

# BE VIGILANT

## 1 Peter 5:5-14

Psalms 55:16-23

James 4:1-10

### Lies Believed to Be True

- ✗ What is your definition of “the Bible”?
- ✗ What is your attitude toward the Bible?



29 June 2025

### A Letter to Saints (1 Peter 1:1-2)

### A Call to Perseverance (Matthew 10:22)

- Throughout the New Testament God's saints are EXHORTED to persevere even under the greatest trials. (Hebrews 10:36-39; 6:11-12; 3:6, 14; James 1:12; Romans 8:23-25)
- The Christian life is a RACE and a BATTLE. (Hebrews 12:1-2; Acts 20:22-24; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Philip 3:13-15; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)
- **Living** the Christian life is **NOT EASY!** (Matthew 7:13-14)
- Suffering, for the saint –
  - ★ Produces perseverance/endurance/character. (Rom 5:3-4; James 1:2-4)
  - ★ Works for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Corinthians 4:17)
  - ★ Produces groans in us! (Romans 8:18-25)
  - ★ Reminds us of our GREAT REWARD in heaven. (Matthew 5:10-12; Genesis 15:1; Psalm 73:26-27)

### God Given Shepherds (1 Peter 5:1-4)

- God, and God alone, sets the qualifications for elders/pastors for His Churches. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
- Elders are OVERSEERS of God's sheep. (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17)
- Elders are STEWARDS of the sheep God gives them. (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 1:2; 15:9; Gal 1:13; 1 Tim 3:5, 15-16)
- Elders are ACCOUNTABLE to God. (Hebrews 13:17)
  - ★ Elders are passionate for the souls to whom they preach. (1 Cor 9:16; Jeremiah 20:9; Amos 3:8; Romans 1:14)
- Laboring elders are worthy of DOUBLE HONOR. (1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- Elders are to be OBEYED. (Hebrews 13:7, 17)

## Be Submissive (1 Peter 5:5) **IMPERATIVE - COMMAND**

- The Holy Spirit, God, through Peter, **commands** young people to **submit** to their elders, the leaders of the Church. This is important during a time when our culture ignores authority. We live in a time when many believe that they do not have respect, submit to, or obey their Church leaders.
- The Greek word, πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros*, is the same word for an elderly person.
  - Respect for the elderly **had** always been taught until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century!
  - God commanded that His people “rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man”. (Leviticus 19:32)
- Submission is a mark of spiritual maturity whether it be to our church leaders, in the family or in the world. Here, Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34. God promises **MORE GRACE** to the humble! **BUT** God will scorn the **arrogant**.
- Then, Peter, commands everyone to be submissive to their leaders.
- **IF ONE SUBMITS TO GOD HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM SUBMITTING TO OTHERS. IF YOU HAVE NOT SUBMITTED TO GOD’S ELDERS YOU HAVE NOT SUBMITTED TO GOD.**

## Be Humble (vv. 5-6) **IMPERATIVE - COMMAND**

- “be clothed with” – covering yourself with humility!
- Christians are to be the **LOWEST** of **SLAVES** to each other.
  - Christ is our example. (John 13:1-15; Matthew 20:25-28; Philippians 2:4-11; Romans 12:3, 10, 16; Ephesians 3:8)
- Christ requires that we “deny ourselves” in order to be His disciple. (Luke 9:23)
- The **MOST HIGH GOD** dwells with only those who “have contrite and humble spirits and hearts”. (Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; Luke 18:13-14; Matthew 5:3-4)
- (v. 6) Peter, really **GOD**, **commands** saints to humble themselves (submit themselves) under the **mighty hand** of God!
- Humility is **NOT THINKING OF YOURSELF AT ALL – PUTTING OTHERS’ NEEDS BEFORE YOURSELF**. (Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10; Eph 4:2; 1 Peter 5:5; James 4:10)
- Suffering saints are to look to God and trust that HE will **EXALT** them ***in due time – or in His timing!***
- The **HUMBLE** saint –
  - ☆ (Psalm 18:27) God will save the humble, but bring down the proud.
  - ☆ (Psalm 138:6) God regards the humble, but the proud He knows from afar.
  - ☆ (Proverbs 15:33) With humility comes honor. (Proverbs 18:12; 29:23)
  - ☆ (Proverbs 11:2) Pride brings destruction; humility is wisdom. (Proverbs 16:18)
  - ☆ (Psalm 149:4) Salvation comes to the humble!
  - ★ (Matthew 23:12) Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

## Trust GOD (v. 7; Psalm 55:22)

- The suffering saint needs to “commit his soul to God in doing good as to a faithful Creator”. (1 Peter 4:19)
- “care” is μέριμνα *merimna* meaning “anxiety” – it includes reproaches, insults, slander, gossip, persecutions, troubles, difficulties, weakness, joylessness, discontentment, despair, pain, etc.”.
  - ☆ See Paul’s attitude in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
- The suffering saint needs to **trust** God! (Proverbs 3:5-7)

## Be Self-Controlled (v. 8) IMPERATIVE - COMMAND

- “sober” is νήφω *nepho* {nay'-fo} and means “to be calm; collected in spirit; circumspect”.
- In the New Testament it carries the idea of being disciplined in the mind; being temperate in all things; avoiding the trappings of the world. (2 Timothy 2:3-4; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
- A sober-minded man is FOCUSED on his God-given goal!
- Consider the definition of “perseverance” or “patience” –
  - “patience” or “endurance” or “perseverance” -- ὑπομονή *hupomone* {hoop-om-on-ay} and means “steadfastness, constancy, endurance”. **It is a characteristic of a child of God “who is not severed from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and holiness by even the greatest trials and sufferings.”** (See 2 Thessalonians 1:4)

## Be Vigilant; Be Alert (v. 8) IMPERATIVE - COMMAND

- “vigilant” is γρηγορέω (*gregoreo*) meaning “to watch; to give strict attention to; be cautious; take heed lest through remission or indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one”!
- The Christian life is not only a RACE to be WON, but it is a DAILY BATTLE!
- The Christian has **many enemies** – the devil and His demons, the world system, and his own flesh!
- A Christian cannot be “lazy” (Hebrews 6:11-12) or “complacent” (Zephaniah 1:12).
- Christ commanded His disciples to “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak!” (Matt 26:41)
- (Proverbs 4:23) “GUARD your heart (mind, emotions, will – your whole person) above all else (with all diligence), for it is the source of your life.” Satan and world targets our hearts (minds) constantly. See 1 John 2:15-17

## Know Your Enemy! The Threat Is REAL!

- (Ephesians 6:11-13) Put on the WHOLE ARMOR . . . that you may be able stand
- (2 Corinthians 2:11) Lest Satan take advantage of US for we are NOT to be ignorant of his devices.
- (2 Corinthians 11:3) The serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness.

- (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) False apostles, deceitful workers, “ministers of righteousness”



## Satan: The Adversary (vv. 8-9)

- Peter describes the saints ARCH-ENEMY
- “YOUR” enemy! • “devil” διαβολος diabolos
  - Slanderer; false accuser
- “adversary” ἀντίδικος antidikos
  - {an-tid'-ee-kos} – opponent.
- “roaring lion” predator, one who hunts to kill!
  - ★ Psalm 7:1-2; 10:9-10; 17:12; **Ezekiel 22:25**.
- “seeking whom he may devour” – “to swallow up”.
- (1 John 5:19) The WHOLE WORLD lies under the influence of Satan!!!
- We are commanded to RESIST him!
  - ★ “resist” is ἀνθίστημι *anthistemi* means to “stand firm against”; “to oppose” by being **steadfast** in one’s faith. (1 Cor 15:58; Colossians 1:23)
  - ★ IF we RESIST, he **will** flee! (James 4:7)
- ALL CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD ARE UNDER SUCH ATTACKS BUT WITH DIFFERENT TACTICS!



## God’s Purpose (v. 10)

- God of ALL GRACE who CALLED us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus.
  - ★ God’s glory is our reward and motivation to persevere. (2 Cor 4:17-18; Romans 8:18; Hebrews 11:25-26; John 17:22)
- “**after** you have suffered a while” – our lives are but vapors – eternity is forever! (See 2 Cor 4:17-18; Romans 8:18)
- GOD’S GOAL: PERFECT US; ESTABLISH US; STRENGTHEN US; and SETTLE US.

## Peter’s Benediction (vv. 11-14)

### What Must We Learn and Do

- ① We must persevere! (Matthew 24:11-13; 10:22)
- ② We must be submissive to our elders. (Hebrews 13:17)
- ③ We must be humble - NOT proud. (James 4:6, 10)
- ④ We must be sober-minded. (Romans 12:1-2)
- ⑤ We must be alert. (1 Peter 5:8)
- ⑥ We must resist the wiles, schemes, and devices of the devil. (James 4:7)
- ⑦ We must be STEADFAST. (1 Corinthians 15:58)