

TRANSCRIPT

July 2nd 2026 "Don't Let the Lion Find You Sleeping"

It's good to see everyone here.

If you have your Bibles, could you please turn to 1 Peter.

1 Peter chapter 5.

I think this is a little too high.

1 Peter chapter 5.

I titled this message, Don't Let the Lion Find You Sleeping.

And as I look back at it, I should have wrote, Don't Let the Adversary Find You Sleeping.

Amen.

So here we find in 1 Peter chapter 5, beginning in verse 8, the Bible says,

Be sober and vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who had called us unto his eternal glory by Jesus Christ, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, established, strengthened, settle you.

Amen.

To him be the glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

Let's pray.

Father, we thank you.

We thank you for all that you're doing.

I ask you now, Lord, that you would help me as I preach your word.

Father, may the saints recognize the fact that we have an adversary.

And, Father, we must be vigilant and watchful.

And always standing against him in the spirit.

And, Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit that you've given us.

But most of all, we thank you for Jesus who's called us to an eternal glory.

And, Father, what a blessing.

Give us strength for the day and build us up by your word.

And this I pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Well, you can be seated at this time.

And as I said, and as the Bible here says, Satan is the adversary of every believer.

And as such, he is committing to doing all that he can to distract and discourage, divide and defeat, and then destroy us in our Christian walk.

And today, as we look around, we see how much influence that the demonic realm has had on this world.

And I've said this in the past.

And I've said this in the past.

And I'll say it again.

Satanism has come out of the closet.

Amen.

And you can see it in the music.

You can see it in the books at the bookstore.

Even the libraries.

You can see it in the libraries.

You can see it in the schools.

You can see it everywhere.

And we must realize that we have an adversary, the devil.

And he wants nothing more than to destroy your faith and lead you to stumble into sin.

And in this passage of Scripture, we find that Peter calls believers to stay awake, to stand firm, and to trust God, restoring grace.

And it's so true.

And as we look here, we know, number one, the call to spiritual alertness.

Look again in 1 Peter 5, verse 8.

The Bible says, be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.

And here we find that Peter commands the believer to be alert because of our adversary.

And he focuses on the spiritual vigilance, which is necessary, because the adversary, the enemy, is real.

And as soon as you recognize the fact that he's real, as soon as you recognize the fact that because of your faith, because of your trust in Jesus Christ, you are his enemy.

So when we look at this, in 1 Peter 5, we see it says, and be sober.

And what that means is to be sober-minded.

And what does that mean?

It means a clear, a steady, spiritually disciplined thinking.

And that was what we must do.

We must be more spiritually minded.

Today, Satan has us distracted.

He has us distracted with all the things of the world.

But God wants us to be disciplined.

He wants us to have a vigilance and a clear-mindedness on spiritual things.

And this is opposite of distraction in emotional sensitivity or spiritual dullness.

And what does that mean?

I believe Satan has worked quite a bit on making this generation coming up to be more emotional sensitive,

to be more leaning towards their emotions than to facts.

Amen?

And that's why you find in certain colleges, they have safe spaces.

And now when you talk to somebody, if something is said that goes against them, and listen, we have the freedom of speech.

And we can speak truth.

But today, people don't want truth.

They want to be felt like they're in a protective bubble for their emotions.

And I believe this is what Satan's done.

And for you and I, we need to be aware of this.

And clear, disciplined thinking is essential in a world full of spiritual distractions.

And again, as I will say, emotional sensitivity.

And again, this is the opposite.

Amen?

Sober-mindedness is the opposite of distraction and emotional sensitivity or anxiety or fear or even complacency.

But not only does he point that out, he also gives a call to spiritual alertness to be vigilant.

Look at what it says in 1 Peter 5, verse 8 again.

It says, be sober, be vigilant.

Here, this word vigilant means to be alert, awake, attentive to spiritual realities.

Amen?

We need to be awake and alert.

We need to be vigilant because we have the enemy, our adversary, like a lion in the grass waiting to pounce on each and every one of us.

And Peter knows what it means to fail.

And Peter knows what it means to fail in watchfulness.

Remember in the garden of Gethsemane?

Remember when they were all there, the disciples, and they were falling asleep?

And what did the Lord say?

He went up to him and he said, why are you falling asleep?

I need you to be vigilant.

So Peter's exhortation here carries a lot of weight when he says, be sober, be vigilant.

Remember what happened?

He denied the Lord three times.

And we have to be vigilant.

Amen?

Vigilance to spiritual realities.

Vigilance is a posture of readiness.

I think I've used this in the past.

A soldier, a marine, and Fallujah.

In the heat of the battle.

He would be vigilant.

He would be sober.

He would be looking around with those eyes, watching.

Vigilant.

Watching for the enemy to attack.

And that's the same thing.

That's what we're supposed to be.

Like a soldier in Fallujah.

Fallujah.

But then if you find up in the Cape, in Massachusetts, up in the Cape,
at Otis Air Force Base.

You find a soldier there.

There's nothing happening there.

What would happen there?

He's kind of sleepwalking.

He's hanging around.

He's not as vigilant.

Why?

Because he doesn't feel he's in danger.

And to you and I, we need to recognize the fact that we're in behind enemy lines here.

And Peter knows what it means to fail.

Amen?

So he says here in 1 Peter 5.8, be sober, be vigilant.
And look what else he says.
Because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion.
And we find that the devil is described as a roaring lion, which what?
Which is kind of intimidating.
Amen?
Think of it.
He's a roaring lion.
How many times when we see things happen, we're filled with fear because of roaring lion.
He's roaring.
When we need to be walking by faith, not by fear.
And that's the whole thing.
Satan's strategy is that he will go after you when you are vulnerable and distracted.
And he is a spiritual being.
And the battle he wages with you is spiritual.
It's not physical.
You can't see it.
It's a spiritual thing.
Yes, he uses physical things.
But he's behind the scene.
You can't see him.
And what goes into the mind, because that's the battlefield, is the mind.
And you need to control what you think and how you look at the world, because that's what the Bible is.
We need to have a biblical worldview and not a worldview like the world has.
Amen?
And again, the mind is the battlefield.
He'll attack you in your mind.
And what goes into the mind controls the life.
And garbage in is garbage out, they say.
Amen?
Isn't that true?
And spiritual truth in, the word of God, is spiritual fruit that comes out.
Isn't that amazing when you think of that?
So here we find he's calling us to be sober and to be vigilant, because we have an adversary, Satan.
And as a roaring lion, and what's he doing?
And he's walking about seeking whom he may devour.
And if you are walking around in your life, and your Bible is closed, and you never open it up, and you're never praying,
and you come to church maybe once in a while, you hear something once in a while,
but all you are is distracted with the things of the world,
you are vulnerable for the attacks of the adversary.
Secondly, we see the call to steadfast resistance.
Look at 1 Peter 5, verse 9.
Here the Bible says,
And what he's saying here is,
Peter does not tell believers to flee, but to resist.
This is a military term, meaning to stand one's ground.
Listen, you have to understand your identity in Christ.

You are a blood-bought believer.
If you've trusted the Lord Jesus Christ, and you've trusted the works that he did on the cross,
that he was sinless, and he died on the cross for the sins of the world,
which is our sin, and he took the punishment of sin upon himself,
and when he died, he rose again the third day,
because he paid the penalty of our sin.
And if you believe you're a sinner,
and you've called on Jesus by faith,
knowing who he is,
he's God the Son,
knowing that he died for your sin,
and if you believe that by faith,
and receive him as Lord and Savior,
the Holy Spirit will come into your life,
and you will be a blood-bought child of God.
And we can stand and resist steadfast in the faith,
the faith that we are believers in Christ,
knowing that the blood of Jesus has covered us,
and we can stand against the enemy,
and we can stand our ground.
We don't have to run in fear.
We can stand by faith,
knowing that we have a God that's in our corner.
And here Peter says,
to resist in your faith.
It's all about faith.
Amen?
It's not in your strength,
not in your personality,
not in your willpower.
There's nothing you can do to stand against Satan,
but in your faith,
because it's the faith of the believer
that can stand against the enemy.
It's your faith that anchors you to Christ's victory,
that victory of the cross.
And it's also the faith in God's word
that gives us promises,
that tells us who we are.
And of course,
it's our faith in Christ's authority in our life.
Isn't it true?
When we believe it,
when we know it?
Again,
1 Peter chapter 5,
verse 9,
says,
whom resist steadfast in the faith.

And here's what he says.
He says,
knowing that the same afflictions
are accomplished in your brethren
that are in the world.
What's he saying here is,
your Christian brothers throughout the world
are experiencing the same trials
and attacks by Satan.
Amen?
He's attacking all of us.
Matter of fact,
he attacks us,
the believer,
more than those in the world.
And we have to recognize this.
You have to understand
that your faith in Jesus
isn't going to give you a good day every day.
It's brought you into a battlefield
with an adversary.
And your trials place you
in the global fellowship
of the faithful believers around you.
When you think of it,
think of those who are in China,
those believers in China,
and how they suffer for their faith.
Yes, and those in Iran right now,
suffering for their faith.
And just like you and I,
even in America,
you will suffer for your faith.
Even here in America.
And this is what you have to understand.
You are in a battle.
But you have to what?
You have to resist.
You have to be vigilant.
You have to be sober-minded,
looking around,
watching,
and knowing that you're in a battle.
It's those who are sleepwalking
in their spiritual walk
that find themselves being attacked
and defeated by the adversary.
So here,
we need to resist.

And listen,
resistance is not forever.
Your trials are not forever.
But when you are attacked,
when you're going through a trial,
you must stand and resist.
Because it's only temporary.
Suffering is not permanent.
God himself will step in.
Sometimes it's not on our timeline.
Amen?
Sometimes it'll be a while,
and you're saying,
Lord, why?
But we don't understand why.
He just wants us to be sober,
be vigilant,
and resist.
Because he is still in control.
And we must understand that.
That's why I like what it says
in James chapter 4, verse 7.
James chapter 4, verse 7.
The Bible says,
submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you.
Isn't that amazing when you think of that?
And again,
it's that military wording,
standing your ground before Satan,
not running and fleeing.
You know,
it's the same thing when you look,
how many times you find people
walking,
taking a walk in nature,
especially in Montana,
where they have grizzly bears.
And they say,
sometimes you walk up,
and here's a black bear
looking right at you on the trail.
And the worst thing you could do
is turn and flee.
The worst thing you could do
is try to outrun a bear
and climb up a tree.
There's no way you could do it.

And what do they say?
They say you must stand and resist
and even make yourself bigger than you are.
Amen?

Bigger and yelling
and with a loud voice,
making noise.
And sometimes that bear will look at you.
And because you are resisting,
because there's no fear,
and you're standing there,
that's when all of a sudden
the adversary,
that bear will turn
and walk away.

But as soon as you get filled up with fear
and turn and run and flee,
that's when you're going to get pounced.
So it's the same thing
in our spiritual walk.
Don't submit.

Don't surrender
to fear
or flee from Satan,
but rather stand against him
and the authority of Christ.

Amen?
And then my third point is
the promise
of divine restoration.

Look what it says
in 1 Peter 5, verse 10.
Let me read it
throughout from verse 8 to 10.

It says,
Be sober,
be vigilant,
because your adversary,
the devil,
as a roaring lion,
walketh about seeking
whom he may devour,
whom resists steadfast in the faith,
knowing that the same afflictions
are accomplished
in your brethren
that are in the world.

But
the God of all grace,

who had called us
unto his eternal glory
by Christ Jesus,
after that ye have suffered a while,
make you perfect,
establish,
strengthen,
and settle you.
Isn't that amazing?
So we have the promise
of divine restoration.
Peter is shifting
from commanding us
to stand fast,
to be sober,
to be vigilant,
and he shifts
to a promise.
And that promise is
in the name of God
with a title
that frames
the whole passage.
Look what it says
in verse Peter,
chapter 5,
verse 10.
But the God
of all grace.
What a blessing there.
The God of all grace.
Man,
I think of God's grace
upon my life.
I think when I am weak,
he became strong.
I think when I am struggling,
he lifts me up
and carries me
when I can't
go any further.
And Peter does not say
that you will restore yourself,
confirm yourself,
or strengthen yourself.
He says God will.
It's all about God.
When you find yourself weak,
when you find yourself

where you can't go
any further,
when you find yourself
where there's no hope,
when you're looking
at your situation
with physical eyes,
that's when God steps in.
And he's waiting for you
to have faith
in what he is all about,
his authority,
and who he is.
Why?
Because it says here,
he's the God
of all grace.
Amen?
The God
of all grace.
He's the one
whose resources
never run out.
And he's not
the God
of some grace
or occasional grace.
He's the God
of all grace.
Isn't that a blessing
when you think of that?
Turn with me
to 1 Corinthians.
Look what it says
in 1 Corinthians
chapter 1.
The God of all grace.
I love that.
And I also love
what it says
in 1 Corinthians
chapter 1 verse 9.
Look what it says here.
It says,
God is faithful
by whom ye were called
unto the fellowship
of his dear son,
Jesus Christ,

our Lord.
He's faithful.
Amen?
He will always show up.
He will never let you go.
He will never forsake you.
Why?
Because he loves you.
And he's the God
of all grace.
And a lot of times
it's not on our timeline.
It's on his.
And when he shows up,
he has all the resources.
He has all the power.
He has all the authority.
He's in control
of everything.
And he's your daddy.
Isn't that amazing?
Spiritual warfare is real.
But God's sovereignty
is greater than any attack.
Any adversary
that comes against you.
Whether it's spiritual
or physical.
God is in your corner.
And what a blessing for that.
God's grace is both
sustaining and restoring.
That's why we are commanded to
in 1 Peter chapter 5 verse 9.
Verse 9.
To resist steadfast
in the faith.
Not in your strength.
Not in your power.
But in the faith
knowing that God
is the God of all grace.
What a blessing.
You know the enemy,
the adversary
roars to intimidate.
Isn't it true?
But if you are standing
on your faith

and not on fear,
the lamb reigns
and restores
by the blood.
Isn't that a blessing
to know that?
So,
what's the believer's posture
in the spiritual battle?
Again,
do not let
the lion
find you asleep.
You need to be what?
You need to be sober.
You need to be vigilant.
And you need to resist.
Amen?
So,
the believer's posture
is not in fear,
but in vigilance.
Not in retreating,
but resistance.
And not in despair,
but in hope.
Because we have
a God of all comfort,
a God of all grace,
and he's called,
in 1 Corinthians 1,
verse 9,
he's called faithful.
Amen?
What a blessing
to know that.
So,
if you're going
through this world
and you're going
through a trial
and you're remaining
vigilant
and you're doing
what God's called you
to do,
be what it says
in Galatians chapter 6,
verse 9.

The Bible says,
and let us not be weary
in well-doing.

Yes,
we have an adversary.

Yes,
it will be high
at times.

Yes,
we will go through trials.

But it says,
let us not be weary
in well-doing.

For in due season,
we shall reap
if we faint not.

Because we got
the God
of all faithfulness,
who's the God
of all grace,
who will sustain us
and restore us.

And he's already
given us
an inheritance
in heaven.

What can we be
fearful of?

Amen?

What a blessing
to know.

Why don't we stand?

I hope that
this message
touched you
as it's touched me.

I hope you recognize
the fact that
the God

that's called you
unto the Lord Jesus
through the blood
of Jesus
and has given you
a new name
and has covered you
with his love
and is faithful

because he's the God
of all grace
and we can trust him
and we can stand fast
against the enemy
in our faith
knowing that
everyone,
all of us believers
are going through
the same thing
and we have a God
that's watching over us.
Let's pray.
Father, we thank you.
Father, for that one
who's been struggling.
Father, I pray
that this message,
this message
would help them.
Help them to realize
that this is a
spiritual battle
and God
is over
the adversary.
There's nothing
he can do.
He's on a leash
and all he can do
is bark
and we stand
in Christ's authority
and we stand
covered by his blood
and we can rest
on the promises
that he will restore us
in due time.
So let us not be weary.
Let us stand
and resist
and let us be vigilant
in this battle.
Let us not sleep.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

