

**Pastor Jason Huffman**

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

**10/5/2025**

**Message Title: Don't Be a Casualty**

**Big Idea: The devil desires to devour you, but God has a mission for you to fulfill.**

5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

An adversary is an opponent in a lawsuit.

The word devil diabolos means accuser or slanderer.

He is a liar, a divider, & a destroyer.

Jesus said 3x's Satan was the ruler/prince of this world.

Ephesian 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,

Satan is on a leash, but if you get too close you might get bit!

Sober: Nepho- calm & collected, temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.

### **1. Keep your wits about you.**

Vigilant: to watch, give strict attention to, be cautious, active, to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake you.

### **2. Keep your head on a swivel.**

Used 23 times in the NT.

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

### **3. Reject his advances.**

Judges 16:16 She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.

### **4. Finish the mission.**

A Christian who is not sober or vigilant or does not reject Satan's pressure poses a threat to himself & others in God's kingdom.

John 12:24 unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

### **Message Summary**

We explore how to stay spiritually vigilant and resist the devil's advances in our study of I Peter 5:8-9. We will discover practical insights from Scripture to help us fulfill God's mission and stand strong in the spiritual battle we all face.

### **Group Discussion Guide I Peter 5:8-9**

#### **General Timeline Guide: (Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)**

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other.

### **Discussion Questions**

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time, but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. Have you ever recognized the devil as an accuser or slanderer in your thought life? How can we counteract his work? See Revelation 12:10
3. What should you be "aware of or watching for" when you think of being spiritually "sober and vigilant"? See Proverbs 4:23
4. Do you ever use Scripture to resist temptation as Jesus did? See Matthew 4:4
5. How can being part of a Christian community strengthen us in our spiritual battles? See Galatians 6:2
6. How could Samson or Peter be considered spiritual casualties? What can we learn from their experiences? Have you ever felt like a spiritual casualty? See 1 Cor. 10:12

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### **5 Day Devotional**

#### ***1 Peter 5:8***

Day 1 focuses on the clarity and alertness we need in our spiritual journey. Just as Peter exhorts us to be sober and vigilant, it is essential to remain aware and in control of our spiritual faculties. This is about recognizing the tactics of the enemy, who prowls like a roaring lion, seeking to devour the unwary. Remaining calm and collected allows us to detect his deception and stand firm in our faith.

The essence of today's verse is to remain spiritually alert, understanding the importance of making decisions based on faith rather than emotions. Keeping our spiritual wits about us prevents us from succumbing to panic or distraction in our walk with God.

- How can you practice spiritual vigilance in your everyday life?
- What distractions tend to pull your focus away from God?
- In what areas have you observed spiritual attacks, and how can you be more prepared?
- Pray for greater spiritual awareness and the ability to stay focused on God's path.

- Ask God for strength to resist temptations and maintain a sober mind.

## **Day 2**

*Ephesians 6:11*

Day 2 centers on the necessity of spiritual vigilance, as outlined by Peter. We are reminded of the importance of keeping our head on a swivel, understanding that spiritual lethargy can lead to unexpected attacks. Just as guards need to stay alert through the night, so must we keep watch over our hearts and minds, prepared and ready to respond to any spiritual challenge.

Peter's experiences illustrate how costly it is to lose focus. Our spiritual enemy seeks to exploit weaknesses when we are not prepared. By following Christ's example through prayer and vigilance, we can avoid the pitfalls that Peter himself encountered.

- What are the warning signs that indicate you are losing spiritual vigilance?
- How can accountability with others enhance your spiritual watchfulness?
- Reflect on a time when you failed to be vigilant. What lessons did you learn?
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to enhance your awareness of spiritual warfare.
- Seek divine guidance in establishing a discipline of spiritual watchfulness.

## **Day 3**

*James 4:7*

On Day 3, we delve into the practice of resisting the adversary's advances. Our spiritual walk requires that we stand firm against the enemy's deceptions and lies. Resisting temptation is not merely about denial; it is about standing steadfast in faith, empowered by the truth of God's word. This resistance comes through active rejection of anything that stands in opposition to God's truth. Learning from Samson's cautionary tale, it becomes clear that compromising with sin opens doors that allow the enemy to establish a foothold. Instead, by emulating Christ's unwavering faith and reliance on Scripture, we find strength to resist and overcome.

- Which areas of your life require stronger resistance against spiritual attacks?
- What strategies can you implement to fortify your faith against compromise?
- How can you ensure that you remain committed to God's word during trials?
- Pray for the wisdom and discernment to recognize when the enemy is at work.
- Ask God to reinforce your willpower to resist temptations and stay true to His path.

## **Day 4**

*Matthew 28:19-20*

Today, we focus on the mission that God has given us as believers. The fulfillment of this mission requires more than a defensive stance; it demands proactive engagement in spreading the gospel and nurturing discipleship. Our adversary seeks not just to attack but to hinder our effectiveness in carrying out God's calling.

The completion of God's mission involves collective effort within the body of Christ. It's crucial to remain active participants in God's work, using our gifts to further His kingdom. Through mutual encouragement and shared strength, we are better equipped to face spiritual battles together.

- What roles are you currently playing in the mission that God has set before you?
- How are you working to be a light in your community and sphere of influence?
- Consider how much of your time is devoted to fulfilling the Great Commission.
- Pray for boldness and clarity in fulfilling your part in God's mission.
- Seek unity within the church body for joint endeavors in ministry and outreach.

## **Day 5**

*1 Corinthians 9:24*

As we conclude on Day 5, the emphasis is on finishing the mission well. The spiritual journey is a marathon, not a sprint, requiring endurance and perseverance. It's important to keep our focus on the ultimate prize and not let temporary challenges derail us from running the race marked out for us.

Like Paul, we must strive with purpose in each step, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. By maintaining spiritual discipline and resilience, we remain in the race and assist others along the way. The fight is collective, ensuring no one gets left behind.

- What spiritual disciplines can you cultivate to ensure you finish the race well?
- In what ways can you support others who might be struggling in their spiritual walk?
- Reflect on the legacy you want to leave as you complete your spiritual race.
- Seek God's guidance to strengthen your resolve in the face of spiritual challenges.
- Pray for continued endurance and faithfulness in your spiritual journey.