The Choice

Intro: As a basis turn to 1 Pet. 5:5-11 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stabl

Joshua told Israel to choose whom they would serve in Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

God and Satan become two magnets attracting men.

1. Satan appeals to man through lust, and ignorance.
   a. Eph. 2:1-3 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
   b. John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

2. God appeals to man through the truth, ideals, and lasting values.
   a. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   b. Phi. 2:7-8 “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 7And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
   c. Phi. 3:16 “Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.”
   d. Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

3. Let’s study Peter’s description of both, then see the right choice as to whom you will serve.

I. SATAN
   A. 1 Pet. 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”
   B. He is man’s adversary; 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
      1. Technically adversary means an opponent in a lawsuit.
      2. This trial concerns life and death; Mat. 25:41, 46 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:... 46And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
      3. Trial in life (we can see it in)
         a. Example of Christ; John 1:10 “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.”
         b. John 15:18-21 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because
ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.”

C. **He seeks to devour man; 1 Pet. 5:8**  “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

1. **The devil seeks to conquer man’s mind; 2 Cor. 11:3** “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

2. **He seeks to enslave man to the desires of the devil; John 8:44** “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

**II. GOD**

A. **1 Pet. 5:5-7, 10** “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 5Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 6Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

B. **Cast anxiety upon God; 1 Pet. 5:7** “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”; **Psa. 55:22** “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

1. **Worry can be a heavy burden for one to bear.**

2. **God can work all things for good; Rom. 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

C. **God who is able, cares; Rom. 5:6-9** “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 6For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 7But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 8Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

1. **Even if parents forsake us (they would be the last people on earth who would) God still cares; Psa. 27:10** “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.”

2. **God can provide for our needs; Mat. 6:25-33.**

**III. THE CHOICE TO SERVE GOD MEANS.**

A. **Humbles himself under God’s mighty hand (power).**

1. **He recognizes dependence upon God.**

2. **He will be obedient to God; Heb. 5:8-9** “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

B. **All anxiety is cast upon God, therefore:**

1. **The Christian rejoices in the Lord; Phi. 4:4** “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
2. **Has hope of eternal life;** 1 Pet. 1:5-9 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations; That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ; Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

3. **Has peace passing understanding;** Phi. 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

**C. Resist the devil;** 1 Pet. 5:9 “Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

1. Jam. 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

2. Jesus resisted the devil with God’s word; Mat. 4:1-12 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

3. One cannot serve God and the devil; Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

**D. One is called unto eternal glory;** 1 Pet. 5:10 “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

1. God calls men by the gospel; 2 The. 2:13-14 “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. He calls men to salvation from sin; Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

3. He calls men to eternal salvation in heaven; 1 Pet. 1:5-9 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations; That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ; Whom having not seen, ye love; in
whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

4. This eternal salvation involves glory, honor, and immortality; Rom. 2:7 “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.”

Conclusion: Often men reverse in practices the instruction of these verses. Too often men resist God (Mat. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”) and draw nigh unto the devil (Jam. 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”).