

**THEME:** The devil is weaker than your faith!

(1 Peter 5:8-11) "Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen."

### I. OUR PROWLING ENEMY - (v.8)

- A. (v.8) - "Be of sober spirit" - balancing life's important issues
- B. (v.8) - "be on the alert" - imperative command; "be watchful" or "stay awake"
- C. (v.8) - "Your adversary" - technical term meaning "legal opponent"; hostile enemy
- D. (v.8) - "the devil" - (*diabolos*) - the ruler of this world (c.f. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- E. (v.8) - "prowls around" - to roam around stealthily; in order to steal and destroy
- F. (v.8) - "like a roaring lion" - (2 Cor 2:11 "*for we are not ignorant of his schemes*")
- G. (v.8) - "seeking someone to devour" - means "to gulp down" - referring to destroy

### II. OUR POTENT FAITH - (v.9)

- H. (v.9) - "But resist him" - to take a stand against; (c.f. James 4:7)
- I. (v.9) - "firm in your faith" - "firm" is Greek word "*stereos*" - English word: "*stereo*"
- J. (v.9) - "knowing" - speaks of intentional thought, not mere emotion
- K. (v.9) - "that the same experiences of suffering" - nothing new under the sun
- L. (v.9) - "are being accomplished by your brethren" - you are not alone in this!
- M. (v.9) - "who are in the world" - the devil is the ruler of this world

### III. OUR POWERFUL REWARD - (v.10-11)

- N. (v.10) - "After you have suffered for a little while" - (c.f. Revelation 2:10)
- O. (v.10) - "the God of all grace" - (c.f. 2 Corinthians 1:3 "*God of all comfort*")

- P. (v.10) - "who called you to His eternal glory in Christ" - (i.e. when you believed)
- Q. (v.10) - "will Himself" - God will personally do this, even while the devil attacks!
- R. (v.10) - "perfect" - to bring to wholeness (c.f. Philippians 1:6; James 1:4)
- S. (v.10) - "confirm" - to set fast; unmovable (c.f. 1 Corinthians 1:7-8)
- T. (v.10) - "strengthen" - to make sturdy; not shaky (c.f. Luke 22:32)
- U. (v.10) - "and establish you" - to lay as a foundation - (c.f. Isaiah 9:7)
- V. (v.11) - "To Him" - all the glory goes to God alone
- W. (v.11) - "be dominion" - signifies strength, of God's ability to dominate
- X. (v.11) - "forever and ever" - the timeframe of God's domination
- Y. (v.11) - "Amen" - So be it; let it be so!

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#### How to Defeat the Devil:

1. Be of sober spirit
2. Be on the alert
3. Resist him
4. Firm in faith
5. Knowing (the suffering of others)
6. Temporary personal suffering
7. God's Grace
8. \*\*\* JESUS CHRIST ALREADY WON THE VICTORY ON THE CROSS \*\*\*  
*(JOHN 19:30) Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"*  
 "Tetelestai" - "PAID IN FULL"

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#### Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss why Christians often feel so weak against the devil's temptations.
2. Discuss a time when you or someone you know was under severe spiritual attack.
3. Discuss how Christians can practically resist the devil, while being firm in our faith.
4. Discuss why you think God often allows us to suffer temporarily before ultimately delivering us from the devil's spiritual attacks?
5. Discuss what it means in verse 10 when it says that God "will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." Provide examples for each.