

GIVING THE DEVIL OPPORTUNITIES

Last time we met, we studied how [deceitful lying](#) (falsehood) grieves the Indwelling Holy Spirit in our Christian way of life from (Eph.4:25).

- We learned that the **Spiritual Problem-Solving Device** for it was two-fold:
 - **Lay aside** deceitful lying [and in its place]
 - **Speak** (laleo) (p.a. impv.2pl) [Command] **The Truth of God's Word.**

This was earlier discussed by Paul in (Eph.4:21-24).

- We learned the source behind deceitful lying was the devil's cosmos diabolicus evil thinking that is in opposition to the truth of God's word (Gen.3:1-7; 2 Cor.2:11).
- We also learned that Paul used **11 Greek imperatives (commands)** in the context of the subject of Grieving the indwelling Spirit. We divided them into seven groupings for study: 4:25; 4:26-27; 4:28; 4:29; 4:30; 4:31; and 4:32. We have studied 4:30, 4:25, and today 4:26-27.

This lesson will study four aspects of Giving the Devil Opportunities to disrupt walking by means of faith (2 Cor.5:7) (Applying the Faith Cycle)

1. In our lesson text, Paul used four of the eleven Greek Imperatives (Commands) to warn against Giving the Devil Opportunities to disrupt walking by faith in the Christian way of life.

Paul used **one positive** and **three negative** imperatives to teach the danger of it.

- **Be angry** (orgizo) (p.p. impv.2pl) [Righteous indignation] **(POSITIVE)**
 - Anger for giving the devil an opportunity without drawing the Sword of the Spirit (Eph.6:17) on the devil.
 - **There is so much evil today in the USA. It is obvious that the devil is making a big push because he thinks he has the church on the ropes and is going for the knock-out punch.**
- **Do not sin** (me hamartano) (p.a. impv.2p) **(Negative) STOP!**
- **Do not let the sun go down** (me Epiduo) (p. impv.2pl) **on your anger**
 - **Mental Attitude Sin** (parorgismos) [a cluster of MAS] **STOP!**
- **Do not give** (mede didomi) (p.a. impv.2pl) **the devil an opportunity** (topos) **STOP!**

Read about the seven churches of (Rev.1-3). **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

2. “Be angry” is a positive command directed to the New Man Divine Viewpoint thinking believer!

(Eph.4:24) “And **put on (enduo/ a.m.infin) the new man** (ton kainos anthropos) (1 Cor.15:22), which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

What is of interest is that (Eph.4:20-24) is one Greek sentence.

It has three aorist infinitives attached to “**were taught**” (didasko) (a.p.ind2pl) **in Him** (4:21)”: **Put off** (apotithemi) (a.m.infin) (4:22) **and Be renewed** (ananeomai) (p.p.infin) (4:23) **and Put on** (enduo) (a.m.infin) (4:24).

“Be angry and sin not” is righteous indignation of what the devil is allowed to do without the spiritually advancing believer drawing their Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and fighting back against him! (Eph.6:10-17).

- It is a war against an invisible, but very real enemy! (Eph.6:11-12) It is a war between God’s absolute truth and the devil’s (relativity) lies! (John 8:44-47)
- It is war of conformity to the world’s (satan’s) system! (1 Cor.1-3) [spirit of the world] (1 John 5:19) verses [transformation by the renewing of your minds] to the Will of God (Rom.12:2).

3. Pay special attention to the three negative commands given (Eph.4:26-27) that are the result of not handling anger properly as righteous indignation by letting God handle it in His way.

If you are interested, we will be studying it at our [Wednesday’s Bible study](#) from the Life of Elijah in (1 Kings 18) as an example of this doctrinal principle.

These three negatives are the very things you will have to STOP and PUT OFF (lay aside) to prevent giving the devil an opportunity to disrupt your walk of faith (Gal.5:7-8).

- **Be angry but. (1 Cor.5:1-13 and 2 Cor.2:6-11)**
 - Do not sin (mental attitude sin) (Jas.1:14-15) (1 John 1:9)
 - Do not let the sun go down on your anger (parorgismos)
 - Do not build a cluster of sins [mountains out of mole hills] rather address it immediately!
 - DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY - STOP

How do you give the Devil an opportunity in context? (2 Cor.2:11)

4. The Spiritual Problem-Solving Device for not giving the devil an opportunity is given by James in:

(Jas.4:7) “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

(1 John 5:19) “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He (Holy Spirit) who is in you than he who is in the world (devil). (1 John 4:4).

(1 Pet.5:8-9) “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith.” [The prize] (2 Cor.11:3)