



## Persistence Wears Down Resistance

GLORIA COPELAND & PASTOR GEORGE PEARSONS

### DAY 1—The Devil's Strategy

**"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:  
and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

**Who is he that overcometh the world,  
but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

—1 John 5:4-5

#### A. Ephesians 6:10-11—The Devil's Strategies

1. NKJV: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
2. *Wiles* (GK) METHODEIA = Methods, strategies, trickery, deceits
3. 2 Corinthians 2:11: "...We are not ignorant of his devices."

#### B. Luke 22:31-32—The Devil Uses the "Pile Up" Technique

1. NKJV: "And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.'"
2. What has the devil been constantly saying to you?
3. What has the devil been constantly doing to you?
4. He keeps the pressure on us by being persistent and not letting up.
5. The devil's constant persistence is a major strategy designed to:
  - a. Wear down our resistance to stand
  - b. Weaken our resolve to fight
  - c. Keep us from fulfilling the plan of God for our lives

#### C. Persistence Wears Down Resistance

1. Persistence is a firm course of action, in spite of difficulty or opposition.
2. Persistence applies non-stop, steady, relentless pressure on a situation.
3. Persistence does not let go or give up until all resistance is broken and the desired result is attained.
  - a. There is no such thing as a faith vacation.
  - b. Standing is a constant thing
  - c. Standing becomes a way of life, a lifestyle to you.
4. Persistence can come from the enemy or it can come from us.
  - a. Who is going to be the most persistent?





5. We should be the ones exercising relentless persistence in order to wear down the enemy's resistance.
  - a. James 4:7 (NKJV): "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
  - b. 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV): "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith."
  - d. Luke 11:5-8 (AMPC)

## Notes

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### DAY 2—The Enemy's Persistence

#### A. Ephesians 6:10-11—The Devil's Strategies

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3. He keeps the pressure on us by being persistent and not letting up.
4. The devil's constant persistence is a major strategy designed to:
  - a. Wear down our resistance to stand
  - b. Weaken our resolve to fight
5. Persistence does not let go or give up until all resistance is broken and the desired result is attained.
  - a. Either you do this or the devil does it.
  - b. This is a boxing match in the spirit. Who's going to win?
  - c. The last one standing is the one who wins.

#### B. I Samuel 17—Goliath's Persistence Wore Down Israel's Resistance

1. Verses 8-11 (NLT): "Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. 'Why are you all coming out to fight?' he called. 'I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!' When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken."
2. Verse 16 (NLT): "For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army."
  - a. That's what the devil does. He does it day and night.
  - b. This is why we have to do what Joshua 1:5-8 says—day and night.
3. Verses 22-25 (NLT): "David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright."

#### C. Judges 16:16-17—Delilah's Persistence Wore Down Sampson's Resistance

1. "When she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; that he told her all his heart."



2. CEV: "Delilah started nagging and pestering him day after day, until he couldn't stand it any longer."
3. GNT: "She kept on asking him, day after day. He got so sick and tired of her bothering him about it that he finally told her the truth."
4. GW: Every day she made his life miserable with her questions. She pestered him until he wished he were dead."
  - a. Has the devil been making your life miserable? Stop listening to him!
5. Verses 15-17 (NLT): "Then Delilah pouted, 'How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!' She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. 'My hair has never been cut,' he confessed, 'for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else.'"

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### DAY 3—How to Resist the Devil

#### A. James 4:7—Resist the Devil

1. AMPC: “Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.”
2. “You’ve got to hand it to the devil—he is a persistent cuss!”
3. The devil’s plan is to constantly persist in his maneuvers until he wears us down and we give up.
4. We can use the very same weapon of persistence on the devil.
5. Our persistence in God’s Word will wear down the devil’s resistance.

#### B. A Greek Study of the Word “Resist”

1. *Resist* (GK) = To stand against; to stand in opposition
2. “It is a word that demonstrates the attitude of one who is fiercely opposed to something and therefore determines that he will do everything within his power to resist it, to stand against it and to defy its opposition.” —*Sparkling Gems From the Greek*, by Rick Renner
3. An expanded and more contemporary interpretation could read: “Stand firmly against the devil! That’s right—be unbending and unyielding in the way you resist him so that he knows he is up against a serious contender. If you’ll take this kind of stand against him, he will tuck his tail and run like a criminal who knows the day of prosecution is upon him. Once you start resisting him, he will flee from you in terror!” —*Sparkling Gems From the Greek*, by Rick Renner
4. The devil endeavored to wear down Jesus’ resistance through the temptations in the wilderness.
5. Jesus showed us exactly how to resist the devil’s persistence.

#### C. Luke 4:1-14—Jesus Resisted the Devil’s Persistence

1. Verses 1-4 (NKJV): “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing....And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’ But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”
  - a. We answer the temptation.
  - b. We answer the fear.
  - c. We declare out loud, speaking the Word of God.
2. Verses 5-8 (NKJV): “Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.’ And Jesus answered and





said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

- a. Speak the Word of God—that's how the devil backs off.
  - b. The spoken Word of God contains the necessary dynamite—explosive power—to cause the devil to back away from you.
  - c. 2 Chronicles 20:22—Praise pushes back the enemy and causes him to fall.
3. Verses 9-12 (NKJV): "Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'It has been said, You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"
- a. James 1:2-4—When the devil is pounding at you, it's an opportunity to stand strong in the Word.
4. Verse 13 (NKJV): "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."
- a. TPT: "That finished the devil's harassment for the time being. So he stood off at a distance, retreating until the time came to return and tempt Jesus again."
5. Verse 14 (NKJV): "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region."
- a. TPT: "Then Jesus, armed with the Holy Spirit's power, returned to Galilee, and his fame spread throughout the region."

**"We must be more persistent with the truth of God's Word  
than the devil is with his lies."**

—Pastor George Pearsons

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### DAY 4—The Persistent Widow

**“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:  
and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

**Who is he that overcometh the world,  
but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

—1 John 5:4-5

**You were designed by God to be a success in every realm of your life.**

—Pastor George Pearsons

#### A. Ephesians 6:10-11—The Devil's Strategies

1. NKJV: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
2. *Wiles* (GK) METHODEIA = Methods, strategies, trickery, deceits
3. He keeps the pressure on us by being persistent and not letting up.
4. We fight back the same way.
5. Our persistence in faith is designed to wear down the devil's resistance until he gives up and our desired results are attained.

#### B. Luke 18:1-3—The Persistent Widow

1. Verse 1 (AMPC): “Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).”
  - a. Note: Don't let up on your faith.
2. Verse 2 (AMPC): “He said, In a certain city there was a judge who neither revered and feared God nor respected or considered man.”
3. Verse 3 (AMPC): “And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Protect and defend and give me justice against my adversary.”
  - a. NLT: She came to him repeatedly.
4. Verse 4 (AMPC): “And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, Though I have neither reverence or fear for God nor respect or consideration for man.”
  - a. Don't let time affect your faith.
5. Verse 5 (AMPC): “Yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend and protect and avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance and wear me out by her continual coming or at the last she come and rail on me or assault me or strangle me.”
  - a. NLT: “This woman is driving me crazy! ...She is wearing me out with her constant requests!”





- b. Her persistence was wearing down his resistance.
6. Verse 6 (AMPC): “Then the Lord said, Listen to what the unjust judge says!”
7. Verse 7 (AMPC): “And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will he defer them and delay help on their behalf?”
  - a. “Crying day and night” is relentlessly declaring the Word and standing in faith.
  - b. There’s a breakthrough that takes place in the spirit realm.
8. Verse 8 (AMPC): “I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?”

### C. The Widow's Strategy

1. She would not take “no” for an answer.
2. She was relentless and insistent.
3. She did not stop until she got what she wanted.
4. She refused to give up.
5. She tenaciously, stubbornly, and persistently kept coming and would not quit.

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### DAY 5—How Persistent Faith Works

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2. Verse 16 (NLT): "For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army."
3. Verses 22-24 (NLT): "David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright."

#### C. I Samuel 17:41-54—David's Persistence Wore Down Goliath's Resistance

1. Verses 41-44 (NLT): "Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 'Am I a dog,' he roared at David, 'that you come at me with a stick?' ...he cursed David by the names of his gods. 'Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!' Goliath yelled."
2. Verses 45-47 (NLT): "David replied... 'You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!'"



3. Verses 48-51: "As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran."

**We don't need to run *from* the enemy—we need to run *to* the enemy  
with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.**

—Pastor George Pearsons

#### D. How Persistent Faith Works

1. Goliath came daily with words.
2. David came back at Goliath with words.
3. We must come daily with persistent words of faith.
4. We are going to have to apply non-stop, constant, steady, relentless pressure on the Word, the Covenant and the devil—not letting go and not giving up until all resistance is broken and the desired result is attained.
  - a. Begin to exercise a persistence in your faith with the words that you speak and shut it down!
5. We must...
  - a. Keep on saying by faith.
  - b. Keep on believing by faith.
  - c. Keep on receiving by faith.
  - d. Keep on pressing by faith.

#### E. Persistent Faith Confession

In the Name of Jesus, I have persistent, bulldog faith.

I won't give up.

I won't let go until my mission is accomplished.

I apply pressure to my covenant.

I apply pressure to the devil.

I will continue...

...to stand on the Word.

...to live by love.

...to walk by faith and not by sight.

I will keep doing this until all resistance is broken and I have the desired result.

I am stubborn!

I am tenacious!

I am persistent!

My bulldog persistence wears down the devil's resistance!

