Speak Up, Christian By Becky Combee

The Scripture is very definitive when it states, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." It does not say that he might flee or that he could flee. It says HE WILL. The Voice Translation declares, "he will run away in failure." I don't like failure, but I am overjoyed at the devil's failure.

The devil cannot succeed because Jesus defeated him at Calvary. When Jesus arose from the dead, Satan had been disarmed, paralyzed, and stripped of power. The King James Version of the Bible relays these thoughts with the word "spoiled." Jesus spoiled principalities and powers.² We understand that when food is spoiled it must be discarded. It is of no use. It is not beneficial. Because Satan seeks to kill, steal, and destroy, He will not benefit our lives. We must resist him, and we can resist him successfully.

The word "resist" is very interesting and very important. It is not passive, but aggressive. We aggressively withstand Satan's tactics with the energy of heaven, opposing him without compromise. With all the power given to us by our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, we refuse his entrance in family affairs or finances. We do not allow him to discourage us or steal our faith.

We are citizens of heaven.³ God is our Father, and we live and function in His Kingdom. The principles of His Kingdom guide our behavior and arm us for victory. The presence of the Greater

One is in us, empowers us and teaches us, so that we can triumph. As we walk in obedience, we enjoy abundant life, unfathomable peace, and love beyond measure. The devil cannot undermine a child of God who lives in the shadow of the great King of Glory.⁴

In the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul writes, "Having done all, to stand." This is our

Run Off The Crow By Suzanne D. Williams

The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those are oppressed [who downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity], To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day [I]when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound]. (Lk 4:18-19 AMPC)

Earlier this year, I asked my husband to move my birdfeeder to a new location where I could see it more often and enjoy the birds that visit. As the days warmed and the months changed, so did bird posture as we aggressively oppose the devil. If we are passive, we do SOME things and then we SIT. Our words of defeat give supremacy to our disarmed and paralyzed foe. I heard a phrase which helped me immensely—"Don't exercise defeat." Our words defeat us, giving great strength to

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Satan's ploy. He becomes stronger and stronger in our lives as we speak of loss, failure, delay, timidity, worry, and fear.

The light of heaven grows brighter and brighter in our lives when we embrace God's Word. Instead of saying we can't, we boldly declare, "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." We refuse to moan and groan because of great lack, giving Satan grounds to continually steal from us. Loudly we say, "My God shall supply

all [my] needs."⁷ We do not honor sickness and disease, which is a work of the devil, but we continually speak of God's great healing power. Through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are healed. The prophet Isaiah writes, "Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering."⁸

The devil is as a roaring lion. Lions are territorial and roar in the dead of night to protect the land on which they live and to claim ownership of the lions in their pride. A group of lions is called a pride. When a lion roars at a Christian, he is declaring ownership. His roar says, "You are mine." This is his greatest deception and the source of my overwhelming victory. I BELONG TO GOD! I am a child of God, a member of the Body of Christ, a high priest in the house of God.

So, what should I do? The Message Bible says it so well. "Yell a loud no to the Devil and his schemes." Therefore, boldly we say, "In Jesus' Names, Satan I bind you and command you to flee." The Bible says he *will* flee. "He will run away from you." Why? Because through Jesus death, he was defeated, expelled and thrown out. 11

Drive Him out with your words. Don't let him roar at you. **Speak up, Christian.** Speak up!



(Continued from "Run Off The Crow")

behavior. I still saw the regulars, but the change in seasons sent the winter birds north and brought in others I see more commonly in the summer.

Different birds eat different types of seeds, so I try to offer a mix that appeals to many, but unfortunately, there's always that pesky Crow, which will eat anything. No birds like the Crow. The Mockingbird flies at him continually; Crows will eat their young. The other birds that usually sit at the feeder won't approach it, and give the Crow an hour, the feeder is empty.

A lot of days, we treat our lives just like that birdfeeder. We let the Crow consume all the seeds then wonder why the good things don't show up. Jesus made a proclamation in Luke 4 as to what we should expect of our salvation, but nowhere in the

gospels or the books that follow does the Bible say these things won't require running off the Crow.

That Crow returns every day in the hopes I'll change my mind and allow him to sit there and take what he wants, and every day, I get up and hiss and wave my arms until he flies away. Daily, in this manner, we must stand against the wiles, strategies, tricks of the devil. He spots that abundance God has given us and flies in, hoping we've turned our backs.

But I will not set down my armor, so the Crow can consume my seed. I will water it with my words, fertilize it with truth from the Word of God, and share it with the people He's placed around me. I will pray in faith. I will stand, clothed in salvation. I will stay alert, watchful for the devil's attack. I will resist him when it comes. 13

Every time.