

1  **Secrets to Winning the Battle**

PART 1 -- 1 PETER 5:7-14

2  **Context**

- ▶ Peter has just finished giving specific exhortation and instruction to the:
  - ▶ Elders of the church (1 Peter 5:1-4)
  - ▶ The members of the church
  - ▶ He reinforces the fact that Jesus – the Chief Shepherd – shall appear and reward faithful leaders with a crown of glory
- ▶ Now Peter concludes with the exhortation he wants most to leave on the minds of the readers

3  **1 Peter 5:7-9**

*"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be 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 hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

4  **1 Peter 5:10-14**

*To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen."* (1 Peter 5:7–14, KJV 1900)

5  **Throw your burdens and worries on shoulders bigger than your own**6  **What did Jesus say about worry?**

MATTHEW 6:25-34

7  **Worry is nonsensical because God richly cares**

- ▶ *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"*
- ▶ (Matthew 6:25–26, KJV 1900)

8  **Worry is non-productive because God richly supplies**

- ▶ *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*
- ▶ (Matthew 6:25–32, KJV 1900)

9  **Worry is non-productive because God richly supplies (2)**

- ▶ *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*
- ▶ (Matthew 6:25–32, KJV 1900)

10  **Worry is non-efficient because it takes our focus off the main thing!**

▶ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."*

▶ (Matthew 6:33–34, KJV 1900)

11  **Why can we give God our burdens?**

▶ Simply, because HE CARES for you

▶ Other religions do not have caring deities, but deities who:

▶ demand things of men

▶ set standards of perfection

▶ demand ritual compliance

▶ But Christianity begins with *God so loved the world.*

▶

12  **How are we to cast our cares upon God?**

▶ Verse 7 is actually an extension of verse 6 in the Greek. The entire sentence reads like this:

▶ *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the right time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you.* (1 Peter 5:6–7, LEB)

▶ To cast our cares upon God is an expression of humility.

▶ We must admit that we can do nothing that glorifies God while we operate in a spirit of anxiety.

▶ Humility acknowledges that our great God must take care of us where we cannot take care of ourselves.

▶

13  **To care for others, we must know that God takes care of us**

▶ When taking care of others, we selfishly wonder: "But who will care for me?"

▶ The only way to truly be unselfish is to know that God is already sufficient to meet all your needs.

This knowledge enables us to:

▶ Love one another fervently from a pure heart (1:24)

▶ Love our brothers in Christ (2:17)

▶ Serve our masters with respect (2:18)

▶ Treat our wives with honor and love and understanding (3:7)

▶ Reverence our husbands (3:1)

▶ Show hospitality to others with sincere love

14  **Psalm 142:4-7**

*Look to my right and see. There is no one looking out for me; there is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul.*

*I cry out to you, O Yahweh. I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."*

*Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low. Deliver me from my pursuers, for they are stronger than I.*

*Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will encircle me, because you will deal bountifully with me.*

(Psalm 142:4–7, LEB)

▶

15  **The lurking danger of attack**

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO STAY CLOSE TO THE HEART OF GOD

16  **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 steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

17  **Be self-controlled**

- ▶ The word "sober" here means the opposite of intoxication or mental fuzziness.
- ▶ It means to have full use of your faculties to be ready to handle any situation.
- ▶ This word *nephalios* is also translated "self-controlled."
  - ▶ A person who lacks self-control is in ALL KINDS OF DANGER without even knowing it.

18  **Self-control is crucial for battle**

- ▶ *So then, we must not sleep like the rest, but must be on the alert and be self-controlled.* (1 Thessalonians 5:6, LEB)
- ▶ *Now the end of all things draws near. Therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for your prayers.* (1 Peter 4:7, LEB)
- ▶ *Therefore, when you have prepared your minds for action by being self-controlled, put your hope completely in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 1:13, LEB)

19  **Be alert**

- ▶ In our daily life activities, we should stay in YELLOW zone
- ▶ But spiritually, we are already in ORANGE (or RED)

20  **Who is the enemy?**

- ▶ The world calls us to disobey God
  - ▶ We are attacked by others to get us to disobey God so that they can justify their disdain of us
- ▶ The flesh causes us to doubt God
  - ▶ In 1 Peter 5:5, we are warned that arrogance and pride are the enemies to our own victory, because God opposes the proud
- ▶ The devil (the great Slanderer) brings despair and depression
  - ▶ Peter calls Satan *diabolos* -- the great Slanderer who repeatedly attacks us through the speech and actions of others to cause us to lose hope

21  **How do predators illustrate the methods of Satan in pursuing the Righteous?**

1 PETER 5:8 -- *BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR.*

22  **Predators focus on their victim's weakness**

- ▶ The Hyena was always thought to be only a scavenger.
- ▶ It scavenges by day, but hunts by night.
  - A pack will single out the weakness in the group.
  - They stalk it by day and attack when it is dark.
- ▶
- ▶

23  **How does this apply to the Devil's tactics?**

- ▶The devil looks for ways he can deceive us.
- ▶He identifies and targets our weaknesses.
  - ▶Lust
  - ▶Anger
  - ▶Materialism
  - ▶Wrong priorities

#### 24 **Predators entice and lure their prey**

- ▶The angler fish has a large spine on top of its head.
- ▶This flexible spine has a bright lure attached to the end.
- ▶When a fish comes too close, the angler inhales and creates an underwater vacuum, sucking in the fish.

#### 25 **How does this apply to the Devil's tactics?**

- ▶Sometimes the devil lures us with seemingly "good" activities
  - ▶But often, the good is the enemy of the best
  - ▶If a "good" social commitment keeps you from reading God's Word, the devil has succeeded
- ▶The devil can use music, pictures, the Internet, worldly entertainment, and many other things to lure you from God's priorities

#### 26 **Predators prepare inescapable traps**

- ▶Spider webs are intricately made traps
- ▶When a spider feels a vibration, it runs to that part of the web and covers the victim in more threads of silk
- ▶The Venus's-flytrap catches insects on its sticky inside and closes to keep the insect from escaping

#### 27 **How does this apply to the Devil's tactics?**

- ▶The three most inescapable traps of Satan are:
  - ▶The lust of the flesh = sexual immorality, pornography
  - ▶The lust of the eyes = greed; gambling
  - ▶The pride of life = anger and bitterness
- ▶Some tips:
  - ▶The best way to avoid sins is to never make provision for the lusts of the flesh.
  - ▶The best way to avoid bad habits is to never begin them.

#### 28 **Predators stalk their prey through deceptive concealment**

- ▶Tigers hunt alone and depend on their camouflage to hunt their prey
- ▶Old lions and tigers will roar to scare animals that then run toward the bushes where younger cats wait to kill their victims
- ▶The pain of a tiger's powerful jaws clamping shut on a victim's throat are often the last thing it feels

#### 29 **How does this apply to the Devil's tactics?**

- ▶Christians must develop greater spiritual awareness, so we recognize Satan's presence and working. We do this by preparing our hearts and minds with the truth of God's Word.

- ▶ Satan often uses the “good” things to become enemy of the best. A seemingly harmless activity may waste time that we should spend with the Lord.

30  **Predators overpower their prey by hunting in groups**

- ▶ Cape hunting dogs viciously attack in large numbers
- ▶ Each member bites into the prey, holding on and slowly sapping its strength
- ▶ Each dog alone is harmless
- ▶

31  **How does this apply to the Devil’s tactics?**

- ▶ One of the devil’s greatest weapons that he likes to use against us is peer pressure.
- ▶ We need to pray and ask God to give us the grace to stand alone for Him.
- ▶ Often we are tempted to want to have the same things and participate in the same activities as our friends. But this can distract us from serving God.
- ▶

32  **Predators seize their prey with unexpected quickness**

- ▶ The mantid (praying mantis) can strike faster than the blink of an eye.
- ▶ In 0.0030 seconds it can catch an insect.

33  **How does this apply to the Devil’s tactics?**

- ▶ A praying mantis sits still for a long time while waiting for its prey to come within reach.
- ▶ Christians must learn to *make not provision for the lusts of the flesh* because as soon as we’re within reach of wrong images, wrong music, wrong friends, wrong priorities, then Satan pounces on us!

34  **Predators drain the victim’s resources**

- ▶ The tapeworm does not kill its victim.
- ▶ It lives off the resources of its victim’s body.
- ▶ Each segment can grow into a new tapeworm over 30 feet in length.

35  **How does this apply to the Devil’s tactics?**

- ▶ The devil loves it when Christians get too busy to spend time in prayer, Bible reading, and worshiping God.
- ▶ The absence of these activities drains our spiritual resources and weakens us – making it easier to fall into sin.
- ▶ We also need time alone with God, adequate rest, and the encouragement of other Christians.

36  **Predators paralyze their prey with destructive mechanisms**

- ▶ The electric eel uses over 80% of its body to generate up to 800 volts of electricity
- ▶ The electricity paralyzes the heart and other organs of the victim, making it easy prey

37  **How does this apply to the Devil’s tactics?**

- ▶ The devil often brings shocking circumstances in our life as an attempt to paralyze us into spiritual inactivity
- ▶ Satan also uses distractions, materialism, lusts, worldly entertainment, wrong friends, bad habits,

and self-abuse to paralyze us from walking with the Lord



38  **Predators locate their prey by watching for signs of life**

- ▶ The rattlesnake can "see" infrared light with special sensory pits in their eyes
- ▶ Its tongue can pick up molecules of the victim's scent

39  **How does this apply to the Devil's tactics?**

- ▶ The devil loves to attack us where he sees signs of spiritual growth
  - ▶ When he sees a Christian reading his Bible or praying, he will try to get him busy doing something else so that he will not have time
- ▶ You should be growing spiritually – but you must expect opposition to that growth.

40  **Predators attack more frequently as the number of potential victims rises**

- ▶ As the population of the prey increases, so does the population of the predator
- ▶ Animal populations fluctuate with the availability of plant foods, harshness of weather, and parasites.

41  **How does this apply to the Devil's tactics?**

- ▶ The devil attacks where he can do the most potential damage
- ▶ He does this by focusing his most severe attacks on those in authority
  - ▶ If he can corrupt a father, he can damage a family
  - ▶ If he can corrupt a pastor, he can damage a church
  - ▶ If he can corrupt a President, he can damage a nation

42  **Pray for those in authority over you.**

1 Timothy 2:1-3 –

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.*

43  **Have you prayed for:**

- ▶ Your parents?
- ▶ Your pastor?
- ▶ Your Sunday school teachers?
- ▶ Your church staff?
- ▶ Your mayor?
- ▶ Your governor?
- ▶ Your President?

44  **Summary**

- ▶ Worry makes us weak for spiritual warfare. So cast all of your burdens and cares upon God who is constantly taking care of you and providing for you.
- ▶ Stay close to the heart of God because His protection is crucial.
- ▶ Be self-controlled or you will lose the battle.
- ▶ You already know you are in battle, so constantly be looking for signs of approaching danger.