

- B. "After you have suffered a little while..."
- C. The God of all grace gives grace to the humble by restoring, confirming, strengthening, and establishing you.
  - i. These four overlapping verbs speak to the totality with which He will sustain and deliver the humble.
  - ii. It is a certainty. He is the One to whom belongs all power!

Karen Jobes: "At the time Peter wrote these words, to all human appearances it must have seemed that to Rome instead belonged the dominion forever. Roman rule had brought the pax Romana (Roman peace) that ended regional wars and unified the empire, generally improving life around the Mediterranean. But the price of that 'peace' was the iron-fisted power of Roman might that tolerated not even the suspicion of a threat to its glory."

- iii. Roman glory looks like a withered flower compared to God's glory in the ages to come" (1 Pet. 1:24).

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- 1 Peter 5:8-11, James 4:7, and Ephesians 6:10-12 all speak of resisting or standing against the devil. What do they also have in common in their surrounding context that might be instructive?
- What is the opposite of the spiritual sobriety that Peter calls us to? How do we make sure that we are "sober"?
- Why do we need to be keenly aware of the fact that we have a spiritual enemy that prowls around like a roaring lion? What might we learn about this "lion" by considering Genesis 4 as its background?
- How might our call to resist the devil be connected to the call to humble ourselves in our relationships?
- Discuss: The biggest threat to the church today is that while we are focused on a frontal attack from enemies outside, the devil works to create infighting among us. (Also apply to marriage.)
- Describe ways that in the name of being firm in the faith ((in the ways of Jesus Christ) you have stood firm in your own ways?

## Homeless: *The Devilish Danger in Our Invisible War*

Jerry Cisar — November 7, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 5:8-11

### Introduction

#### I. Prepare for an Invisible War (8a)

- A. Peter hasn't changed subjects.
- B. A Clarion Call to War
  - i. Don't be spiritually drunk!
    - a) Why the need for sobriety in these last day? (1 Pet. 4:7)
    - b) Luke 21:34
  - ii. Be watchful!
    - a) We must "abstain from the passions of the flesh which war against our souls" (1 Pet. 2:11)
    - b) Indulgence dulls our senses!

#### II. Invisible Enemy in Your Conflicts (8b)

- A. There is an active enemy who fights to destroy relationships within the church.
  - i. This enemy is not the other person.
  - ii. *One miscalculation and you are dinner!*

B. "Sin is crouching at your door." (Gen. 4:6-7)

- i. Sin as a ruling power. Like a lion ready to pounce.
- ii. Cain was pounced on and consumed by his envy and hatred, and he devoured his brother out in a field one day!

C. In what way does he devour us?

- i. Our tendency is to think that the primary activity which we must resist is what he is trying to get others to do when, in fact, it is how he is trying to get us to behave!
- ii. The place in the letter that Peter chooses to mention our invisible enemy is not while addressing *outside opposition* but *family relations*!
  - a) Devouring happens when, "you bite and devour one another." (Gal. 5:14-15)
  - b) The works of the flesh (Gal. 5:20-21)
  - c) The biggest threat to the church today

D. Jonathan and David provide a great contrast to Cain and Abel.

- i. Jonathan had every reason which Cain had to be envious. (1 Sam. 18:3).
- ii. Jonathan arranges to meet David in a field... but rather than kill him, he rescues him from death.

### III. How to Fight an Invisible War (9)

A. How do we resist this invisible enemy?

- i. By remaining firm in the faith... our allegiance to King Jesus and His ways... the ways of the cross: denying ourselves and following Him in laying down our life for one another.

ii. James 3:13-18; 4:1-7

B. Standing firm in the faith is not merely standing firm in a list of doctrines.

Douglas Harink: "Peter has made clear throughout the letter that messianic 'faith' has a very particular content and shape: the content is the Messiah himself, and its shape is suffering. ... We resist the dangerous power of the devil to persuade us that there are better ways to triumph over evil than through the sufferings of Christ."

- i. Being firm in the faith is remaining loyal to Christ and His ways. It is "leaving behind the deadly ways and habits of 'the Gentiles' (4:3-4)." It "is 'being subordinate' even to those who might oppress." It requires us to entrust ourselves to 'the one who judges justly' (2:23). It "is humbly waiting for the 'mighty hand of God' to bring about justice for God's people and the wider world."
- ii. Far too often, we want to accomplish God's ends, the goal, by the devils' ways.
- iii. Instead of standing firm in the faith, too often we stand firm in getting our way.

When we act in pride, we succumb to the enemy of our souls because God is resisting us, but when we humble ourselves, we set ourselves up to receive grace from an Invisible Ally—the God of all grace.

### IV. Invisible Ally in Your Conflicts (10-11)

A. The God of all grace abundantly provides.

- i. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith."
- ii. Humbling ourselves under God's mighty hand.