

Strengthened By God's Word

1 Peter 5:6-11

"Resisting the Lion"— March 6, 2022



Introduction

Have you ever seen someone shadowbox - fighting with an imaginary opponent, practicing jabs, footwork, etc.? In shadow boxing, you can define your opponent - their moves, etc. It can lull you into a false sense of security because the real opponent can be tricky.

What does the Bible say about the devil? He is a real being. He led a rebellion against God because he wanted to be God. He is the leader of demons, the originator of sin, and his mission is to oppose and destroy every good work of God. He is the father of lies. He will do anything he can to turn people away from God and destroy them.

What do we do when our opponent is not an imaginary figure? What happens when our opponent wants to destroy us? The book of 1 Peter was written at a time when Christians were experiencing much persecution. It was written to encourage and strengthen Christians when it was very tough to be a Christian. It is also written to instruct them - "Resist the devil." Why?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. The Path of Resistance Vs. 6 – 8
2. The Purpose of Resistance Vs. 9
3. The Promise Vs. 10-11

Read & Discuss

1) Read 5:6 – 8

The path to resistance is not the path of least resistance. It's hard. The first step is the hardest. Here, Peter gives three steps to start out on the path.

- Humble yourself.
- Cast it off.
- Be watchful.

We are called to clothe ourselves with humility. Jesus is our example when he washed the disciples' feet. ([John 13:4-5](#)) We are not called to do the bare minimum. It's tough, and none of us are exempt. Peter had learned his lesson the hard way. We must also cast all of our anxieties on Him - use whatever strength you have to heave the burden off of you. You have to decide that these are beyond your ability to carry. You must go to the Father and tell Him that you can't carry them any longer. Finally, Christians must "be cool and keep our eyes open." Here Peter describes Satan as a lion - prowling around - he is so proud of his schemes. He is looking for the Christian who is just hanging on to release his mighty, intimidating roar.

How hard is it to clothe yourself in humility? Why? What cares of the world are you carrying? Are you barely hanging on? Are you aware of Satan's schemes with you? Have you experienced times of doubt? Is there a Christian brother or sister you can call on for help and encouragement?

Additional Reading: Psalm 91; 2 Corinthians 11:14; John 10:10

2) Read 5:9

Scripture urges believers to flee from specific sins, but not from the devil. We are to resist him - stand against him. What is the purpose of this resistance? It is the proving of your faith! But you don't stand alone. The Lion of Judah is with you. Jesus is our mighty fortress. Jesus is our strong tower. We stand with the King of kings behind us and with a brotherhood of fellow believers around the world beside us.

What have been your recent struggles in the battle of resistance? With whom can you share those struggles that will understand and help you fight for faith?

Additional Reading: James 4:6-8a; Ephesians 6:10-18

3) Read 5:10-11

God is sovereign. God sees the faith of His servants. The same God who allows the suffering, will say at the right time, "that's enough." It is for your own good even if you can't see it now.

What happens if you think you blew it? What hope is there for you? Peter is our example in the gospels. Peter knew exactly what it was like to think you can stand for the Lord and blow it. But Jesus Himself restored him, confirmed his faith, strengthened him to serve and established him as an apostle. Jesus will do the same for you.

Are there situations in which you have thought you could rely on self? Do you feel sometimes like you've blown it? What has been your experience when you've come to God in humble faith in confession?

Additional Reading: Job 1 and 2; Matthew 26:69-75; John 21

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

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<https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Genesis 4:17-26](#) "A Tale of Two Cities"