

1 Peter 5:8-11

⁸ Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in your faith and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore you, secure you, strengthen you, and establish you. ¹¹ To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Berean Study Bible

⁸ Be vigilant. Be awake.

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

⁹ Resist him,

firm in the Faith

knowing the same sufferings are experienced
by your family of believers throughout the world.

¹⁰ Now, the God of all grace,

having called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
through a few sufferings

He Himself will perfect you;
confirm you;
strengthen you; and
establish you.

¹¹ To Him be the power into the ages of the ages. Amen.

My own translation – Preachers Literal Translation

1

I am stronger than I think. 1 Peter 5:8-11

Be stronger than the strong. 5:8

My strength is in alertness. 8a “Be stable. Be awake.”

My strength is in reality. 8b “Your adversary... roaring lion... devour”

Be stronger in your strength. 5:9a

My strength is in action. 9a “Resist him”

My strength is within. 9a “standing firm in your faith”

Be stronger, like the stronger. 5:9b-10a

My strength has been shown. 9b “your brothers... same kinds of suffering”

My strength has to be earned. 10 “suffered for a little while... all grace”

Be stronger through the strongest. 5:10b-11

My strength is ample. 10b "called... restore, secure, strengthen... establish"

My strength is praise. 11 "To Him be the power forever"

2

Fight fair. Fight to win. 1 Peter 5:8-11

Facing the devil. 5:8

Be alert. 8a "Be vigilant. Be awake."

Be aware. 8b "Your adversary... roaring lion... devour"

Firm decisions. 5:9a

Appropriate No. 9a "Resist him"

Appropriate Yes. 9a "firm in the Faith"

Family dynamics. 5:9b-10a

Broad perspective. 9b "your brethren... same kinds of suffering"

Narrow perspective. 10 "all grace... few sufferings"

Foundation destiny. 5:10b-11

My resources. 10b "called... perfect... confirm... strengthen... establish"

My result. 11 "To Him be the power forever"

3

How weak Christians become strong. 1 Peter 5:8-11

Be alert. 5:8

Be alert to move forward. 8a "Be vigilant. Be awake."

Be alert to push back. 8b "Your adversary... devour."

Be active. 5:9

Be active against the evil one. 9a "Resist him, firm in the Faith"

Be active among the faithful ones. 9b "knowing... your family of believers..."

Be accepting. 5:10

Be accepting of what God has called me to. 10a "to His eternal glory"

Be accepting of what God has called me through. 10b "through a few sufferings"

Be adoring. 5:11

Be adoring of God's person. 11a "To Him be the power"

Be adoring of God's program. 11b "forever and ever"

Asking questions. Finding explanations. 1 Peter 5:8-11

Look what is against me. 5:8

I can face what is against me. 8a "Be vigilant. Be awake."

Because I know what is against me. 8b "Your adversary... devour."

Look what is around me. 5:9

I can overcome what is against me. 9a "Resist him, firm in the Faith"

Because of what is around me. 9b "knowing... your family of believers..."

Look what is within me. 5:10

I can attain what is before me. 10a "to His eternal glory"

Because of what goes behind me. 10b "through a few sufferings"

Look what is before me. 5:11

I can bow before my Lord. 11a "To Him be the power"

Because my life is not about me. 11b "forever and ever"

Faith. So what? 1 Peter 5:8-11

What. 8a "Be vigilant. Be awake."

Why. 8b "Your adversary... devour."

What. 9a "Resist him, firm in the Faith"

How. 9b "knowing... your family of believers..."

What. 10a "called you to His eternal glory"

So. 10b "He Himself will..."

What. 11 "To Him be the power"

More than conquerors. 1 Peter 5:8-11

Our command to conquer. 5:8-9

Be alert to your enemy. 8

My enemy has many disguises. 8 "your adversary, the devil"

My enemy has one desire. 8b "seeking someone to devour"

Be active by your experience. 9

I have the advantage of my personal faith. 9 "firm in the Faith"

I have the advantage of my public family. 9 "family of believers... world"

Our qualifications to conquer. 5:10-11

We are called by grace. 10a

I am called to the victory podium. 10a "to His eternal glory"

I am called by my victorious Captain. 10a "in Christ Jesus"

We are called by suffering. 10b

My sufferings have limits. 10b "a few sufferings"

My sufferings have benefits. 10b "He Himself will..."

7

How winners win. 1 Peter 5:8-11

Be alert in your mind. 5:8

The devil is against you from a distance. 8a "adversary"

The devil is against you from nearby. 8b "devour"

Be active in your Faith. 5:9

You overcome the devil in the Faith. 9a "firm in the Faith"

You overcome the devil in the Church. 9b "family of believers"

Be astute in your spirit. 5:10

You have enough grace for glory. 10a "all grace... eternal glory"

You have enough suffering for strength. 10b "few sufferings... strengthen you"

Be adoring in your worship. 5:11

My life is about the person of God, not me. 11a "to Him"

My life is by the power of God, not me. 11a "be the power"

8

Being at peace in your troubled world. 1 Peter 5:10

"called you"

"restore you"

"secure you"

"strengthen you"

"establish you"

Other possible titles

The world is getting worse, but I am getting better. Here is how.

When I do a little, God does a lot.

A little pain is followed by a lot of gain.

How to beat Satan.

Overcoming temptation.

Quotes and illustrations

Quotes about the devil

Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility. Jonathan Edwards

I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the One to whom I'm united; he can't handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature. A. W. Tozer

When the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, he trembles as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end. R.A. Torrey

We are evidently no friends of Satan. Like the kings of this world, he wars not against his own subjects. The very fact that he assaults us should fill our minds with hope. J. C. Ryle

My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list. Leonard Ravenhill

Like a good chess player, Satan is always trying to manoeuvre you into a position where you can save your castle only by losing your bishop. C.S. Lewis

It is a masterpiece of the devil to make us believe that children cannot understand religion. Would Christ have made a child the standard of faith if He had known that it was not capable of understanding His words? Dwight L. Moody

Hell is the highest reward that the devil can offer you for being a servant of his. Billy Sunday

Satan so hates the genuine praise of Christ that his fiery darts of discouragement are not effective against us when we respond in praise. William Thrasher

The devil does not stay where music is. Martin Luther

Do not be despondent when fighting against the incorporeal enemy, but even in the midst of your afflictions and oppression praise the Lord, Who has found you worthy to suffer for Him, by struggling against the subtlety of the serpent, and to be wounded for Him at every hour; for had you not lived piously, and endeavoured to become united to God, the enemy would not have attacked and tormented you. John of Kronstadt

Mock the devil and he will flee from thee. Fear of the devil leads to devil worship. Bono

We must recognize how the evil one is working in this world and take a firm stance against him. It means we take careful thought concerning what we put in our minds - what we listen to, what we watch, and how we use our time. Chip Ingram

To assure victory we need to watch even the sound of our speech. Immediately the evil spirit touches our spirit, our voice loses its softness. A harsh, hard, and shrill utterance does not spring from the Holy Spirit; it simply exhibits the fact that the one who speaks has been poisoned already by Satan. Watchman Nee

There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan. C.S. Lewis

Just because the current giant you are facing looks like one you defeated in the past, don't buy the lie that you never really won the first battle! By the strength of God's grace, you trusted the Almighty and conquered your Goliath. The first giant is dead. Satan is masquerading as your former enemy so he can slip past your faith and regain entrance into your life. Resist him. Francis Frangipane

The enemy uses all his power to lead the Christian, and above all the minister, to neglect prayer. He knows that however admirable the sermon may be, however attractive the service, however faithful the pastoral visitation, none of these things can damage him or his kingdom if prayer is neglected. Andrew Murray

In the 1940s the British author C S Lewis wrote a series of fictional, satirical letters, between a young demon and a senior demon, they were eventually published as a book called "The Screwtape Letters." And in the preface to the book, Lewis wrote this: There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to... disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.

Greek key words

Be sober; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

νήφω [Strong's 3525] to be sober, to abstain from wine, calm, vigilant, circumspect. A verb occurring 6 times in the New Testament, including 3 times (50%) in 1 Peter. "Be **sober**" v13, is the literal translation. Not 'sober-minded', for there is no 'mind' in this word.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action. **Be sober**. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

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

Be sober; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Additional notes on sobriety and intoxication in Scripture may be found in the Sermon Inspiration notes for 1 Peter 1:13-16.

Other New Testament references using νήφω are 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 8. 2 Timothy 4:5.

Be sober. **Be vigilant.** Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

γρηγορέω [Strong's 1127] is a verb meaning: wakeful, to be awake, to watch, be roused from sleep, to arouse, to stay awake, to be alert, watchful, on the alert, vigilant. This is a word with 23 occurrences in the Greek New Testament, but only once by Peter, in 1 Peter 5:8.

Be sober. **Be awake.** Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

A different word with similar meaning is:

ἐγείρω [Strong's 1453] a verb meaning: to waken, to raise up, arouse, raise up. This is a common word, occurring 144 times in the Greek New Testament, but only once by Peter, in 1 Peter 1:21.

Through Him, you are faithful to God, who **raised** Him out from the dead and gave Him glory; and so, your faith and expectation are in God. 1 Peter 1:21

γρηγορέω [Strong's 1127] emphasises the mental aspects of wakefulness, being alert.
ἐγείρω [Strong's 1453] emphasises the physical aspects of wakefulness, being action.

Be sober. Be vigilant. Your **adversary**, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

ἀντίδικος [Strong's 476] is a compound noun consisting of the preposition ἀντί [Strong's 473] meaning: anti, against, opposite, opposing, in contrast, contradicting; plus the noun δίκη [Strong's 1349] meaning: a lawsuit, a judicial verdict, process of law, legal hearing, execution of sentence, imposition of punishment, extraction of a penalty. This word, δίκη, occurs only 3 times in the Greek New Testament.

Hence, this word, ἀντίδικος, means: an adversarial prosecuting attorney who is your opponent at law seeking to establish your guilt and impose penalties against you.

This word, ἀντίδικος, occurs only 5 times in the Greek New Testament, including once by Peter in 1 Peter 5:8. The other usage in Matthew 5:25 (twice), Luke 12:58, and in Luke 18:3.

A cognate of δίκη is the noun is δικαιοσύνη [Strong's 1343] meaning: righteousness. A common noun occurring 92 times in the Greek New Testament, including 1 Peter 2:24, 3:14, 2 Peter 1:1, 2:5, 2:21, and 3:13.

Descriptions and guises of the devil

As originally created, and fall

Isaiah 14:13-14

Ezekiel 28:12-15

In the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:1-15

In the ministry of Jesus

Temptation in the wilderness. Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13

Get behind me Satan. Matthew 16:21-23, Mark 8:31-33

In the New Testament

Masquerades as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14

Ultimate fate

Isaiah 14:9-17, Revelation 20:10

Music and songs

Songs about victory

I'm a conqueror and victorious

Songs about strength

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty

Glory Jesus glory, You do the fighting for me

I go to the Rock

Our God is a great big God

Rise up you people of power

Songs about faith

My faith it is an oaken staff

Songs about suffering

Thank you for the trials

Songs about glory

Glory Jesus glory, You do the fighting for me
The power and the glory of Your name

Benediction

Now unto Him who is able to do so much more than all could we ask or imagine; according to His power that is at work within us; to Him be the glory in you, in the church, and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen

Based on Ephesians 3:20-21

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Have you ever been into Health and Fitness, and building muscle? Why does that phase come and/or pass?
 2. We are told to resist the devil (v9). How can we resist someone or something we can't see or touch?
 3. What step would you recommend to someone who wanted to be 'firm in the Faith' (v9a)?
 4. How does the fact that other believers are experiencing sufferings similar to mine, help me resist the devil (v9)?
 5. Since God is the God of all grace (v10a) why does He allow us to pass through suffering; is grace, and glory, consistent with suffering?
 6. What are four things we achieve through suffering (v10b)? Suggest alternatives to suffering, but why are those ways less productive?
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