

## 1 Peter 5:8-14 Standing Strong in the Battle

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. <sup>10</sup> But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. <sup>11</sup> To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. - **PRAY**

**2008 was a rough year for a lot of people – many people lost their jobs!**

There was a guy who lost his job, was looking for a job, and couldn't find one. He heard that his local zoo was looking for help – so he went down to apply.

When he arrived he found out that all the positions had been filled – but he was desperate. He pleaded – I will do ANYTHING **That is when the Manager of the zoo said – I've got an idea "just the other day our gorilla died. You're a pretty big fella and I've got this gorilla suit, would you be willing for a pretty good pay check to dress up and play the part of a gorilla until we can get a new one?"**

The man who was looking for work thought for a minute and said – Sure lets go for it! So they gave him the gorilla suit and he went in the cage and he started, beating his chest, and banging on the bars, and swinging around.

**And people loved it. He was so amusing,** people were saying he **was the most intelligent gorilla** they've ever seen. Well, the second or third day of this, he kind of got carried away and he was moving and swinging and he swung a little too far and he ended up in the enclosure, which was next to him which was the lion enclosure.

When he landed in the lion enclosure the lion immediately starting walking toward him He looked like he was prowling, studying him, ready to pounce. And the guy starting freaking out. His heart was pounding. He's moving back, he's moving back, and he's trying to get back into his enclosure. But he couldn't climb.

He is thinking he is about to become the lion's breakfast - he starts yelling out, "Help! Help! Help!"

And just then the lion in a quiet whisper says, **"Shut up, stupid, or you'll get all of us fired."**

**Well Peter ends his epistle to these suffering believers by reminding them of the reality that they are in a spiritual battle.**

**A) A battle with a real enemy – who is like a lion – not a Lion – put he is like a lion**

**B) Like a lion in the sense that he is on the Prowl seeking whom he may devour**

**C) John 10:10 – Jesus compared Satan to a thief and a Robber who comes to Kill Rob and Destroy**

**D) How do Thieves operate? – they case a house – looking for entry points**

1) That is how Satan is – looking for entry points into our minds, hearts, our lives

**Three Insights for standing strong in the Battle**

**1<sup>st</sup> Be Sober** – Self Disciplined – self-controlled – the opposite of intoxicated

**A) The opposite of casual and nonchalant – Main idea being AWARE**

**B) The Christian life is a battleground – not a playground – WW**

**1) don't get too relaxed**

**C) Barna Poll** – Four out of ten American Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan “is not a living being but merely a symbol of evil.” An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they “agree somewhat” with that perspective.  
Barna research group April 2009

**D) So 60% of American Christians don't believe the Devil is real!**

**E) No wonder so many Christians are getting beat up spiritually and living defeated lives**

**Here is the Problem: Jesus spoke of the Devil as being a real being!**

**A) So who are you going to listen to: Jesus the Resurrected Lord – or someone else with a theory?**

B)The issue is one of authority; where do you derive your authority?

1)Everybody gets authority from someplace.

C)Some culture – the platform of popular opinion

1)if everyone else feels this way that must be true

**D)Some it is tradition - what's been passed down, this is just what I have always believed**

1)Others it is their friends – inner circle – peer pressure

**But as a Christ follower your authority needs to come from the Bible?**

A)SO YOU need to put stock in what Jesus said about the devil?

B)For when Jesus talked about the devil, he never referred to the devil as an "it" or a "that," but a "he" and a "him."

C)A real being who actually existed.

D)D. L. Moody once said, **"I believe in the devil for two reasons: number one, the Bible says he exists; number two, I have done business with him."**

E)One of the darkest times of my Christian walk – I forgot I was in a battle

1)Oh Yea – there a devil who hates me

**1<sup>st</sup> Be Sober – Be aware that you are in battle. –**

A)What Peter says next is the follow up to that –

B)if you know that you are in battle – the WAR IS RAGING – You need to be

1)**2<sup>nd</sup> Be Vigilante – Be alert** – Be on guard – like a soldier on guard duty

C)We should not be taken advantage of by Satan.

**For we are not ignorant of his schemes.** 2

Corinthians 2:11 –

**D)Know His strategy – Same as with Eve – Doubt God's heart –Provision - Doubt God's word**

1)Use the things of the world to entice our flesh

**Also You should know the areas where you personally are the most prone to attack?**

A)Is it fear – The what if game

B)Is it pride – think too highly of yourself

C)Is it insecurity – another form of Pride –

1)So worried about what others are thinking about you/ they are not ☺

D)Is it trust? - Hard time letting go

E)So first Be Sober - Be aware – 2<sup>nd</sup> Be Vigilante - be on guard

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Resist Him**

A)Resist = to arrange in battle against and so pictures a face to face confrontation.

B)It means to set one's self against, and to stand firm against someone else's onset.

C)Picture of being dug in – I am not running – I am fighting

**D)It is this point that I want to do a deep dive in today – HOW DO WE RESIST**

**Note 4 things**

A)#1 By Being submitted to God

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:7-8

B)Note something here that James says and Peter also emphasizes that is so Key

1)Before you can Resist you have to first Submit –

C)Put another way the king in resisting the devil is drawing near to God.

D)People often quote – **resist the Devil and he will flee**

**No – You have to submit to God first**

A)This is what Peter has been talking about in emphasizing humbling ourselves before God (last week)

B)Submission is an act of Humbling ourselves and placing ourselves under God's authority

1)and wisdom and under his care

C)Last week: **"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."**<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves

under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time

**D)When we humble ourselves before God – by submitting to Him**

1)He meets us with Grace – Divine resources –

E)His power and authority to live the Christian life – stand strong in the battle

**When Paul was writing to the Ephesians about Spiritual Warfare he said: 6:10 Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his Might**

A)Not our might but HIS might – not our strength but HIS strength

B)One with God is a majority! **If God is for us – who can stand against us**  
NO ONE

C)We are fighting not for Victory but from a position of Victory because Jesus has already won the war!

1) because Jesus the real Lion – the Lion of the tribe of Judah – declared – It is Finished

**So we Resist the Devil by being submitted to God #2 By being Steadfast in the faith**

A)Notice the definite article "the" THE FAITH? It's important.

B)He does not say, "**Resist him steadfast in faith.**" He's not talking about your faith.

C)It's "**the faith,**" which is this: it's the truth embodied in the Scripture.

D)Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God!

1)FAITH IS CONNECTED TO THE WORD OF GOD

Paul writing to the Ephesians 6:13 **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.** 14 **Stand therefore,** having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

A)Notice Paul starts with the Belt of Truth – is the truth of who Jesus is and who you are in Him

B)Jesus said in John 8 – You will **Know the truth and the truth shall set you free – he who the son of man sets free is free indeed**

C)The truth that we are standing in is the truth concerning Who – Jesus is –

1)His redeeming work – the Victory He has won

D)And what that means to us who believe – who we are in Jesus

1)All of that makes up **the truth** that we are standing in

**E)NOW CATCH THIS - All the other parts of the armor are connected to that TRUTH**

**So We stand Submitted to God We stand Steadfast in the Faith**

**#3 We stand knowing that we are not alone!**

A)knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

B)Why is this important? It is important for us to know that there are those who have gone before us

1)Who Have fought hard and won

C)Testimony – it can be done.

**There are believers in our church – testimony of victory – overcomers - It can be done**

A)Believers in other parts of the world – it can be done

B)We are not in this alone – we are going to make it

C)Heb. 11 – **Men and women of faith** – not perfect – but their lives testify to us that it can be done

D)So #3 We stand fast knowing that we are not alone – we are in this together

1)Encourage one another

**Redwoods along the CA Coast Windblown - - Redwoods don't have deep roots**

A)Always grow in groves – never see a LONE Redwood –

**B)their strength is in their interlocking root system**

Bb)Don't forsake fellowship – we need each other – strength in in our interlocking root system

1)We stir up one another

C)Satan loves to isolate us – get us thinking we are an island – that is when we are the most vulnerable

1)Wed. Night groups

**Note this Lions – rarely attack a pack of animals –**

A)But they wait for that one Zebra or animal to wander off on its own and become isolated

B)Then they are the most prone to attack.

C)So #3 We stand fast knowing that we are not alone – we are in this together

**#4 We stand by remembering our future destiny - Note how Peter wraps this up:**

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.** 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

A)Please note that Peter did not refer to God as "the God of all fairness" or "the God of all justice,"

B)though he absolutely is that. - But Peter did not refer to him as that

C)Nor did he call him "the God of all truth," or "the God of all correctness," though he is certainly that.

D)The one thing he wanted to leave his audience with is that the character of their God

1)is that HE IS THE God of all grace.

E)Saving Grace

Sanctifying Grace

This is Keeping Grace

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ – Philippians 1:6

F)This is what the Lord is committed to do in your life - **perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

**Listen – You being made perfect (complete in Jesus )**

A)You being established strengthened and settled/ - suffering will be a part of that

B)It is part of the process – like weight training – tearing down in order to build up

C)But Peter wants us to remember that God has called you to glory

D)Through His grace – he is going to complete the work – he is going to get you to the other side.

**He has called us to His eternal Glory by Christ Jesus**

A)This tells me that God's purpose for my life goes beyond grace-filled life and it includes eternal life

B)I love that Peter ends his letter this way – he has been doing this the whole time – raising our focus

1)He wants us to see beyond the pain of the race,

C)To see beyond the pain of this life the pain of the battle/

1)to something is that is beyond this life.

**In 2018 I had Hip replacement surgery right Hip – Having my left one done this fall**

A)Brutal surgery – (Sean – Hit by a truck) heavy recovery time –

B)But the thing that pushes me forward is knowing what it will result in

C)No more pain – more freedom – more active life

**That is what Peter is doing – Yes pain now, battle now, trials now**

A)But glory is COMING!

B)REMEMBER THAT! – FOCUS ON THAT – Let that motivate you.

C)I am doing a lot right now to gear up for my surgery – make the recovery time easier –

**D)That is the point – Gear up – Stand firm – you know what is coming**

**E)I Love how the apostle Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**A)And so we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen.**

**B)For what is seen is temporal, what is unseen is eternal."**

**C)Live looking forward to what's beyond life.**

**Now there is one more thing I want you to notice – don't miss this:**

**A)The grace and the glory that Peter is speaking of is by Christ Jesus**

"May the God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory **by Christ Jesus."**

**B)The grace and the glory depend upon, do you know Christ Jesus?**

1)Are you having a relationship with God through his Son?

**C)If you have Jesus – you have Grace and you will experience glory**

**1)If you don't have Jesus – you don't get either**

**Think of it this way:**

**A)My iPhone Case – I am going to give you my Case**

**B)What did you get when I gave you my case ? – My Phone**

**1)My phone is in my case/ – give me my phone back**

**C)My phone is attached to my case. So if you get my case, you get my phone.**

**Now, if you go to the store to buy a case, here's how it works:**

**A)They will sell you a case and they always have a picture of the case holding a phone,**

**B)But on the front of the packaging it says, "Does not include phone."**

**C)They want you to---they don't want you to think for twenty bucks you're going to get a brand-new phone.**

**D)But if I give you my case today, you would get my phone. It comes with it.**

1)That's why I'm not going to give you my case.

**However, that's how it works with Christ.**

**A)When you take Jesus Christ, what comes with him **is the whole package** of the grace to live through all the tough stuff**

**B)and the glory that will follow in the end, but you must take the Savior to get the glory.**

**C)Opportunity in just a moment – 1<sup>st</sup> let's see how this ends**

Peter picks up the pen -

12 By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, (Silvanus dictated) exhorting and testifying that this is the true **grace of God in which you stand.**

13 She (the church) who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.