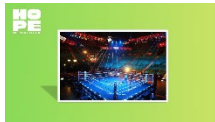




“And In This Corner...”

1 Peter #10 • August 2, 2026

Opening



[Boxing match – bell sound effect. Use handheld mic.]

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the main event here at YOUR LIFE in Tonganoxie, KS! This bout is scheduled for AS MANY ROUNDS AS NECESSARY in the weight of glory division.

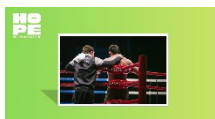
Introducing first, fighting out of the blue corner: Standing anywhere between 24” to 90” tall, weighing in at SOME pounds... With a professional record of 0 Wins-0 Losses-0 Draws...Yes, it’s the one and only fight of a lifetime, from RIGHT HERE, please welcome YOU!!!! [Pause for applause]

And the opponent, fighting out of the red corner: He stands tall, carrying the weight of rebellion against God. With a professional record of 0 Wins- 1 Major Loss- 0 Draws, from the Depths of Hell, here he is... SATAN! [Pause for booing]

Your referee in charge of the action is God Himself. And now, the fighters are ready, the officials are ready, and the crowd is ready... Let’s get this fight underway!"

[Boxing match – bell sound effect]

Whether you’ve cheered at boxing matches, watched *Rocky* or *Creed* on the big screen, mashed buttons on *Mike Tyson’s Punch-Out*, or just duked it out with your brothers in the backyard, most of us are familiar with **the spectacle of a big fight**. You probably can imagine a bit of the combat, as both fighters weave and bob and throw jabs and uppercuts.



You also probably know the value of **what happens between rounds**. The bell rings, the referee jumps in to stop the fight and both

contestants go to their stool in the corner for a short break. They rinse their mouth with a bit of water, quickly allow the cut man to address some swelling above the eye, and catch their breath before the next round of fighting ensues.

But in their corner is someone else – the boxing coach – who uses those last few moments to teach, encourage, guide, and inspire his prized pugilist to survive the next round and come out on top. He leans in and shares quick tips. *“Watch his left hand. It’s dropping right before he throws a cross....Stay off the ropes, stay aggressive!!”*

The bell rings, and then it’s time to hop up and re-enter the fray.

Today’s sermon won’t involve a lot of punching, but it does share some similarities with that time in the boxing ring. We’re looking at 1 Peter 5:6-14 today. It’s the last section of the letter, and therefore the last sermon in our series.

Here, Peter’s letter to his fellow Christians is drawing to a close. He only has a few short moments left to share wisdom and advice before he sends his brothers and sisters back into the fray. And, like a boxing coach in the corner between rounds, he fills those few moments with hard-hitting truth to make sure they not only survive the next round but also come out on top.

He leans in as a faithful, wise voice in their corner...your corner...and he wants you to be ready for the next round!



Recap

Throughout this series, Peter’s New Testament letter has been giving us hope when life is hard. Remember, his audience *knows* “hard.” They’ve faced difficulties living out their faith in a world that was hostile to their strange beliefs – beliefs about kindness toward enemies, beliefs about worship of a crucified and resurrected Savior, beliefs about love for one another. As they suffered, Peter wanted them to have hope to carry them through. They needed hope in the person of Jesus Christ, and in the promise of his soon return!

Now, as he wraps up, he gives us (his fellow followers of Christ) a few last instructions before we tap gloves and fight on. If he speaks, it is

important, then, for us to listen up... even if your arms are tired and your face is bruised and you feel like you're losing on the scorecard.



1 Peter 5:6-14

If you have your Bible with you, please turn to 1 Peter. Let's close out the book with his comments here in chapter five, verses 6-14.

“So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen.

I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace. Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. Greet each other with a kiss of love. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ.” (1 Peter 5:6–14, NLT)



Round 1: The Enemy (5:8)

[Boxing match – bell sound effect]

“Round 1: The Enemy”

Coach Peter sits in the corner and he doesn't mince words. *“You're outmatched.”* (Excuse me?) *“That guy in the other corner is bigger, stronger, faster, and has better reach.”*

A good coach doesn't sugarcoat the opponent's power.



We need to know **who we're facing**, and we need to know that it's a **scary fight**. In his letter, Peter talks about our enemy...in every corner of the world, not just the ring. Scripture uses an entire catalog of names used to talk about this Enemy. His name is Lucifer, but he goes by Satan, “the Prince of Darkness,” and more.

Here, Peter uses two other titles: the Accuser, and the Devil.

The Accuser. The first title Peter uses, “Accuser,” is a legal term for the one who stands against you in court. Doesn’t that fit well with what we find throughout Scripture, as Satan often stands against and accuses God’s people of wrong?! He does so in places like Job 1-2 and Revelation 12:10, as well as in the prophets:

“Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel’s right hand, making accusations against Jeshua.” (Zechariah 3:1, NLT)



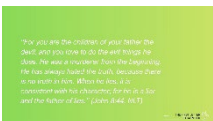
What does He accuse us of? Often, the truth!

Someone recently asked a question, “*If God were to destroy evil in this world at the stroke of midnight, would you still be standing here at 12:01?*” You and I are far from innocent; we don’t need much help from Satan to find ourselves in the wrong. But he relishes pointing out the abundant evidence of our sin, each and every day!

He is the Accuser, but he is also...

The Devil.¹ “*Diabolos*.” Whether you play video games or eat hot sauce at Taco Bell, that name is commonly known today. As such, it loses a bit of its impact. Yet the “devil” terminology is powerful. It speaks of *idolatry* and *false worship*. It means “*slanderer*,” and it shows Satan setting himself against the One True God. He works against the God’s sovereign plans, as well as against all that is right and good. Jesus offered insight into the Devil’s character, speaking of those who followed his ways.

*“For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a **murderer** from the*



¹ Personal Note: I say this in my head in the voice of Mama from the Adam Sandler Movie, “The Waterboy”

*beginning. He has always **hated the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he **lies**, it is consistent with his character; for he is a **liar and the father of lies**.” (John 8:44, NLT)*

The Devil is a bad dude!

Peter uses these names, but he doesn't stick only to titles. He also uses emphatic description.



“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

The Devil is described as an animal that also describes our Savior – both are like a lion. This lion, though, is not the same as the Lion of Judah!

The Lion (when referring to Jesus) is scary, yet He is good. His roar is a declaration of supremacy – He is the King! – and also a word of protection for those who trust in Him.

“The Lord’s voice will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth will shake. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a strong fortress for the people of Israel.” (Joel 3:16, NLT)

The Lion (when referring to Satan) is also scary, but certainly not in a good way! He roars with rage and hunger. As he roars, he is walking... prowling...seeking to swallow. You and I are nothing more than prey to him.

DO NOT take this lion – the Devil, the Accuser – lightly. He cannot harm you unless God allows it, but if you casually stick your arm through the bars and tease him? You won't leave unscathed. You might be emotionally, mentally, or relationally damaged... but you'll definitely be spiritually damaged.



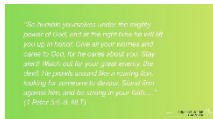
Round 2: The Gameplan (5:6-9)

[Boxing match – bell sound effect]

“Round 2: The Gameplan”

“YOU have no power against Satan on your own,” Coach Peter says from the corner. “So, stay alert. Stay **watchful** of what he’s doing. But don’t focus on him. Remember to always **STICK TO YOUR GAMEPLAN.**”

A good coach reminds you of what you should be doing. We know who we are facing, but we also must remember there are actions to take!



“So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith....” (1 Peter 5:6–9, NLT)

Church, do you have a gameplan against Satan? Too often, our gameplan is nothing more than, “I hope he stays away.” We passively wait for him to strike (or for our own, natural sin impulses to kick in) and then wait to see if we cave to temptation or not.

Would you like a better plan?

Peter gives us some actions to take. These are keys to victory:



1. **Key #1: Be humble!** We talked about humility last week in relation to church leadership. It is an attitude we choose that says, “I’ll defer to your plan.” Since we are “**under the mighty hand of God,**” then, our action is to **listen** to Someone Greater rather than ourselves. We defer to His way of doing things – whether that means turning the other cheek when we are wronged, forgiving someone who has hurt us deeply, putting someone else’s needs above our own, praying diligently for His kingdom, etc. By humbly conceding to His leadership, He can direct us expertly to victory.



2. **Key #2: Hurl your cares!** Some translations say, “**Cast your cares on Him, for He cares for you.**” That’s nice and gentle. But the word is “*epiripso*” – to hurl, with force. I love that imagery! Take the things that make us worried and anxious and scared...and chuck ‘em to Jesus. (Note: You could do this

literally! Write out a worry on a piece of paper, then crumble it up and hurl it to Jesus). If you “cast it,” it’s easy to pick back up. But if you throw it to Him, it’s His! Victory is near once you’ve given your cares over to Him, because *HE cares FOR you!*



3. **Key #3: Stand firm!** Don’t give any ground to Satan! Push back (in step with and empowered by God) to consciously and willfully resist Satan and the sin he tempts you to endure or enact. One preacher shared the acronym “ANTHEM” to describe how he attacks all sorts of sin (from lust to anger to self-pity and blame):

- **AVOID** When possible, stay away from temptation. If politics gets you mad, don’t scroll the news. Gluttons, avoid the all-you-can eat buffet.
- **Say “NO!”** Within five seconds, tell yourself “no” as soon as you notice the urge or the lingering thought.
- **TURN your mind** to something pure, excellent, godly, praiseworthy. To Christ. To your kids or wife.
- **HOLD** that pure thing in mind until the temptation is gone. Actively ponder, remember, talk about...
- **ENJOY** the pleasure of being in the blood-bought promises of God as you obey. You are obeying God and it pleases Him! Enjoy the absence of guilt and failure and disappointment.
- **MOVE** on to a better, Christ-exalting activity. Don’t wait around for it to happen again. Go do something for Jesus – meet someone’s need, show His love.

You don’t have to do that exact method, but ANTHEM is an active, not passive, attempt to wage war, to “**stand strong**” and find victory against Satan! Quietly and persistently.²

Peter’s words give us an active gameplan to follow!

² Piper. “Brothers we are not professionals.” # 22. P. 150



Round 3: The Team (5:9, 12-14)

[Boxing match – bell sound effect]

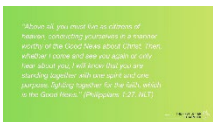
“Round 3: The Team”

Coach Peter crouches in the corner sharing insights, but he’s not alone. He has to jockey for position while someone is wiping sweat off your brow, another is tending to your wounds, and another is quickly rubbing your shoulders to keep you loose. Each person in your corner (as well as your fans in the crowd) wants you back out there fighting for victory, so they are making sure you have what you need to win in the ring.

A good coach has others that help!

We need people with us. Amen? Amen!

In many places, Scripture shows the value of a cohesive team.



“Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.” (Philippians 1:27, NLT)

Since writing took more time, effort and money in his day than it does now, Peter had a crew he was working with to write this letter and deliver it to others. Peter’s team includes:



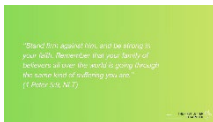
- **Silas (Silvanus)** v. 12 – a “faithful brother,” possibly the same one who served with Paul on his 2nd missionary journey.
- **The church “in Babylon”** v. 13 – Peter actually means Rome (“Babylon” is a derogatory nickname for the city here – a place where God’s people were “exiled”), but the church herself shares God’s calling.
- **Mark** – Peter’s “son,” probably not a real parent but in a fatherly discipleship way (like Paul and Timothy). This is probably the same Mark who wrote the Gospel account that bears his name.

All of these people stood alongside Peter, encouraging and equipping believers for victory.

Church, we all need a team like that! Who is yours? Who are the Christians you do life with, who pray for you when things are hard, who bring you meals when you are sick, who get the phone call or video call (not just the text) when you get good news?

You need a small group of people like that in the church. If you have it, great. If you don't have it, let us help you try to build it (it can take work and time, but it's worth it!). Write a note on your connection card if you are looking to find or create that kind of group! Let us help you get started. Drop it in the box before you leave or call me this week.

Peter's team reminds us we need such Christian friends and allies. But even if you are lacking that *personal* encouragement right now, there is a bigger team that can also keep you motivated.



“Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.” (1 Peter 5:9, NLT)

Even if you are alone for now, you aren't alone! Others are fighting Satan, enduring hardship, and staying faithful to Jesus. One day in heaven, you'll hear their names and stories...and they can hear yours! Just know that those brothers and sisters are with you in this fight!



Round 4: The Power (5:10-11)

[Boxing match – bell sound effect]

“Round 4: The Power”

Coach Peter grows quiet about the Enemy, the gameplan, and the people supporting you in this fight. “You’ll take some hits,” he says with intensity. “But you are going to be victorious. You’ll wear a champion’s belt. You’ll lift a trophy and cash the prize money! You might even have a place in the Hall of Fame! Because it’s not just you fighting, kid. No, you have DIVINE power fighting through you!”

A good coach sets your eye on the prize.

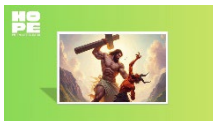
Do I need to say more? It's what Peter has been saying for the past 10 weeks. Our hope when things get hard...is Jesus!



“In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen.” (1 Peter 5:10–11, NLT)

Life is hard! You’ll face hardship! You’ll hurt in this fight! But there is power from on high. Peter uses three different words that all have the same basic thrust – God will restore and **strengthen, strengthen, strengthen** you! His love has come, and it gives us the strength to carry on!!!³

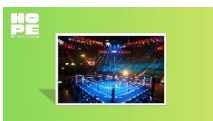
In the end? There is victory in Jesus. You know how it turns out. You know that **God has saved the best for last** when it comes to Jesus’ actions of salvation - his sufferings and subsequent glory:



- Jesus **came in the flesh**.
- Jesus **died on the cross** for our sins.
- Jesus was **buried**...but...
- Jesus **arose**! He conquered death. He conquered sin. He bridged the separation that had kept us apart from God!
- Jesus offered that **gift of salvation** freely, so people like you and I can humbly accept it
- Jesus will **return in glory and power**. Soon, He will come back and finish the work that He started.

That prize is the hope Peter has given us for when life is hard.

“All power to him forever! Amen.” (1 Peter 5:11, NLT)



Conclusion

[Boxing match – bell sound effect]

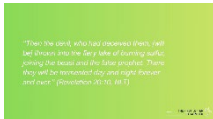
When the fight is over, you’re going to love the results. So, fight now! Take Coach Peter’s advice as you battle the Enemy. Throughout this whole letter, but especially now at the end, Peter has given you wisdom as he talks to you in your corner. He’s a good coach, so he...

³ Caedmon’s Call lyric...

- Doesn't sugarcoat the opponent's power
- Reminds you of what *you* should be doing
- Has others that help
- Sets your eye on the prize

It's still a fight and you'll take some hits.

But, what becomes of our Accuser, our Devil, the prowling lion?



“Then the devil, who had deceived them, [will be] thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10, NLT)

And what, then, becomes of us?



“All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.” (Revelation 21:7, NLT)



So get back in the ring, Church, and have hope when life is hard!

Prayer

Invitation

Sermon Notes

Round 1: The Enemy (5:8)

A good coach doesn't sugarcoat the opponent's power.

(Zechariah 3:1; John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8; Joel 3:16)

Round 2: The Gameplan (5:6-9)

A good coach reminds you of what *you* should be doing.

(1 Peter 5:6–9)

Round 3: The Team (5:9, 12-14)

A good coach has others that help.

(Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 5:9)

Round 4: The Power (5:10-11)

A good coach sets your eye on the prize.

(1 Peter 5:10–11; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 21:7)

Sermon Discussion Questions

- As we wrap up our series on 1 Peter, what parts of his letter were most helpful? Most challenging? How will you live differently based on what he shares?
- Read 1 Peter 5:6-14. Which verse stands out to you as most important? Why?
- In verse 8, Peter describes our Enemy. What do the descriptions (accuser, devil, lion) tell you about Satan's character and/or tactics?
- Do you take Satan seriously...or seriously enough? What are two words you would use to tell someone what their approach should be toward him? Explain your answer.
- Do you have a gameplan you use against Satan? What steps do you take to prevent falling into temptation?
- Why should we "hurl" our cares on God? How does this help us better follow Him?
- Who is the team of Christians you do life with? How effective have they been helping you improve your walk with Jesus? How have you helped them?
- Read 1 Peter 5:9. Why is it encouraging to know that other Christians face the same battles you do?
- Read 1 Peter 5:10-11. In what ways has God strengthened you? Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ to be strengthened this week.