



PRIDE: OUR NEAR & PRESENT DANGER

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV

OUTLINE ...

- (1 Peter 5:8–9 ESV) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1. OUR DIRE WARNING: We must be sober-minded (having clear, controlled thinking) and alert and consider the alternative if we refuse to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, 5:8a, cf. 5:6-7.

- (1 Peter 5:6–8 ESV) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

2. Our Real and Present Danger: As God's sojourners and exiles we have a ferocious, powerful adversary on this earth who is looking to destroy our lives, 5:8b.

Defining adversary and devour: Adversary is seen here as a plaintiff, an accuser—the antagonistic and accusing party in litigation; especially understood as a hostile enemy.

To devour ... means to destroy ... to gulp—conceived of as swallowing hurriedly or greedily or in one drink; to drink down, swallow down; to devour; to swallow up, destroy.

So we have an arch enemy, a powerful nemesis, who is seeking followers of Christ to accuse and destroy.

A. Whether roaring lion or crafty serpent, Satan has been the destroyer of lives since the beginning of time.

- (John 10:10 ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and **destroy**. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- (Matthew 2:13 ESV) Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain

there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to **destroy** him.”

- (Matthew 12:14 ESV) But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to **destroy** him.
- (Revelation 9:11 ESV) They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called **Apollyon**.

[*Apollyon here is probably not Satan but a high-ranking demon in Satan's hierarchy.*]

B. The devil's primary line of approach in seeking our destruction is our pride.

How did the serpent “sell” the rebellion to Adam and Eve? What was the wedge (the “in”) that he used to deceive Eve? Her pride—see verse five ... “you will be like God” ... the same sin that brought about the devil’s rebellion and fall. By appealing to her pride Satan planted in Eve’s mind a vision of a better reality, a better life, than what God had given her ... that she could be like God.

- (Genesis 3:4–5 ESV) But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- (2 Corinthians 11:3 ESV) But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- (1 Timothy 2:13–14 ESV) For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

3. Our Consequences: Not humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God puts us in a position of frightening vulnerability before the ferocious, powerful adversary who is looking to destroy our lives, 5:8b.

- **We need to understand the alternative to not humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God—the horrible consequences, 5:8b.**
- **We need to understand that the most powerful being on earth apart from God and his holy angels is seeking to devour our**

lives, 5:8b.

- C. We need to understand how vulnerable we are to attack if we cling to our pride and do not humble ourselves before God, 5:8.
- D. We need to understand that God opposes us to discipline us when we cling to our proud.
 - (1 Peter 5:5 ESV) Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
 - (James 4:6 ESV) But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- E. We need to understand that not humbling ourselves before God equals not resisting the devil.
 - (James 4:7 ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- F. We need to understand that not humbling ourselves before God equals not drawing near to God.
 - (James 4:8 ESV) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- G. We need to understand that not humbling ourselves before God equals dirty hands, dirty hearts and double minds.
 - (James 4:8 ESV) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- H. We need to understand that God sometimes hands a person over to Satan for a very harsh discipline.
 - (1 Timothy 1:18–20 ESV) This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some

have made shipwreck of their faith, 20 among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

- (1 Corinthians 5:4–5 ESV) When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

4. Our Faithful Resistance: Our simple plan to survive the attack of our devouring adversary and to put him on the run is to resist him, 5:9.

- (1 Peter 5:9 ESV) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

A. To stand against the devil's scheme we must resist him.

And you are thinking ... duh? ... of course resist him ... but this is a very important point ... We need to make sure that what we call resisting the devil is actually resisting the devil. And thankfully God gives us the way that we do actually resist the devil—firm in the faith.

B. The “faith” here is the authoritative body of truth concerning God and salvation-doctrine, theology-as presented in the Scriptures.

Holding firm in our faith is not just believing “something” ... as in the expression “have faith” ... but believing in the sure word of God and so rejecting the lies—the altered truth—of the devil. Too bad Eve didn’t learn this lesson.

- (Genesis 3:1–4 ESV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say,** ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “**You will not surely die.**”

- (John 8:43–44 ESV) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: Are you believing the truth or the lie—the altered truth—if you hang onto your anger through the night? Do you believe God that this is giving the devil an opportunity?

- (Ephesians 4:26–27 ESV) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE: Are we believing the truth or the lie—the altered truth—if we refuse to forgive each other as the Lord has forgiven us?

- (Colossians 3:13 ESV) Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

C. We resist him firm in the faith when we stand firmly in believing what God says.

Standing firm in the faith is holding true ... enduring ... steady ... firmly fixed ... a consistent message based on the inspired, authoritative word of God.

For instance, concerning the gospel ... we don't budge; we don't waver; we don't compromise for a millisecond.

- (Galatians 2:5 NLT) But we refused to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you.
- (1 Peter 5:9 ESV) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
- *****((Isaiah 7:9 ESV) And the head of

Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. **If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.**

- (1 Corinthians 16:13–14 ESV) Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.
- (Colossians 2:5 ESV) For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.
- *****((Daniel 11:32 ESV) He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, **but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.**
- (Ephesians 6:13 ESV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
- (Philippians 4:1 ESV) Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

D. When we resist him firm in the faith, we will suffer.

God tells us this will happen so we will be prepared and will be able to endure through this universal experience for those who resist the devil firm in the faith.

Blind people who think they can see ...

- Are blind guides for other blind people who think they can see ... and they all fall into a pit ... (Matthew 15:12–14)
- Miss the main point of God's instruction ... (Matthew 23:23–24)
- Focus on their appearance before people and do not clean the filth inside ... (Matthew 23:25–26)
- Appear outwardly beautiful, outwardly righteous to others ... (Matthew 23:27–28)