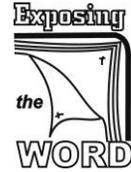


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## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



### XII- Remember to Stay Alert: 1Pe 5:8-14

Attention to details and our surrounding is something that we need to do to protect our safety. They tell us that criminals look for people who are inattentive or distracted and thereby perceived as weak marks to rob most of the time.

*A former police officer tells of the tactics of roving bands of thieves: 'They enter the store as a group. One or two separate themselves from the group, and the others start a loud commotion in another section of the store. This grabs the attention of the clerks and customers. As all eyes are turned to the disturbance, the accomplices fill their pockets with merchandise and cash, leaving before anyone suspects. Hours, sometimes even days, later, the victimized merchant realizes things are missing and calls the police. Too late.'*

I have entitled this last portion of First Peter, *Remember to Stay Alert*. Not just physically should be alert and aware of our surrounding but also spiritually.

#### I- Because There is an Adversary:

The Bible plainly tells us that we have an enemy of our soul. In the Bible, he is referred to in many ways, none of which is flattering. A few are accuser of the brethren (*Rev 12:10*), the Devil (*Matt 4:1*), father of lies (*John 8:44*), great red dragon (*Rev 12:3*), satan (*Rom 16:20*), power of darkness (*Col 1:13*), wicked one (*Matt 13:19*).

Therefore, without belaboring the point let us look at what Peter has to say to us through the Holy Spirit.

**1Pe 5:8 Be sober...**In our English language today when we talk about being sober it is usually in the context of not being inebriated or drunk on alcohol. But what about being intoxicated by the world and all its cares as well as pleasure? Would you not agree that it can lull us to sleep and make our spiritual eyes dim? *1Th 5:6 says Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

**1Pe 5:8... be vigilant...** This same Greek word in the KJV as well as other translations is translated watch. It simply means we are to be on watch, on guard against the evil one and his power and persuasion. He will use any means to draw our attention away.

*The Great Wall of China is a gigantic structure which cost an immense amount of money and labor. When it was finished, it appeared impregnable. But the enemy breached it. Not by breaking it down or going around it. They did it by bribing the gatekeepers. - Harry Emerson Fosdick*

Be vigilant or watch so we are not bribed by the world and overtaken.

#### II- The Adversary:

**1Pe 5:8...because your adversary the devil...**

We named names a few moment ago that our enemy is referred to in the Scriptures. Here are two, adversary and the devil. Notice the follow meaning according to Jamison, Fausset and Brown Commentary of these names.

*adversary — literally, “opponent in a court of justice” (Zec 3:1). “Satan” means opponent. “Devil,” accuser or slanderer (Rev 12:10). “The enemy” (Mat 13:39). “A murderer from the beginning” (Joh 8:44). He counteracts the Gospel and its agents. “The tempter.”*

He is the grand accuser of the brethren, the enemy that litigates against us. Satan is our accuser but Christ is our advocate.

Hear well these words well. **Romans 8:33-34** *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

**1 John 2:1** *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

**Heb 7:25** *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

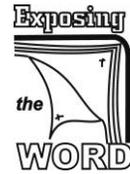
So when satan accuses, Christ defends, and in fact satan has no basis on which to accuse because any accusation that is valid is one that Christ brings not satan.

**1Pe 5:8...as a roaring lion...**

If you knew there was a lion stalking you it would certainly raise our awareness and wake us from sleep. Our enemy is said to be as a lion roaring and trying to

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destroy. The enemy is called a roaring lion because of his strength as well as his rage against everything and anyone godly.

*1Pe 5:8...walketh about...* He is every on the prowl and that is why we must be sober and watchful. *Job 1:7* says *And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*

*1Pe 5:8...seeking whom he may devour.* The goal of a lion on the prowl is to kill and devour.

### III- Resistance is not Futile:

If you would allow me to use a parity of a line from Hollywood that says, “*resistance is futile*” and re-state it as, “*resistance is not futile.*”

*1Pe 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith...*

Theologians tell a story to illustrate how Christ's triumph presently benefits our lives: Imagine a city under siege. The enemy that surrounds they city will not let anyone or anything leave. Supplies are running low, and the citizens are fearful.

But in the dark of the night, a spy sneaks through the enemy lines. He has rushed to the city to tell the people that in another place the main enemy force has been defeated; the leaders have already surrendered. The people do not need to be afraid. It is only a matter of time until the besieging troops receive the news and lay down their weapons. Similarly, we may seem now to be surrounded by the forces of evil, disease, injustice, oppression, death. But the enemy has actually been defeated at Calvary. Things are not the way they seem to be. It is only a matter of time until it becomes clear to all that the battle is really over.

*Uncommon Decency, Richard J. Mouw, pp. 149-150*

Paul tell us in *Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

James tells us *Jas 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.*

One of the great battles in spiritual warfare is recognizing when something is the work of the enemy. Most times he hates being identifies, he would rather worth with stealth and deception. No Christian in their right mind who recognizes that what is unfolding is the work of the devil would submit to him and not resist.

Notice is does not tell us to resist him with our might, smart nor power but by faith. Faith in Christ.

### IV- Not Only One Afflicted:

In battle soldiers become bands of brothers as they stand together. They all are experience the same events. We need to realize when we are resisting the enemy we are not alone. We are not alone in the affliction as if we are the only one to ever suffer it nor alone in the trenches. The same is true of the church through the ages. Remember, the Word says, *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2Ti 3:12*

Peter says in *1Pe 5:9... knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

### V- Grace Sufficient:

*1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

The victory is sure, the battle still rages. This verse takes my mind to what Christ said in *Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

We must remember that the enemy may afflict our mind and body but can never touch our soul. Christ will not lose anyone.

Peter again reminds them that the suffering, no matter the intensity, is only for a short time. Trials also are means God uses to grow our faith and strengthen our courage and resolve.

Because God's grace is sufficient, Peter and the saints of his day experience it firsthand, then God should be praised. *1Pe 5:11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

So remember to stay alert, it is only a short lifetime.

### Closing Remarks:

*1Pe 5:12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. 13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. 14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.*