

## Re:Easter Blog – 8<sup>th</sup> March

### Resistance

The reading in last week's blog reminded us that '*all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted*' and Chrissie Bushell picked up that theme of humbling ourselves on Sunday morning (from 2 Chron 7:14). This week's reading from James 4 assures us that God will 'lift up those who humble themselves'. But this week's theme isn't just about submitting to God or humbling ourselves before the Lord but it is about resistance – resisting the devil. Have you ever even thought about that as something that we should be doing as followers of King Jesus?

'Allo 'Allo or SS-GB both might conjure up some sort of picture of what the Resistance might be, and so we might see ourselves as plucky underdogs in a rear guard action against the enemy. But if we see spiritual warfare in that context we may have got the wrong end of the stick! King Jesus has already won the victory so the outcome is certain – the devil is defeated and it is he who is still trying to inflict damage on us and on God's world while he still can. The promise to us is that, if we simply stand firm against the devil (Ephesians 6:10-14) and resist him, he will flee!

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.<sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.<sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.* James 4:7-10

(For more on this passage you might enjoy reading <http://www.challies.com/reading-classics-together/10-ways-to-resist-the-devil> )

As with last week's blog, however, the problem doesn't lie in the devil's strength but in our own propensity to 'not resist' - to be weak or lazy or double-minded or even to be self-confident as far as sin is concerned. 1 Corinthians 10:12-14 contains such a warning but it also comes with God's promise to help us resist and stand when temptation does come.

**Prayer** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZXsXAXzj90> )

**There is power in the name of Jesus. We believe in His name. We have called on the name of Jesus, We are saved! We are saved! At His name the demons flee; At His name captives are freed For there is no other name that is higher than Jesus!**

**There is power in the name of Jesus like a sword in our hands. We declare in the name of Jesus We shall stand! We shall stand! At His name God's enemies Shall be crushed beneath our feet For there is no other name that is higher than Jesus!**

### Action

"Resist the devil.... " The first week's blog suggested the action of 'mentally and morally turning from a specific secret sinful attitude or outlook that we hold onto'. What sets up in us the temptation to give in to our secret sins? When that situation, or trigger, or opportunity (temptation) comes along this week, call on God's help and strength to resist – and the devil will flee!