

Series Introduction: Resisting the Opposition to God's Will

“1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 2 in which you previously walked according to *the ways of this world*, according to *the ruler of the power of the air*, the spirit now working in the disobedient. 3 We too all previously lived among them in the passions of *our flesh*, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.”

Ephesians 2:1–3

Prior to becoming Christians, we lived according to three powerful influences. *First*, “we walked according to the ways of this *world*,” which is the evil parts of culture (v. 2). *Second*, we walked “according to the ruler of the power of the air,” a clear reference to the devil, who both works within the disobedient and enslaves them to his will (v. 2; cf. 2 Tim. 2:26). *Third*, we *were carried along by* and we *carried out* the passions of our flesh, our sinful disposition (v. 3). Because of our sin nature and our sinful actions, we were under the wrath of God, which is his irresistible judgment on those who oppose him (v. 3). For all who are Christians, the death of Christ has decisively broken the power of those three influences in our lives, and yet they still draw us away from intimacy with God and obedience to him.

The purpose of this series is to explain passages and doctrines that help us understand the influences of the world, the flesh, and the devil. For each lesson, we identify practical strategies to resist them, and to seek more intimate communion with God and his people.

This series focuses on the following *passages of Scripture* and *summaries of sound doctrine* (also called *sound teaching*):

Lesson	Primary Scripture Passages	Sound Doctrine
One	Psalm 2:1–3, John 3:16–21, 1 John 2:15–17	Resisting the World
Two	Romans 8:8–13, Galatians 5:16–24, James 4:1–6	Resisting the Flesh
Three	Ephesians 6:10–20	Resisting the Devil