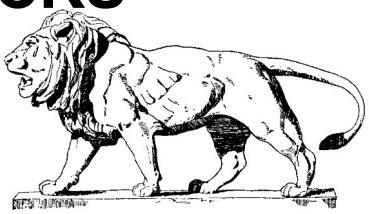
"CONQUERING SATAN'S ATTACKS"

(How to Avoid Being Dinner for the Prowling Lion)
I Peter 5:8-11
6-15-2022



INTRODUCTION: Verse 8

***You can be victorious over Satan's attacks!**

How?

I. Be <u>ALERT</u> in <u>MIND
and don't go to sleep (v. 8a)

II. Be <u>STRONG</u> in <u>FAITH</u>
and don't give up or in (v. 9a)

III. Be <u>PATIENT</u> in <u>SUFFERING</u>
and don't panic (v. 9b-10)

A. You are not <u>alone</u> (v. 9b)

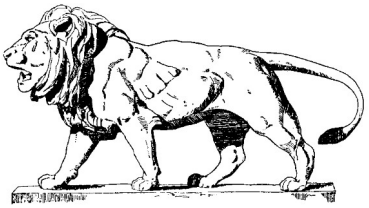
B. You are not <u>forgotten</u> (v. 10)

CONCLUSION:

Verse <u>11</u> – 14

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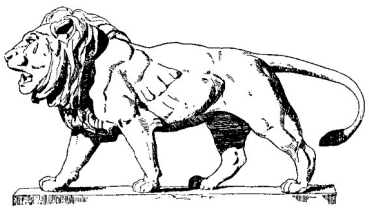
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INTRODUCTION: Verse 8

"Adversary" - One who stands against another. This legal term was used to describe an opponent in a lawsuit (mt. 5:25).

It describes someone who is out to get you for all you're worth.

Satan is the enemy of all people, especially those who belong to God.

Satan, who brings accusations against us constantly (Rev. 12:10), is seeking the fall of your character and the reproach of your testimony.

In short, he's out for your destruction.

"Devil" - slanderer (*diabolos* - to cast in between) Satan is seeking tot throw anything he can in between you and God, and you and others so as to divide and conquer. One way a lion hunts is to seek an animal that has been cut off from the pack, all alone, vulnerable, etc.).

"As a <u>roaring</u> lion" - Why the roar?

1. To <u>intimidate</u> (strike the heart with fear)

2. Reveals the lion's <u>hunger</u>

"Walketh about" - prowling around (Job 1:7 - *"And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."*; cp. 2:2).

Satan, unlike God, is not omnipresent; he is on the move - swiftly soaring from place to place, country to country, city to city - zealously seeking someone who is without the protection of God (Eph. 6:13ff).

"Devour" - to swallow down; to eat up

He devours people by leading them into anything that will hurt them spiritually.

In this context the Devil seeks to devour through intimidation or fear using affliction (v.9) brought on by the enemies of Christ.

One's faith in God's Word is the key point of his attack. If their faith is shaken, everything else will crumble on top.

Satan wants to devour you and those related to you, your family and friends.

Perhaps a pre-requisite to the points I will give tonight for overcoming Satan would be the need for *"humility"* (note previous context - v. 5-6).

If God is not for you, you don't have a chance! God resists the proud.

Before you will receive the alertness, strength, and patience needed to deal with the foe, you must have the humility to see your need for such.

Those who think they are "above" destruction are the surest candidates for it (I Cor. 10:12 - *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."*)

***You can be victorious over Satan's attacks!**

How?

I. Be <u>ALERT</u> in <u>MIND</u>
and don't go to sleep (v. 8a)

What Peter is calling for is a mental alertness, or a spiritual watchfulness so that we will not be caught off guard, by surprise or unsuspectingly by the enemy.

"Be sober" - be clear-headed, with nothing clouding your mind. Be serious and sensible about the potential dangers that surround you in the spiritual war you are engaged in (Eph. 6:12).

"The better we know God's Word, the keener our spiritual senses will be to detect Satan at work."

Be rid of anything that would dull your spiritual sensitivity.

What "<u>intoxicants</u>" hurt your spiritual sobriety?

--drugs and alcohol (mind-altering chemicals)

--worldly amusements (preoccupations)

--fleshly pleasures (lusts)

--spiritual apathy (laziness)

One lesson we can learn from the animal realm is the acute sense of danger felt by the deer, gazelle, etc., when a predator comes near (their keen sense of smell, their perceptive eye, their attentive ear makes them quite a challenge to the beasts of the forest).

"Be vigilant" - be watchful, awake

--Don't go to sleep

--Beware of spiritual drowsiness (those whose minds drift off when reading the Bible, hearing the Bible, or praying reveal a lack of desire for spiritual things and are prime "game" for the lion -- A fall may be around the corner)

As when driving a car late at night, we must fight against the temptation tot go to sleep (tragedy awaits if we succumb).

EX: How Peter fell asleep in the garden, and this led to his denial (Lk. 22).

II. Be <u>STRONG</u> in <u>FAITH</u>
and don't give up or in (v. 9a)

"Resist" - stand up against without giving up (quitting) or giving in (sinning).

Christians cannot be passive push-overs.

Too many have caved in under the pressures and lies Satan has thrown our way.

Peter and James give the same formula for success (James 4:7 - *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*)

"To *'resist steadfast in the faith'* does not mean to strive with or fight Satan, but to stand firm against him. The Christian must remember he is incapable of fighting the devil, for Satan is of superior strength and intelligence plus vast experience. He has been in the ring with professionals, and we are rank amateurs" (Anderson, p. 83).

"To be *'steadfast'* means to stand firmly and solidly, as a body of heavily armed soldiers would stand in closed ranks against the enemy." (Anderson, p. 83)

"Steadfast" - solidly, firmly, with rigid strength. The Greek word is *"stereos"* from which we derive the word "steroids" (a drug used to add strength).

We must stand against Satan strongly ***"in the faith"***.

"The faith" - points to the confidence we have in God's promises as revealed in His Word.

"The faith" - is not faith in <u>ourselves</u> or in human power and achievement, but it is "in God we trust."

"<u>The</u> faith" - Is the specific, fundamental, cardinal body of Gospel truth. It is *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."*

The specific faith, involves the believer's trust in the essential body of doctrine

which would include:

1. Faith in Jesus (His divine nature; His taking on flesh & blood)
2. Faith in the Gospel (The death, burial and resurrection of Christ; Salvation by grace alone in Christ alone)

It is our confidence in the integrity of God and belief in the trustworthiness of His promises that equips us with what we need to stand against Satan.

"The faith" we believe is rooted and grounded in the Bible we hold. Only by a knowledge of God's holy Word and personal application of it can we successfully overcome Satan (Rev. 12:11 - *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*)

"Faith is the victory that overcomes the world" (I John 5:4)

Being *"strong in faith"* enlists us in the league with Abraham and brings glory tot God (Rom. 4:20 - *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God"*)

Faith is the <u>shield</u> with which we deflect all of the fiery darts of the Wicked One (Eph. 6:16).

As Satan aims and fires his arrows of:

"Fear" - we deflect with God's promise *"Be not afraid, for I am with thee"*

"Loneliness" - we deflect with God's promise of *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."*

Discouragement" - we deflect with God's promise of *"Your labor is not in vain in the Lord"*

"Trials and tribulation" - we deflect with God's promise of *"All things work together for good"*

"Persecution" - we deflect with God's promise of *"When you pass through the waters I will be with you..."*

"Sexual lust" - we deflect with God's promise of *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man..."*

Since "faith" is the source of our victory, and since "faith" comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17) --

--What should be priority on one's reading list?

--What should be priority each time the doors of this church building open?

III. Be <u>PATIENT</u> in <u>SUFFERING</u>

and don't panic (v. 9b-10)

A. You are not alone (v. 9b)

"Resist steadfast. . . knowing" - Our persistence in resisting Satan is based on knowing something we often forget when his attacks come, and it is this: I am not alone in this struggle. I am not the only one enduring such hardships. The same afflictions (sufferings) are also being experienced by my other brethren. This should motivate intercession.

I Cor. 10:13 - *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

Elijah thought he was the only one suffering for Jehovah, until God told him that there were 7,000 others which had not bowed to Baal.

It's amazing how encouraged we are when we meet someone who is going through the same thing we are. We figure, "If they can endure, so can I."

There is a grand and glorious benefit to suffering: It is that you can encourage someone else by how you handled it.

(SEE: II Cor. 1:3-6)

B. You are not forgotten (v. 10)

So as to further encourage us, God draws attention to His grace toward us, and His eternal life awaiting us.

What an incentive to lift up our heads and look forward to what's ahead.

God is a gracious God who gives us that which we do not even deserve.

"All grace" - has its source in God.

During the attack of the Enemy, he may tempt you to doubt God's tender mercy and question His loving care. But remember, He will never leave you nor forsake you; and He is the source of good things that will eventually return to you (Ja. 1:17).

"Whatever begins with God's grace will always lead to God's glory" (Psalm 84:11) (Wiersbe, p. 433).

"Eternal glory" - Remember, your trial is only temporary; keep your eyes fixed on what is yours in eternity (Rom. 8:18 - *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory*

which shall be revealed in us.")

"Awhile" = A little time, a short period. It may seem long; however, against the backdrop of eternity, our temporary suffering is like a small dot on a 1,000 foot square canvas.

"Perfect" - mended; put in order; re-established
(the pieces of life's puzzle may be confusing and shattered now, but wait! God will straighten it out)

"Stablish" - to stand up; to set upright
(you may be flat on your face in a trial, but God will lift you up)

"Strengthen" - to impart physical and spiritual muscle and energy (God's strength is made perfect in weakness)

"Settle" - to ground firmly; to establish a solid and stable foundation (it may seem like the bottom of life has fallen out, but god will provide firm footing and stability to your life again. *"Wait on the Lord!"*

--When skies are dark and troubles are plenteous, when it seems like life is overwhelming and you were better dead, remember the truth of this song: "It's Just Like Jesus To Roll the Clouds Away"

CONCLUSION:

Verse 11 - 14

V. 11

When it seems like the battle is over and victory has gone the wrong way. . . when it appears that Satan is holding the victor's trophy. . . remember verse 11.

V. 12

Peter assures his readers that they need not feel that their faith was something false and useless just because they were suffering.

V. 13-14

Greetings from others of like faith is an encouragement to go on!

A feeling of comradery is imparted. We must not lose our spirit of oneness (v. 14).