

STOP RESISTING ARREST

If we are willing to stop resisting Jesus, it will literally transform our character, and the essence of who we are as people, in a powerful and dramatic way.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ To be arrested is defined as the action of seizing someone to take them into custody or to seize someone by legal authority and take them into custody.
- ❖ When most people think about others being arrested, they think about the police apprehending someone based on the suspicion they have committed or helped to commit a crime.
- ❖ How then should we respond when Jesus is the one trying to arrest or apprehend us?
- ❖ In Philippians 3:12 (NLT), Paul says he was “possessed” by Jesus. The King James Version of this verse says that Paul was “apprehended” by Jesus.
- ❖ Now, Paul wasn’t just arrested by Jesus without a reason.
- ❖ Paul said he wanted to fulfill the purpose for which Jesus had arrested him.
- ❖ Jesus is trying to arrest all of us to fulfill His purpose and we need to stop resisting arrest.
- ❖ To explain the concept of resisting being arrested by Jesus, we should think about Jesus himself.
- ❖ When Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, there was a struggle of purpose or wills: follow the purpose/will of God or follow the purpose/will of His human desires (see Matthew 26:36-44).
- ❖ Ultimately, He surrendered to the purpose of God for His life (Galatians 5:17).
- ❖ It is important to note that this was a serious struggle for the man Christ Jesus. It will also be a struggle for us. But by the power of God’s Spirit and our willingness to obey, we will overcome.
- ❖ As mentioned before, Paul also had to go through the experience of having to stop resisting the arrest of Jesus. (See Acts 9:1-6.)
- ❖ Paul, who was formerly known as Saul, was a Hebrew Pharisee who was so committed to the Old Testament teachings that he persecuted Jewish people who had accepted Jesus as their saviour.
- ❖ Paul thought that his actions were pleasing to God. But what he had been doing was resisting the revelation being taught by the followers of Jesus. Paul had been blinded by his own desires and passions.
- ❖ We are like Paul in many ways: pursuing our own desires and passions and believing they are pleasing to God—when they actually are not.
- ❖ We may be resisting arrest by Jesus. This occurs when we resist the revelation of His word or the teaching of His followers.
- ❖ Eventually, Paul encountered a light from heaven that he could not ignore (Acts 9:3).

KEY SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

- ❖ What has Jesus been doing to get our attention, to get us to stop resisting arrest? What will it take for Him to finally get our attention?
- ❖ If we are willing to stop resisting Jesus, it will literally transform our character, and the essence of who we are as people, in a powerful and dramatic way.
- ❖ By the time Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he had already surrendered to Jesus arresting him. He warned them to not follow the doctrine he used to teach—the same doctrine that he was willing to kill people for when they did not follow it.
- ❖ But now he had been arrested by Jesus. And he had surrendered to being arrested by Jesus.
- ❖ As a result, his life’s focus, his priorities, had changed. (See Philippians 3:7-10.)
- ❖ Paul, who had advanced knowledge of the Jewish law, only wanted to know Jesus after he surrendered. He wanted to know Him and experience Him in a powerful way (v. 10).
- ❖ Paul recognized that Jesus had apprehended him, so that he could apprehend Jesus’ purpose for his life.
- ❖ That purpose was to show God’s character to the world through his life and ultimately to be resurrected from the dead to live with Jesus in heaven for eternity.
- ❖ Ironically, Paul was in prison when wrote his letter to the Philippians. He had been arrested by the authorities because he had allowed himself to be arrested by Jesus.
- ❖ By surrendering to being arrested by Jesus, Paul was transformed from being Saul, which means “ask or question,” to being Paul, which means “small or humble.”
- ❖ We need to stop resisting arrest and surrender to Jesus.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. List and discuss obstacles we may face when attempting to surrender to the will of Jesus.
2. How can a person (both followers and non-followers of Christ) stop resisting the arrest of Jesus in their lives?
3. How can the life of a Christian positively impact those they interact with because of the fact they have surrendered to Jesus?
4. Why do you think faith is important in the process of surrendering to Jesus (see Phil. 3:9)?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me to sincerely surrender to Your will and purpose for my life.

Start-up: What does "surrendering" mean to you? Have you ever had to do so; how did it make you feel and what did you learn from the experience?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline