

1 PETER 5:8-14 “RESISTING THE DEVIL”

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- Be sober

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

- Be vigilant

- The picture in this word is that of a sleeping man rousing himself. While the other word conveys the idea of simple *wakefulness*, this adds the idea of *alertness*.
- In the temple, during the night, the captain of the temple made his rounds, and the guards had to rise at his approach and salute him in a particular manner. Any guard found asleep on duty was beaten, or his garments were set on fire. Compare Apoc. 16:15: “Blessed is he that *watched and keepeth his garments*.” The preparations for the morning service required all to be early astir. The superintending priest might knock at the door at any moment.
- The Rabbis use almost the very words in which scripture describes the unexpected coming of the Master. “Sometimes he came at the cockcrowing, sometimes a little earlier, sometimes a little later. He came and knocked and they opened to him” (Edersheim, “The Temple”).¹

- Why?

- Devil

- Is like a roaring lion

- Full of grandstanding language
- Full of lies and guilt-making

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- Is actively seeking whom he may devour

- Can he devour just any person?
- What makes me look like a good target?

- How?

- The word “devil” is the word used in the English translation for *diabolos* (διαβολος) which comes from a word *diaballo* (διαβαλλο) which means literally, “to throw over or across, to send over.” It was used in classical Greek with the meanings, “to traduce, calumniate, **slander, accuse, defame**,” and was used not only of those who bring a false charge against one, **but also of those who disseminate the truth concerning a man and do so maliciously, insidiously, with hostility.**

¹Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 1, Page 3-225). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

All that, the devil is in his character and in his actions against the saints. The word “roaring” in the Greek text speaks of the howl of a beast in fierce hunger. ²

- *Sir Francis Drake, caught in a dangerous storm in the Thames, was heard to say, "Must I who have escaped the rage of the ocean be drowned in a ditch?!" Will you, experienced saints, who have passed through a world of tribulation, lie down and die of despair, or give up your profession of faith because you are passing through some light affliction? Let your past preservation inspire you with courage and constrain you to brave all storms for Jesus' sake.* [Charles Haddon Spurgeon, The Quotable Spurgeon, (Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, Inc, 1990)]

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- **“Resist him”** The Greek word translated “resist” means **“to withstand, to be firm against someone else’s onset”** rather than “to strive against that one.” ³
Ephesians 6:10-20
10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
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.
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- **“steadfast”** – a military term meaning to never budge against the onslaught of the enemy’s charge.
- Peter’s name meant “the rock” – certainly a picture of what he wasn’t **in the flesh**, but what he became **in the Spirit** on the day of Pentecost as an evangelist.

James 4:7-10

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify

²Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 5:8). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

³Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 5:9). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Lament and mourn and weep!

Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- **The Devil will let a preacher prepare a sermon if it will keep him from preparing himself.**
- **Any housewife knows that the best way to remember the things she meant to do and forgot is to start praying. They will come to her mind to divert her from prayer.** [Vance

Havner, Leadership, Vol. 8, no. 2.]

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.

- **Our God is the source of all grace**
- **Our God is the source of all comfort**
- **Our God is in the business of:**
 - **Perfecting – lit.: “putting your life in order”**
 - The verbs are all in the future tense. **The words “make you perfect” are not the translation of the Greek word *teleioo* (τελειωω) which means “to perfect” in the sense of “to make spiritually mature and complete,” but from a word meaning “to fit or join together.”**
The predominating idea in the verb is adjustment, the putting of parts into right relationship and connection with one another. ⁴
 - The word in First Peter speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in rounding out the spiritual life of the saint so that he is equipped for both the living of a Christian life and the service of the Lord Jesus. ⁵
 - **Establish**
 - It speaks of a solid foundational position.
 - **Alford translates, “shall ground you as on a foundation.”**
 - **Bengel has a helpful note on this verse;**
“Shall perfect, that no defect remain in you, shall establish that nothing may shake you, shall strengthen that you may overcome every adverse force.”

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

- **Silas** is first mentioned at the Council of Jerusalem (49). As “one of the leading men among the brethren,” he was chosen as diplomatic envoy to the Antioch church to announce the council's decisions (specifically, the requirements for non-Jews to join The Way). For some reason, he remained in Antioch, so that when Paul was looking for replacements for Barnabas and Mark, who had broken with him, Silas was available. On their three-year journey, he preached, was stoned, and was jailed with Paul. They made their way, with Timothy and Luke, through Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Corinth. Silas found his niche in Corinth and remained there, preaching and teaching, after Paul departed for Ephesus. He may have helped compose Paul's letters to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:1, 2 Thess. 2:1).

⁴Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 5:10). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁵Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 5:10). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Also called Silvanus, Silas later joined Peter in Rome and may have served as Peter's secretary and co-authored 1 Peter (1 Peter 5:12). Legend has him returning to Corinth, where he became the city's first bishop. He reportedly died in northern Greece. [Paul and His Times," Christian History, no. 47.]

13 She 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.

- **Babylon:**
 - According to historical evidence, Peter was in Rome during the final years of his life.
 - “Babylon” here might be a disguised reference to Rome, used in order to protect both the Roman church and Peter from the Neronian persecution.
 - (Others suggest, however, that he wrote from the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates River.)⁶

⁶ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.