**RESIST !**

***Join The Movement***

We are now living in an age of resistance. Everywhere you turn you see signs which tell you to join their resistance movement against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). I wish I had a dollar for every call or commercial or mailing that asked me to become a part of their resistance movement. I might not be a millionaire, yet, but would at least be a hundred-aire.

Resistance movements have been around as long as the earth has rotated around the sun. Throughout history men have always rebelled against the powers-that-be and sought to overthrow governments, militaries, and other power structures that they didn’t like. During wars there have been underground resistance forces that work covertly to help overthrow the invaders. Coups are nothing more than one leader seeking to remove another leader from power by force of arms or uprising by the people. In short, depending on the side you are on, resistance can be good or bad. If you prefer the status-quo then resistance is bad. If you hate the present situation then resistance is good.

With that said, can I jump on the bandwagon and make an appeal to you to join another resistance movement? My sales pitch is not to join a new political group or environmental clan or military leader, but to join the oldest, and greatest, resistance movement in history. Our slogans and banners we march with are found in the following signs written by the finger of God:

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9* ***Resist him*** *steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” -* I Pet. 5:8

*“Therefore submit to God.* ***Resist the devil*** *and he will flee from you.” –* Jam. 4:7

*“For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet* ***resisted to bloodshed****,* ***striving against sin****.” -* Heb 12: 3

*“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to* ***stand*** *against the wiles of the devil. For we do not* ***wrestle*** *against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to* ***withstand*** *in the evil day, and having done all, to* ***stand****.* ***Stand*** *therefore, having girded your waist with truth…” -* Eph. 6:11-17

The word “resist” is the Greek word *ANTHISTEMI* and carries the meaning of “set oneself against; oppose; withstand.” You see in it the will to fight, to challenge, to defy the enemy. There is no passive nature to one who will risk danger or death to oppose the enemy. Christians cannot be spiritual pacifist. We are activist. We are resisters.

In the Christian’s great war against Satan (and make no mistake, this is total war) we are to “*resist* him (the devil) steadfast in the faith” and “*resist* to bloodshed” and “*withstand* (*anthistemi*) in the evil day” and “*stand* (*histemi*) against the wiles of the devil.” Look again at Hebrews 12:4 where it reminds us we are to “***strive*** against sin.” Look at the Greek word for strive and see if you can see the English – *ANTAGONIZOMAI*.

Facing Satan and sin we are to be antagonists! We stand face to face, toe to toe, sword to sword challenging our spiritual enemy to fight to the death! We refuse to be intimidated by his supposed superior strength. A perfect illustration of why we should courageously refuse to fear Satan is the fantastic story of Elisha and his servant the day they faced a Syrian army of 180,000 soldiers. When Elisha’s servant peeked over the wall one morning and saw they were surrounded and hopelessly doomed, he cried to his master, “*What shall we do*?” Elisha, calmly and confidently, answered him exactly the way we should as we resist the devil.

*“So Elisha answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha*.” (2 Kgs 6:16-18)

John, writing in the context of encouraging saints to join God’s resistance movement (“*test every spirit … many false prophets have gone out into the world …*”), said exactly what Elisha told his servant: *“You are of God, little children, and have* ***overcome*** *them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”* (I John 4:1-4).Believe it or not Christians are the silent majority. Read that again: Christians are the silent majority. No, we are not the majority in the flesh, but in the spirit world we are the *overcomers* (Greek *NIKE* – victors, winners, conquerors, champions).

Remember, on our side are not only the “*great cloud of witnesses*” (Heb. 12:1) who have lived on earth and overcome Satan, but there are the myriads of angels on God’s side too. See for yourself: *“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands”* (Revelation 5:11).

Do you remember the Chinese Resistance of the Communist at Tiananmen Square? Remember the photo of the young man who stood facing the terrifying tanks? If not, look it up. It is the very image God wants from me. If given the order they would have flattened him like a pancake, but he stood his ground, not knowing the outcome. I hope Christ sees in me, like I saw in that young man, the courage to “*resist the devil and he will flee from you*.” When you join “The Resistance Movement” of Christ you are joining the only sure winning side in history. We know how this turns out.

While I am sick and tired of all the upheaval going on in the world right now, it does serve the purpose of reminding me that I too must put my comforts aside and join the Resistance against Satan. If I choose to be neutral I will pay the price with my soul.

Until tomorrow… “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing” – Edmund Burke Join the Resistance!

I love you. Rick