

Cornerstone Church

June 4, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: How to Fight the Devil Who Wants to
Destroy Your Faith and Reputation

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 5:8-14

[8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. [12] By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. [13] She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. [14] Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (ESV)

Introduction

Main Point: Our church is in the crosshairs of Satan and when extreme persecution comes he will do everything in his power to crush our collective faith and erase our witness by shutting our doors and scattering our flock so that the gospel cannot be heard at 202 7th Ave. East Alexandria, MN.

But, if we are aware of his strategies and we resist him in the power of Christ, HE WILL FAIL and JESUS WILL PREVAIL!

1. This is not about personal Satanic attacks on individuals. See James 4:4-8 for that. Otherwise if it was personal, Satan would be in stealth mode, instructing his minions to subtly tempt believers into sin.
2. Instead, this is about a corporate Satanic attack against individual churches and pastors. We know this because:
 - a. The pronouns are plural. Peter is talking to churches. (the word "someone" is not in the original).
 - b. He is roaring, not stalking. The intention and effect is fear.
 - c. Peter tells us what exactly the "roar" is. It is corporate sufferings. - **knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.**
 - d. The defenses are corporate not individual.
 - i. Examples of individual defenses – 1) Prayer - **Ephesians 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (ESV)** 2) Quoting Scripture - **Matthew 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (ESV)** 3) Commanding them to depart – Luke 10:19, 4) Repent and surrender to God's Lordship - **James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)**
 - ii. But here, Peter speaks of corporate defenses. 1) You (plural) be sober-minded. 2) You (plural) be watchful. 3)

You (plural) resist him.) You (plural) be steadfast together in your collective faith.

3. Therefore, the church that hangs together and encourages its members to resist the devil will be rewarded with VICTORY. **And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen**
 - a. It is the grace of God that brings the victory after the momentary suffering. **Romans 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)**
 - b. It is God who will restore His people to _____
 - c. It is God who will confirm His people to _____
 - d. It is God who will strengthen His people's lagging _____
 - e. It is God who will establish His chosen people's _____
4. How can we be so certain that this will come true? Because God's dominion is an everlasting dominion. **To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen**
5. Final greetings from one church to her sister churches. **[12] By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. [13] She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. [14] Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (ESV)**