

DON'T REACT!

I watched the end of a documentary about the life of birds. I saw a highly intelligent crow, the New Caledonian Crow, from the Pacific island of New Caledonia. It feeds on the fat grubs of beetles that lie hidden in tree trunks but it cannot reach deep enough into the wood with its short beak. So the crow selects a stick to prod and poke the grub to agitate it, persisting with its jabbing until the grub reacts. The grub has big jaws with which it attacks the stick, gripping it hard. Up to that point the grub was safe from predators. As soon as it reacted to the crows probing, holding on to the stick and refusing to let go, the crow pulled out the stick and ate the grub. Very clever!

This is such a powerful parable for us as we stand against the devil's wicked schemes. When we trust God, we are in a secure place, shielded in his fortress and nothing can harm us. The devil may send his fiery darts against us—the Bible says he prowls around seeking to devour us—but if we don't react to his goading taunts with fear, anger, bitterness, resentment, self-pity, hurt, despair, doubt or unbelief, he cannot pull us from our position of peace in God. If we respond negatively to what Satan says or does, he may have the victory over us. On the other hand, if we continue to praise God, trust him, remain in his peace, believe his word and be still, we remain in our security and we thwart the attacks of our enemy. Satan may use the systems, circumstances, people, troubles and authorities of this world against us, using them like the crow used its stick, but when we have God's Holy Spirit in us and believe his Word we have the power in us to resist and not react in the spirit.

That power is called grace—grace to rejoice, pray, give thanks, forgive, hope and love in all circumstances. We need to remain in the ways of the Holy Spirit, letting peace rule in our hearts, having grace to stand firm and continue to stand firm.

We have a choice: don't react!