married sisters sitting over here, the Bible doesn't say anything about the nature of your husband, it only says – *Submit to your own husband in all things as unto the Lord*. That is all it says, why? Be careful, do not give him place. It doesn't tell the husband the nature of his wife, it says – *love your wife as Christ Jesus loved the Church*. Why? Don't give the devil place. This is our protection. You don't obey the Word, the devil gets in. 2023 pray, 'Lord, let revival take place in my home.' Whatever case, whatever situation it may be because everything is covered in the Bible, whether it is two believers, or one believer married to an unbeliever. You know what, every case is covered in the Bible, how to deal with each situation. Why is it that so much is given about inter-personal relationships in the Bible? It is because if you are not careful, do you know who comes in? The devil comes in. The devil is happy but the Spirit of God is grieving.

The devil is very happy because he got into the believer's life and the Spirit of God with him is grieving. Give him no opportunity, give him no advantage and give him no place.

Remember Jesus going through the storm and reaches Gadarenes? There is a demon-possessed man over there.

Mark 5:9-13

⁹ Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."¹³ And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

Did you get the message? How do you resist him? It is by giving the devil no permission. He can't do anything to you unless you give him permission. If the devil can do anything to you or to me without our permission then my free-will is a lie; I have no free-will. You need to realize there was a legion, but they could not do anything until Jesus had given them permission. So what is the key to not giving the devil permission? So what is the key to not giving the devil permission/ the key to giving the devil no permission is staying under authority.

1 Samuel 15:23

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

You see when you come outside authority you give way for the devil to get in. You are giving him permission to operate in your life. Stay under authority. God has His own authority structures. And in that authority structure, God says, stay. If you stay under that structure, God says, that is your covering. Don't give him permission. The minute you step outside the structure, do you know what is happening? You are giving the devil permission. That is the whole idea about headship. The reason for headship is not about the natural. The reason for headship is spiritual, because the entire one-third of the demonic hosts was the ones who refused to stay under authority. So God is restoring His order in the Church and through the Church. Through the Church the wisdom of God is being revealed to the demonic.

So the Bible says – *the head of man is Christ*. Man has to learn to be under Christ's headship. He has to learn to stay under Christ's headship. That is why the man is the priest of the house. And I am asking the men, how many of you are really priests? How many of you really function as priests in your houses? Or should I ask, how many of you are allowed to function as priest in your houses? The head of man is Christ and the head of woman is man; that is her covering. This has got nothing to do with feminism; we are just trying to save people.

1 Corinthians 11:10

¹⁰ For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

This has got nothing to do with man over here, this has got to do with the spiritual realm. Let her have a symbol of authority over her head because the angels are watching. If she is a woman who is not walking in submission she is an open door way for the devil, he walks in and walks out. Stay under cover. Who is your cover? Your husband is your cover. And to the husband He says, you want to be the cover? Then you stay under Christ and the Christ stays under the Father. So you see how it works? Christ stays under the Father, the man stays under Christ, the woman stays under man, the children stay under the parents, God says, you are under cover. In this house there is no permission for the devil.

Do you remember that God actually challenged Satan, 'Did you see My man Job?' the devil couldn't do anything because that was a family that was under cover. And it was all because of the father; that man kept the cover over his family and the devil couldn't do anything until God says, 'Okay I will remove the hedge. Now you try.'

Stay under cover, because people are going through all kinds of situations, but if your home is safe the rest doesn't matter. It really doesn't matter if your home is safe. So God has His own structure of authority. And the thing we learn from this is that you should not give the devil permission and the devil is very subtle and deceptive. You need to realize even in the Garden of Eden the devil doesn't come to Adam, he goes to Eve. He doesn't go to Adam. If he had gone to Adam, he would have said, 'No.' So he went to Eve and she said, 'Yes'. We have to be careful about it, don't look at your religious activities, business activities and career success and all. Look at the order, because there is a fellow who is after your soul. And if he can't get your soul, then he is after your crown, so that you don't get anything when you reach there for eternity, you barely make it to Heaven.

That is why the Bible says, Resist the devil. Resist him. You look at David, even when the authority over him was wicked, he ran, he just ran. He refused to turn against authority. He just ran. He fled from Saul, he did not turn against Saul. If he had turned against Saul who is his God-designated authority, you know what? David would have given place to the devil in his life. But he refused and therefore he went to Ziglag. Therefore you realize that God is protecting him everywhere from his enemies because his attitude and his reactions were right and every battle he fights he wins, because he is under cover. He doesn't lose a single battle. David has never in his life lost a single battle. Why? It is because he is always under cover.

So God has put these parameters for us. I don't want these watch-night services to become events and occasions. No. very serious, spiritual issues are dealt with here. Year after year should not go by without our lives radically changing, because Baal is a god of convenience. Christ is not a god of convenience. He is a God of serious, deep convictions and demands commitment. That is what God is talking about. Stay under cover. Don't do silly things, don't do stupid things

as a family. Don't bring division over there. Stay! Don't give opportunity, don't give advantage, don't give place, don't give permission.

Don't give permission, because when you are under cover, God-ordained authority, you have protection and God releases power into you. That is why Jesus was zapped by the Roman centurion, when Jesus says, 'I will come,' he says, 'You don't have to come. When I ask my soldier to go he goes and when I ask him to come he comes. I am a man under authority.' Jesus says, 'This man, this gentile, understands the structure of Heaven.' Get this right in 2023, because you know what, the devil is so subtle, he is so subtle what is first does is that he divides the husband and the wife and then he divides the children.

So Isaac, the best man in Genesis, until he messes up, is divided because there is a division between the husband and the wife and immediately you see that the children are divided. One son is with the father and the other son is with the mother. You know what, the devil has got into that house. And God has only one family on earth that bears His name and the devil is reigning there. Only one family, only one family God has on earth and the devil has entered there. How did he enter? He entered by first dividing the husband and the wife. And he divided the children; father favors one child and mother favors one child. What is the end of the story? What a sad end for a beautiful family. Mother dies, not even mentioned as to when she died, father dies old and blind and the sons come only much later to bury him. One son goes away in the flesh, you don't hear about him. The other son goes through all kinds of trouble and ends up with four wives and 13 children and one daughter gets raped. Look at the mess.

Ask yourself – how can this happen to Isaac? You look at Isaac, his father has tied him onto the altar, his father has raised up the knife, this is an absolutely consecrated and submissive boy, would you ever think that this man's life would end that way? How did it happen? The devil simply got in and destroyed that home. That is why these real-life stories are given, do not presume that it will not happen to you and to me. God says, do not presume. *We are not unaware of the viles of the devil.* That is how he does it.

All those young and unmarried, get your act right. Those who are married, get your act right. Children get your act right, stay under cover, because there is safety there. If there is abuse, like David, shut your mouth and run. Do not buck authority, because you know what, the problem is that when you do that you open a doorway for the devil. That is the issue. He will allow you to succeed for a season, but ultimately your life will end up in ruins. It will become meaningless. If one man who should have really succeeded till the end of his life, it should have been Isaac, the child of promise, the child born in old-age, the child who brought laughter, consecrated from his young days, surrendered to the Lord as a teenager. How did he end?

And it was such a simple thing that the devil used, such a small thing. *If you sow in the flesh, you will reap corruption.* What is it that Isaac loved? Meat. That's all. People need to understand these things, because you see, the problem is not what you like now, the problem is when you get older and older what you like now becomes a stronghold, because that has become an idol and the devil has touched you over there and now you when you are old you want that somebody, it doesn't matter even if he is cursed by God, you want that somebody because he feeds your idol. These are not random stories in the Bible. These are serious issues in the Bible. You look at these people and you see their end, God says, look at yourself where you are in January 2023 and see where you will end if you don't change course.

That is why we have looks at so many example, where will you end. Look at all these people in the Bible and put yourself in the correct shoes that fits you – am I Reuben, weak and compromised fellow never able to take a stand? Or am I Simeon and Levi, hot-blooded, always angry? Or are you Judah? Where do you fit in? Put yourself in those shoes and God says, you can see your destiny, because there is nothing random in God's Kingdom. There is a structure in God's Kingdom and He is telling and warning all of us, 'I am giving you a promise. Turn, be committed. The fire will come and you will be committed and then the blessings will come, you will be revived and then keep your revival, fight every day. Resist the devil.'

Resist the devil in your homes. Resist the devil in your offices. Resist the devil, because when you leave your house you come under another authoritative structure, in your office. In modern day when your university Prof asks you to call him by name and your manager wants you to call him by name, you can call him by name but in your heart don't ever forget

who he is and who you are. When you call him by name because he asked you to, you are submitting to authority, but never forget it doesn't matter who you are, remember and know whose you are. It matters because God is watching and the devil is watching. Every time you break God's protocol you are giving the devil an open door. Guard your heart from offense, guard your heart from unforgiveness. Do not look at the temporary success of anything if it is contrary to the Word of God, because he will take advantage. The devil will offer you lots of advantages – *'If You are the Son of God do this. You can immediately satisfy Your hunger. If You are the Son of God jump from the Temple and angels will come to Your rescue and Your ministry is going to start with a blast. You are set for ministry. If You bow down to me I will give You all this. The advantage is Yours.'* God says, 'Resist him, do not give him advantage.'

Young people, do not give him advantage. Do not give him opportunity. Four things we learnt about resisting the devil

- Do not give him opportunity by walking in the Spirit.
- Do not give him advantage, walk in the Word.
- Do not give him place, walking in healthy inter-personal relationship. God-ordained, under cover relationship.
- Do not give him permission, stay under authority.

You look at Joseph, if the devil should have gotten into anybody's life it was Joseph's. But do you release that the devil couldn't touch him even because he gave him no permission. When he was in his father's house he was under his father, when he went to Potiphar's house he was under Potiphar, when he went to the prison he was under the warden, when he was under Pharaoh he stayed under Pharaoh. You read the entire account; everything he did was for the Pharaoh. He always stayed under authority; he never gave the devil permission. And these are believers in gentile, secular cultures and the devil couldn't touch them.

Closing prayer

*Father this early morning, the first day of this New Year, we stand in Your presence. You have given us three words – Repent! Revive! Resist! But it all begins with turning. I pray Father that this year the ones who have been struggling for years and years will experience the fire of God. They will take that one step – come near. That one step they will take and You will do the rest. For Your cry was, 'Come near! Come to Me!' I pray Father, there are people who have sat in the church for years and years, but 2023 is not going to be the same. It is not going to be the same, by the time the year is over there will be no un-committed left. By the time 2023 is over there will not be a single uncommitted person in the Church, they will either be on fire or they will be out. There will be no stragglers. For the Lord is on His move to work in the lives of His people. He has promises to revive that which is dead, with or without man's intervention. And we stand holding onto that promise Father, that You will do it for our loved ones, You will do it for our household, You will do it for our friends, You will do it for the Church. You will do it Father, we believe. We stand and we believe that You will revive us, You will turn us, and You will empower us to resist the devil. **Submit to God and resist the devil.***

I speak to for peace in homes. Love in homes, unity in homes, respect and honor in homes. For it all begins in the home. I pray for order in homes, divine order in homes. Let no one give place to the devil.

I take authority in the name of Jesus and I bind every power of darkness, every work of the enemy, in each surrendered life here, those who have taken a step towards God this night and this morning, I bind you in the Name of Jesus and I command you to leave and every work of yours be destroyed in the Name of the Jesus. Let it be a new day, a new beginning for many, if not all, a new beginning, a fresh beginning. God will do it. I bless Your people in Your Name here and those listening online. May the hand of God rest upon us now, through this year and every week, every month as we look back, we will be able to see that God was faithful to His promise. He is reviving me, He is reviving my home, He is reviving my household. There is reconciliation, there is revival, there is love, there is peace, there is joy and there are blessings, blessings upon blessings. For it is written that He came in the fullness of grace and out of that grace and His fullness we have received blessing upon blessing.

Revive cities, revive nations Lord. Let You servants who are listening around the world pick up their mats. Pick up the mat and say, 'Lord, I will be that man. Committed. I will burn that yoke of oxen, never look back. Committed, use me O Lord, here I am.' However unclean the lips maybe there is fire available in heaven to cleanse those lips, but God asks, 'Who will go for Us?' and there will be men and women who will say, 'Here I am.' It will be a different year O Lord. It will not be like the years before, You will bring order, You will bring stability, You will bring peace in homes and in lives. We believe and therefore we speak. Thank You, thank You Father. Thank You. You have brought everyone safely, it's late by the time

people go home, I pray Father that the same God who brought us safely will reach everyone home safely. And we will dwell this year in safety. There is a disease spreading around, but Lord we come under Your blood and we come under Your promise that by Your stripes we were healed. Teach us to believe and to walk in our healing and in health Lord. Let there be order in our lives. Thank You, thank You Father. We praise You, we worship You, we glorify You. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with us through this year. Amen.