

June 7, 2026

Series: Be an Overcomer

Title: Overcoming the Devil

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



**Depression, Anxiety, and the Christian Life** - Richard Baxter

**Physical Cause**

**Psychological Cause**

**Moral Cause**

**Demonic Cause**

How do we overcome \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_?

**1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV**

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.

*“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” — C.S. Lewis - Screwtape Letters*

**1 Peter 5:8 ESV**

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

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ out for the devil’s \_\_\_\_\_**

**Devil means false accuser, slanderer**

**John 8:44 ESV**

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.

*“He doesn’t make a good person \_\_\_\_\_, he tempts a flawed person to be \_\_\_\_\_.”  
— David Whiting*

**A. \_\_\_\_\_ unbelievers**

**2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV**

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ Believers**

**1 Thessalonians 3:5 ESV**

5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

**C. \_\_\_\_\_ Believers**

**Revelation 12:10 ESV**

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Devil by standing firm in your \_\_\_\_\_**

**1 Peter 5:9 ESV**

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

**Luke 22:31-32 ESV**

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

**Jesus is more powerful than Satan's temptations and accusations**

**Resist the Devil by Turning to God's Grace**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ the Devil by knowing the \_\_\_\_\_ of others**

**1 Peter 5:9 ESV**

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

**We can \_\_\_\_\_ the devil when we hold firm to \_\_\_\_\_ and each \_\_\_\_\_**

## **June 6, 2026 Discussion Questions**

### **Getting to Know You Questions:**

1. Share about a time when you were startled because you were not paying attention?
2. What is the food that you are most tempted by? Why?

### **Into the Bible Questions:**

#### **Read 1 Peter 5:8-9**

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. What stands out to you most about how Peter describes the devil?
2. The sermon says Satan “probes for weakness at the edge of the territory.” What does it mean that, as followers of Jesus (the Lion of Judah), we are in the King’s territory? How does that change how we view Satan’s attacks?
3. Richard Baxter listed four causes of anxiety/suffering (physical, psychological, moral, demonic). Which of these four do you find easiest to recognize in your own life? Which one feels most uncomfortable to talk about?
4. The sermon outlines two ways Satan attacks believers. Which of the two attacks (temptation or accusation) do you personally tend to struggle with more, and why?
5. The sermon mentions that when we’re tired, it’s harder to discern lies from truth. Can you share a time when exhaustion made you more vulnerable to temptation or accusation?

#### **Look at Luke 22:31-32**

31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

6. How does Jesus’ interaction with Peter give us hope when we feel like we’ve failed under Satan’s attacks?
7. 1 Peter 5:9 says to “resist him, standing firm in your faith.” What does “standing firm in your faith” actually look like on a normal Tuesday?
8. The sermon notes that Satan’s attacks often lead to isolation. Why is community (small groups, discipleship) such an important part of resisting the devil?
9. How does knowing that “your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering” (1 Peter 5:9) encourage you when you feel alone in your struggles?

**Application Questions:**

1. This week, what is one specific area where you feel the devil might be “roaring” at the edge of your life (temptation, accusation, doubt, worry, etc.)?
2. What would being “sober-minded and watchful” look like for you practically in that area this week?
3. When Satan accuses you (about past sin, parenting failures, secret struggles, etc.), what truth from the gospel can you speak back to that accusation?
4. Identify one recurring temptation in your life right now. How can you resist it by trusting what Jesus has already done for you?
5. Is there a lie you’ve been believing lately (about God, yourself, or your circumstances) that might have a spiritual dimension to it? How can you replace it with truth?
6. Think about the crinkled paper story. What is one way you can remind yourself this week that God sees you as holy and blameless because of Christ?
7. Who in your life (or in this group) could you reach out to this week when you start feeling isolated in your struggles? How can you be that person for someone else?
8. What is one verse or promise from Scripture you can memorize or post somewhere visible to help you stand firm when temptation or accusation hits?
9. How can we pray for each other specifically regarding demonic attack, temptation, or accusation this week?
10. For anyone here who hasn’t yet trusted Jesus as Savior: What is holding you back from placing your faith in Him today, and how does today’s message about the gospel and Satan’s limited power speak to that?