

Staying Alert

January 29, 2017

I. Four Steps To Surviving Times Of Testing

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Step One: Be Alert

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

A. The devil's tactic of terror is in contrast to God's promise of care.

B. Do not get caught off guard.

- Personal vigilance leads to spiritual victory.

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- There is a mole and it is you.

Step Two: Identify Your Enemy

A. You have an enemy.

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Luke 22:31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.

- Your enemy is the devil.

1 John 3:8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

B. You have a fierce enemy.

Job 2:2 And the Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

Psalm 22:13 Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.

- Your enemy wants to destroy you.
- Your enemy's desire is for you to fail or to falter.
- We must be careful that we do not give in or give up.

C. The devil desires for you to forfeit God's best for an insufficient substitute.

Step Three: Take Your Stand

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

A. Resist him.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

B. Standing firm.

Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- Flee what is wrong. Pursue what is right

C. Proximity

- Temptation comes with location.
- You cannot stand firm if you stand in the wrong place.

D. In the faith

Isaiah 50:7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

- God has promised protection.

1 Peter 1:4-6 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

- God has provided assistance.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- God is greater than your enemy.

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

- Faith is not a matter of stirring something up but of drawing something in.

Step Four: Be Encouraged

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

A. You are not alone.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

B. Jesus has conquered the devil.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.