

No. 25 Resist the Spirit of the World!

PLEASE NOTE: Help newly interested ones to understand why they must resist the world's spirit and how to do so. Use illustrations and experiences to show the practical benefit of doing so. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

WHAT IS "THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD"? (5 min.)

Why are so many people selfish, proud, and rebellious?

Human society is influenced by a powerful, invisible force—"the spirit of the world" [Read 1 Corinthians 2:12]

The spirit of the world is the way of thinking and behaving that comes from Satan [Read Ephesians 2:2] (/vs 63-64 ¶7-8) [Image 1]

The spirit of the world reflects Satan's proud, selfish personality

It promotes independence from God and moves people to act selfishly (w12 10/15 13 ¶4)

WHY RESIST THE WORLD'S SPIRIT? (5 min.)

Satan challenged Jehovah's sovereignty and claimed that humans have the right to be independent from God (Ge 3:1-5)

Satan uses the spirit of the world to entice people to join him in his rebellion

The way of life promoted by Satan is dangerous and harmful (Ga 6:7, 8)

Following Jehovah's guidance leads to a successful, happy life (Ps 32:8; 34:8)

One who desires to "draw close to God" must avoid being "a friend of the world" (Jas 4:4, 8)

HOW TO RESIST THE WORLD'S SPIRIT (12 min.)

Show respect for authority

Those influenced by the world's spirit often lack respect for authority

Choose to accept the loving rule of Jehovah God and his Son, Jesus Christ (Isa 33:22; Eph 4:15)

Jehovah's arrangement for headship in the family and in the congregation promotes peace and unity (1Co 11:3; Heb 13:17)

Obey secular authorities as long as doing so does not conflict with God's law (Ac 5:29; Ro 13:1, 2)

Live according to Jehovah's moral standards

Those influenced by the world's spirit insist on setting their own standards of right and wrong (Eph 4:17-19)

Learn and apply Jehovah's standards; reject "the works of the flesh" inspired by the world's spirit (Ga 5:19-21; Col 3:5-10)

Doing so promotes physical and emotional well-being (Ps 19:8)

Lead a simple life focused on doing God's will

Satan uses "the desire of the eyes" to promote greed and to distract many from serving God (1Jo 2:15, 16)

Avoid the pursuit of wealth and possessions (Mt 6:22, 24, 33; w11 5/15 12 ¶4)

You can be confident that Jehovah will provide for your material needs

BE LED BY HOLY SPIRIT (8 min.)

Holy spirit can help you resist the spirit of the world [Read Galatians 5:16] (nwt 1701, "Holy spirit")

God's spirit has motivating power and can strengthen you to reject fleshly traits (1Co 6:11; Eph 2:3; 3:16) [Image 2]

In prayer earnestly ask God to give you his holy spirit (Lu 11:13)

Allow God's spirit to guide your thoughts and actions (w18.02 25 ¶12)

Avoid exposure to anything that promotes the spirit of the world

Regularly examine your choices of associations and entertainment and make any needed adjustments (Ps 101:3; Pr 13:20)

Let God's holy spirit be the dominant force in your life

You will enjoy Jehovah's friendship and have the privilege of proving Satan's challenge false (Pr 27:11)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

© 2020 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

S-34-E No. 25 10/20