

With Hope, Pete15

“Facing Your Foe“

Battle Tactics: Understanding Our Adversary

1 Peter 5:8-11 NAS

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.

Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

-The term *adversary* refers to an opponent in a lawsuit. It also can mean “slanderer” or “accuser.” Every fiber of his being is bent on defaming and defeating us.

-His method is stealth, prowling about, stalking our every step, waiting for a strategic moment to catch us off guard. His goal? To devour us!

9 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.

-As prey, our primary response to who the devil is, should be on the lookout for the predator. We must first **respect** his power and ability, then second, **resist** him.

-Resist means “to withstand, to be firm against someone else’s onset.”

-The Christian would do well to remember that he/she cannot fight the devil, yet, he can stand his ground in the face of attacks. Although our strength is insufficient to successfully fend him off, when we draw on the limitless resources of faith, we can stand against him nose-to-nose.

10 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.

-Will there be suffering in resisting Satan? Yes. Will it be painful? Without a doubt. But after the dust settles, there are rewards. God Himself will “perfect” us, “confirm” us, “strengthen” us, and “establish” us.

-This verse is a portrait of a decorated war hero, a seasoned veteran whose muscles of faith have been hardened and tempered by battle. It’s the picture of the well-grounded, stable, and mature Christian.

11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

-He is the one who has “the dominion.” And He has it “forever and ever.” He is the one ultimately in control.

And that is something in which every believer can find hope.

*Remember this:

Never confuse confidence in Christ with cockiness in the flesh.

Suffering is temporary and its rewards are eternal.

Bottom Line – **You don't have to pick a fight to win it.**