

***“His Craft & Power Are Great”***  
***1 Peter 5:8-9***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Open Our Bibles Tonight:
  - To 1 Peter 5 - Where:
    - We Will Learn Something More:
      - About “Our Ancient Foe” - The Devil!
  - Because - As We've Already Learned:
    - We Must Not Remain Ignorant:
      - About Our Greatest Enemy:
        - Who Will Use Any & All Means He Can:
          - To Attack Us:
            - In Our Walk With The Lord!
2. So Far - We've Looked At:
  - The Devices Of The Devil:
    - That He Uses:
      - To Get Us To Question:
        - God And His Word!
    - And - They Are The Same Devices:
      - That He Used To Tempt:
        - Both Eve & The Lord Jesus!
      - So - Even Though The Devil:
        - Is Cunning & Crafty & Even Effective:
          - He Isn't Very Original!
            - We've Also Seen:
  - The Design Of The Devil:
    - And That - No Matter What Form He Takes:
      - He Will Always Have The Same Functions:
        - As His Names!
          - As The Devil:
            - He Is An Accuser!
          - As Satan:
            - He Is The Adversary:
              - Of God & His People!
                - We Also Learned About:
  - The Dominion Of The Devil!
    - And How He Still Has Some Authority:
      - Over His Evil Allies:
        - In This Sinful World - As Well As:
          - Through Our Fallen Flesh!
      - However - When You Become:
        - God's Child - Through Faith In Christ:
          - You Are No Longer:
            - The Devil's Child!
          - Neither Are You:
            - His Captive!
        - So - “Give No Place To The Devil!”
          - In Your Life Any Longer!
            - We Then Learned About:
  - The Downfall Of The Devil:
    - Which Was Pride!
      - He Wanted To Be Like - And:
        - Still Wants To Be Like:
          - “The Most High!”
            - But Instead:
              - He Will “Be Brought Down To Hell – To The Sides Of The Pit!”
- And Now - Since He Is Such A Master:

- Of Pride:
    - He Uses Pride:
      - To Tempt & Snare Us!
  - So That His Downfall:
    - Becomes Our Downfall!
      - Do Not Fall Into His Snare!
    - Then - Last Sunday:
      - We Looked Into:
  - The Delusion Of The Devil!
    - And How - Not Only:
      - Did He Try To Deceive Jesus:
        - At His Temptation In The Wilderness!
    - In Doing So:
      - He Deceived & Deluded Himself!
    - And So:
      - The “One Little Word” That Will Always:
        - Defeat The Devil:
          - Is Remembering That He Is Nothing But:
            - A Liar!
3. But - Even Though:
- The Devil Has So Much Going Against Him:
    - We Still - Must Never:
      - Underestimate Him!
  - Because - As Martin Luther:
    - Reminds Us In His Hymn:
      - “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!”
        - It Is Still True That:
          - The Devil’s “Craft & Power Are Great!”
  - And So - We Must Never Forget About:
    - The Danger Of The Devil!
      - Not Just To The World:
        - But To The Church & To Us:
          - As Well!
4. This Is Certainly:
- One Reason Why The Apostle Peter:
    - Toward The End Of His First Letter:
      - Wrote These Familiar Words In 5:8-9:
        - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: / Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world!”
5. Now - One Of The Main Ways:
- That The Devil Tries:
    - To Show His Fangs:
      - Is To Afflict Us:
        - With The Pangs Of Life!
    - Which I Why In 5:9:
      - Peter Talks About:
        - The “Afflictions” That “Are Accomplished” Among The Brethren!
          - In Fact - All Throughout This Letter, Suffering Is A Common Theme!
  - And So - When:
    - Pain & Suffering Comes Into Our Lives:
      - It Should Act As:
        - An Alarm Clock Of Sorts!
    - **IE:** And - What Do You Use An Alarm For?
      - To Wake You Up!
        - Especially When:
          - Something Is Important You & You Don’t Want To Miss Out!

- Alarms Wake Us Up:
  - To The Realities Of Life:
    - Instead Of Remaining Asleep:
      - In Our Dreams!

6. And So - We Need To Learn:
- To Hear The Alarm Of Afflictions:
    - That Are Often Used By The Lord:
      - To Wake Us Up:
        - Out Of Our Sleep & Complacency:
          - So That We Are Ready For The Spiritual Realities:
            - Of Life!

7. And - One Of Those Realities Is:
- The Danger Of The Devil!
    - Because - "His Craft And Power Are Great!"
      - And So - Peter Tells Us:
        - How We First:

**1. *We Need A Serious Attitude!***

- 5:8a - "Be Sober, Be Vigilant!"
  - This Is A Serious Call & Command By Peter To Every Single Christian!
    - Back Then & Even Now!
      - This Is An Echo Of:
        - The Serious Attitude Jesus Himself Possessed Himself & Called For!
- Be Sober!
  - Also Translated:
    - Be Self-Controlled! (NIV)
    - Have A Sober Spirit! (NASB)
  - This Means:
    - To Be Ready For:
      - Anything That Might Come Your Way:
        - With A Calm, Cool & Collected Heart!
    - This Also Means:
      - To Not Be Over-Anxious - Or Even:
        - Over-Excited About:
          - The Suffering Or Struggles:
            - You May Face!
    - Of Course - All This Is:
      - Easier Said Than Done!
        - Which Is Why - This Goes Hand-In-Hand:
          - With 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you!"
      - You Can Only Be "Sober" When:
        - You Prepare Yourself:
          - Through Prayer & The Placement Of Your Life:
            - Into The Caring Hands Of God!
    - So - By God's Grace & Through His Strength:
      - "Be Sober" - And Stop Worrying!
        - Instead:
- Be Vigilant!
  - Also Translated:
    - Be Alert Or On The Alert! (NIV & NASB)
    - Watch! (TYN)
  - This Means:
    - To Be Cautious & Watchful:
      - For Something That Is Coming!
        - Even To Be "Suspicious Of Constant Danger!" (MH)
          - To Be On The Lookout!
    - This Word Was A Reminder To Peter!
      - Of A Time In His Life:

- When He Was Not Vigilant!
- Even When Jesus:
  - Invited Him To Pray With Him In The Garden Just Before His Arrest!
- But - What Happened Instead?
  - Mark 14:37-38 - “And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? / Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak!”
- So - Perhaps More Than Anyone:
  - Peter Knew Just How Important:
    - These Two Words & Commands:
      - Are! Be Sober! Be Vigilant!
  - They Are Also:
    - Very Closely Related!
      - Even Like The 2 Sides:
        - Of The Same Coin!
    - The First Side:
      - Is Focused Inwardly!
        - Be Sober With A Spirit-Enabled Self-Control:
          - In The Heart! While:
    - The Second Side:
      - Is Focused Outwardly!
        - Be Vigilant!
  - So - There Needs To Be A Constant Attitude Of:
    - Alertness & Readiness!
      - **IE**: Like The Call To “General Quarters” In The Navy - A Call That Signals The Crew – Every Member Of The Crew – To Prepare For Battle! Noone Is Exempt! Noone Is Off Duty!
  - The Apostle Paul Calls Us:
    - To The Same Kind Of Serious Attitude:
      - In 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 - “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. / For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. / But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation!”
- We Need A Serious Attitude!
  - We Need To Be Sober!
  - We Need To Be Vigilant!
    - And - Here’s Why! Because:

## 2. *We Have A Serious Adversary!*

- 5:8b - “Because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!”
  - We Have A Very Serious Adversary!
    - And He Is Our Greatest Enemy!
      - Remember - The Devil Is Dangerous!
        - And - He Is Dangerous Because:
  - He Is Powerful!
    - Again - “His Craft & Power Are Great!”
      - He Is Powerful:
    - Because Of His Existence!
      - As We’ve Already Seen In Our Series:
        - The Devil Is Real!
          - Not Just A Power / Force!
            - But A Real Person!
      - Eve Was Tempted:
        - By A Real Enemy!
      - Peter Was Tempted:
        - By A Real Enemy!
          - In A Way That, Perhaps, You & I Never Have Been!
    - And - Of Course - Jesus Himself:

- Was Tempted By:
  - A Real, Powerful Enemy!
  - As We Saw Last Week!
  - But To No Avail!
- And So - We Can Be Expected:
  - At Times - To Be Tempted:
    - By The Devil As Well!
  - And - He Is Dangerous:
    - Because He Is Powerful!
    - He Is Also Powerful:
- Because Of His Evil!
  - “Adversary” - Opponent - Always Resisting / Standing Against / Trying To Get In The Way Of God’s People!
  - “Devil” - Diabolos - Diabolical - A False Accuser / A Slanderer / Always Trying To Get Between God & Man! Between God & You!
- This Adversary Is “**Your** Adversary!”
  - And - He Is Powerful!
  - But Also:
- He Is A Predator!
  - “As A Roaring Lion, Walketh About!”
  - Peter First Describes:
  - His Prowl!
    - The Devil Is Always Looking:
      - For Opportunities To Fight Against:
        - The Lord & His Army!
    - Especially Through Suffering:
      - And The Affliction:
        - Of Persecution!
    - Peter Also Describes:
  - His Prey!
    - Who Is He Encircling?
      - Waiting To Pounce On?
        - Christians! Believers!
    - If You Are A Christian:
      - He Has His Eye On You!
        - Especially If You Are Trying To Live A Life:
          - Of Faith & Faithfulness Before The Lord!
  - But - Not Only Is This Predator:
    - Powerful - Also:
- He Is Persistent!
  - “Seeking Whom He May Devour!”
  - Everywhere He Goes - All Of His Senses Are Alert!
    - His Ears / Eyes / Nose!
      - All Focused On 1 Thing!
  - To “Devour” His Prey!
    - Literally - To Drink Down - To Gulp!
      - He Will Do Whatever He Can:
        - To Terrify You!
        - To Intimidate You!
        - To Weaken Your Faith!
        - And - To Render You Useless:
          - For The Lord!
  - Charles Spurgeon - “Nothing short of the total destruction of a believer will ever satisfy our adversary! He can never be content till he sees the believer utterly devoured. He would rend him in pieces, and break his bones, and utterly destroy him, if he could. Do not, therefore, indulge the thought, that the main purpose of Satan is to make you miserable. He is pleased with that, but that is not his ultimate end. Sometimes he may even make you happy, for he hath dainty poisons sweet to the taste which he administers to God’s people. If he feels that our destruction can be more readily achieved by what is sweet than by what is bitter, he

- certainly would prefer that which would best effect his end!”
  - And - He’s Not Very Picky Either!
    - He Will Take Anyone:
      - Whose Guard Is Down!
    - He Doesn’t Give Anyone A Break:
      - Because Of Your:
        - Age / Maturity / Home / Whatever!
- And - Again:
  - Peter Is Speaking From Painful Experience!
    - Remember Luke 22:31-32 - “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat! But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not!”
- Does The Danger Of The Devil:
  - Cause You To Quake With Fear?
    - Instead - Let Your Serious Adversary:
      - Motivate You To Have A More Serious Attitude:
        - So That You Can Take:
          - Serious Action Against Your Enemy!
  - Since The Devil:
    - Is Such A Powerful & Persistent Predator:
      - Be Sober! Be Vigilant!
      - And Then - Remember:

### 3. ***We Must Take Serious Action!***

- Which Peter Tells Us About Next:
  - In 5:9 - “Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world!”
    - So - What Are We To Do:
      - With Such A Serious Adversary?
        - Whose “Craft & Power Are So Great?”
  - Resist Him!
    - “Resist!”
      - This Is Another Command:
        - That Is To Be Directed:
          - Against The Devil!
          - “Resist!”
    - James Tells Us The Same Thing:
      - In James 4:7 - And Even Adds A Promise!
        - “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you!”
    - Why Is It That We:
      - So Ineffective Against:
        - The Devil’s Temptations & Snares?
      - Because - So Often:
        - We Are Not Sober!
        - We Are Not Vigilant! And:
        - We Do Not Resist!
      - So - We Must Take Serious Action:
        - Against Our Serious & Dangerous:
          - Adversary - And Resist!
          - How?
    - Remain In The Faith!
      - Even - “Stedfast In The Faith!”
        - It Is True That:
          - You Are No Match For The Devil!
          - And So - We Must Look Up To The One:
            - Who Is “Greater” Than “He That Is In The World!” (1 John 4:4)
      - So - Keep Your Faith In:
        - The Power Of The Lord:
          - And His Might!

- And - Keep Your Focus On:
  - The Promises Of The Lord:
    - In Your Fight!
- And - Keep Your Heart Fixed On:
  - The Purpose Of God!
    - Because: “The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his!” (2 Timothy 2:19)
- Remember: “Victory Lies In Adhering To The Work Of Christ On The Cross, Where He Defeated The Devil!” (Hiebert)
  - **IE:** The Devil Flees From Faith, Just As A Lion Flees From Fire!
- So - Serious Action Requires You:
  - To Resist The Devil!
  - To Remain Stedfast In Your Faith!
  - But Also To:
- Remember Your Family!
  - As Peter Continues:
    - “Knowing That The Same Afflictions Are Accomplished In Your Brethren That Are In The World!”
  - Remember That You Are Not Alone In These Battles!
    - In Fact, Think About Some Of Your Brothers & Sisters In Christ:
      - Who Have Suffered:
        - And Suffered Well!
- In The Year 181 - A Girl Named Perpetua Was Born:
  - In The Ancient City Of Carthage:
    - Which Is Today - Near The Capital City:
      - Tunisia - In North Africa!
    - And - At Some Point:
      - The Gospel Made Its Way:
        - To Carthage & To Perpetual Herself!
  - But - She Lived During The Reign:
    - Of A Roman Emperor:
      - Who Enforced A Long-Standing Policy:
        - Against Christianity!
    - And - If You Were Accused:
      - Of Being A Christian:
        - You Only Had One Of Two Choices To Make!
    - You Could Either:
      - Curse Jesus & Make An Offering To Caesar - And Live! Or:
        - Be Executed!
      - And - During Perpetua’s Lifetime:
        - Many Christians Were Killed During This Emperor’s Reign!
  - Though We Don’t Have Much Information:
    - About Perpetua:
      - We Do Know That She Was Born Into:
        - A Noble Family In Carthage!
      - And - She Could Have Had:
        - A Life Of Prosperity & Ease!
          - Because She Was “Well Born, Liberally Educated, Honorably Married, Having Father & Mother & Two Brothers, One Like Herself” – A Christian!
  - But - When She Was Just 22 Years Of Age:
    - She Was Faced With The Rage Of The Roaring Lion - Who Thought That He Could:
      - Destroy Her Life & Testimony:
        - For The Lord!
  - But - By God’s Grace & Strength:
    - She Stayed Sober!
    - She Stayed Vigilant!
    - And - Even Afer Being Accused & Arrested:
      - For Being A Christian:

- She Kept A Diary To Help Her Resist The Devil & His Attempts To Snare Her!
- According To Her Diary - “While We Were Still With The Persecutors, And My Father, For The Sake Of His Affection For Me, Was Persisting In Seeking To Turn Me Away, And To Cast Me Down From The Faith – Father, Said I, Do You See, Let Us Say, This Vessel Lying Here To Be A Little Pitcher, Or Something Else? And He Said, I See It To Be So. And I Replied To Him, Can It Be Called By Any Other Name Than What It Is? And He Said, No. Neither Can I Call Myself Anything Else Than What I Am, A Christian!”
  - And With That - She And Four Other Christians:
    - Were Tossed Into An Arena:
      - Where They Would Be Killed!
  - But - Her Last Words Were:
    - “Stand Fast In The Faith, And Love One Another, All Of You, And Be Not Offended At My Sufferings!”
- Let The Testimonies Of Perpetua:
  - And So Many Others:
    - Who Make Up The “Great Cloud Of Witnesses!”
      - Strengthen You:
        - In Your Faith!
        - In Your Resolve! And:
        - In Your Resistance:
          - Of The Devil Himself!

**Conclusion:**

1. We Need To Have:
  - A Serious Attitude - About:
    - Our Serious Adversary - So That:
      - We Might Take:
        - Serious Action Against Him!
  - But - Not In Any Physical Way!
    - But Through Faith!
      - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: / Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world!”

***Grace Baptist Church  
 Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
 4245 North 200 West  
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
 317-326-2362  
 www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace  
 www.growatgrace.org  
 pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***