

**Fresh Fire Ministries**  
**The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver**

**“Give No Place to the Devil”**

*“Nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)*

Born again believers are new creations in Jesus Christ our Lord. At the precise moment of our conversion experience, the old man that was born in sin and shaped in iniquity is gone, and a new man is born, or in spiritual and biblical terms, we are born again. During our walk with the Lord we obviously battle with the challenges and circumstances of sin. We can't escape its influence. It is something that we must deal with in our flesh until Jesus comes. Along with the obvious instances of sin, many grapple with identifying what is sin and what is not because there is often a fine line between good and evil. However there is no debate about who the perpetrator of sin and evil is; the devil himself. **“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.” I John 3:8a (NKJV)** However, the bible does not always speak directly concerning every sin that can be committed. Many take the position that if the bible does not specifically say it, then it must be okay to do it. That is a very immature and irrational way to justify disobedience.

Even if the bible does not specifically speak to an area of disobedience or sin, that does not give us permission to participate. Because some areas of disobedience while not mentioned provide “opportunities” for the devil to entice, entrap, and ensnare us. We must beware. That is the primary context of our devotional passage. Do not provide or give place to the devil in any area of our life. That is first and foremost the devil's most often used *modus operandi*. After tempting Jesus in the wilderness in the wake of His 40 day fast, and being obviously defeated, Satan was still not looking to give up. **“Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.” Luke 4:13 (NKJV)** Satan is always looking for opportunities. He never permanently leaves his agenda against the believer. He is always looking for an opening, a weakness, a vulnerable moment, or a time of insobriety to launch a new attack designed to destroy us.

The Apostle Paul advises and admonishes us against giving “place” to the devil, among many other things in the context of our devotional passage found in verses 25-32 of the chapter. It's imperative that we be mindful of the subtle nature by which the enemy operates against us. The idea of giving place to the devil goes beyond the aspect of opportunity, to the idea of a “foothold.” This suggests that there is a purposed and strategic agenda whereby the devil intends to entrench us in sin. We must be keenly aware of his tactics. **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” I Peter 5:8 (NKJV)** We must be careful not to patronize ourselves concerning our involvement in any sin simply because the bible does not speak directly to it.

The mark of a mature believer is not to live as close to the line of sin and trespass without falling into violation and disobedience. Quite to the contrary; we must live as far away from that line of demarcation to the glory of God. As a result we take away opportunities for the devil to get a foothold in our life. There are “gray” areas throughout the word of God that are not easy to understand, or where the bible does not speak directly to every single issue that we may face as a believer. For instance, someone may ask, “Is it a sin to smoke?” Well you will be hard pressed to find a passage of scripture that speaks directly to smoking or naming it specifically as a sin. This should not be a reason to continue to smoke. Because the bible does say this, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” So then why damage your body by continuing to smoke? Or give the devil a foothold or opportunity to destroy your health. Do not sin, but at the same time do not give the devil opportunity to establish a foothold that will serve as a gateway to sin.