

THE ENEMY WITHIN

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” **NASB**

It is true that the devil is in direct opposition to what Jesus is doing in us.

But!

It's also true that we oppose ourselves.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 “Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” **NASB**

How do we avoid opposing ourselves?

First: verse 22

Flee youthful lusts pertains not only to physical age but spiritual age as well.

1 Timothy 6:9 “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful **lusts**, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” **KJV**

The Message says to **Run from Infantile indulgences**

That is doing what one wants to do.

Not my will but your will O' God

This will cause you to oppose the devil, not yourself.

Second: verse 23

Avoid strife by avoiding foolish and unlearned questions.

The Message says refuse to get involved with **inane discussions**.

Inane - silly, senseless, empty, and void.

Kenneth Hagin had a reputation for being very closed mouthed.

His reasoning for it is found in **Proverbs 10:19**

Proverbs 10:19 “When there are many words, transgression and offense are unavoidable, But he who controls his lips and keeps thoughtful silence is wise his lips is wise.” **AMPLIFIED**

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 MESSAGE

We will be judged by every idle word.

Third: verse 25

Acknowledge the truth through repentance.

What do we repent of? Sin of course.

What is sin? Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.” **MESSAGE**

So, whenever we respond to God in unbelief, we sin.

There are two kinds of unbelief.

First:

Unbelief based upon ignorance.

Hosea 4:6 “My **people** are destroyed for lack of knowledge (instruction).”

We oppose ourselves when we don't have the proper instructions to live our lives.

Even though we are walking in unbelief due to lack of knowledge, the result is the same.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. You are still judge by the law.

The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

That's why we need instruction from God

Second:

Unbelief based upon disobedience.

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected (despised) knowledge (instruction), I also will reject (despise) you from being my priest. Since you have forgotten (ignored) the law of your God, I also will forget (ignore) your children." **NASB**

You oppose yourself by walking in unbelief based upon disobedience.

Despising knowledge or instruction is the same as despising God.

You can't be a priest of God and ignore His laws.

Generational curses are the results of this kind of unbelief, since God will ignore your children.

1 Samuel 2:27-36 AMPLIFIED verses 29 and 34

Eli's two sons. Worthless, good for nothing, unprofitable, base fellow, wicked.

HOW DO WE RECOVER FROM OPPOSING OURSELVES?

BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRUTH!

2 Timothy 2:25

With a **repentant heart**, we must start **acting on the knowledge of the truth we have.**

Luke 6: 46-49 "Why are you so polite with me, always saying 'Yes, sir,' and 'That's right, sir,' but never doing a thing I tell you? These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on. If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss." **Message**