

## The Pressures and Anxieties of Life.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Philippians 4:6–7 <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### An Action that Needs to Become a Habit: Replace Worry with Prayer

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The Timing of Satan's Attack. When you're at your weakest and/or most vulnerable moments.

1 Peter 5:6–9 <sup>6</sup> Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around **like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** <sup>9</sup> But **resist him, firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

e.g.

Luke 22:31–32 <sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

The first occurrence of "you" in v. 31 is in the plural (*hymas*). This refers to all the disciples in contrast to Peter, who is addressed (v. 32) by the singular "you" (*sou*).

Think of the circumstances surrounding Jesus' arrest and death. The apostle's found themselves suddenly surrounded by great threat and danger.

Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.'

Jesus to Peter: Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Peter's writing and teaching concerning the testing of faith.

1 Peter 1:6–7 <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

James 1:2–4 <sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The apostles were overtaken but they were restored, stronger, wiser, and greater than before.

2 Corinthians 4:7–10 <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; <sup>8</sup> *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

1 Peter 5:10–11 <sup>10</sup> After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. <sup>11</sup> To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Meaning God is sovereign and in control over all things).

Because the enemy attacks us at our weakest moments, we must be on guard against his leading us away from the source of our strength.

- Away from time with God
- Prayer
- Bible study
- Church

Hebrews 2:1–3 (NLT) <sup>1</sup> So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. <sup>2</sup> For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished. <sup>3</sup> So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak?