

## A Battle Plan & A Big Purpose

### 1 Peter 5:8-11

**Introduction:** Cyber crime is the No. 1 national security threat, ahead of terrorism, espionage and weapons of mass destruction. Cyber criminals are unseen, and yet very real. These verses describe an unseen, but very real enemy of every Christian.

**Main Truth:** Watchfulness for our enemy and confidence in our God are two necessary companions in the Christian life.

#### 1. Wake up because you have a deadly enemy – vs. 8

- A. The reality of your enemy demands that you live with alert thinking and watchful living.
- B. The picture of your enemy demands that you take him seriously.
- C. The purpose of your enemy is to destroy you.

#### 2. Stand up because you can win – vs. 9

- A. We must not fear him, or ignore him. We must steadfastly resist him.
- B. Faith is the weapon of our resistance.
  - i. Resist him with the faith (the truth of Scripture – Mat. 4:4, 7, 10; Eph. 6:10-17).
  - ii. Resist him in your faith. *“Victory lies in adhering to the work of Christ on the Cross where he defeated the devil (John 12:31-33.) ...Faith unites us to Christ, the victor. By faith the devil is driven to flight as is the lion by fire.”* – Hiebert
- C. Know that you are not alone in your battle.

#### 3. Look up because your God will complete His good work in you – vs. 10-11

- A. His name: The God of all grace
- B. His purpose: He called you to His eternal glory in Christ
- C. His work: perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish
- D. His schedule: After you have suffered for a little while
- E. His praise: He has the power to do all that He purposes, and He will reign in power forever.

**Conclusion:** Here are two great promises: victory over the attacks of our enemy, and confidence that God will complete His work in us, but they are only for those who are in Christ.

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Was there a truth from this week’s message that stuck out to you?
2. Two dangerous and wrong responses to the reality and activity of the devil are to over-emphasize his power and activity, and to ignore his reality and activity. Discuss the dangers of these extreme responses.
3. Why is watchfulness/alertness so necessary in living the Christian life? Discuss some of the possible dangers of going to sleep spiritually.
4. What are some ways/methods (that you have seen or experienced) that the devil uses to destroy the lives of people?
5. Jesus’ parable of the soils describes a person who appears to receive the gospel with joy (get saved), but when affliction and persecution come, they fall away (Mark 4:16-17). In what ways might the devil use affliction/persecution to cause people to abandon Christ today?
6. 1 Peter 5:9 gives us the proper response to the devil. What might it look like to resist him? What tools could you use, or would you use?
7. 2 Corinthians 11:14 paints a different picture of the devil. Why must we be aware of the devil’s various approaches?
8. Why is it significant that the focus of 1 Pet. 5:10-11 is all on God’s ability instead of our own?
9. How sure is the promised transformation of vs. 10? What if we don’t “feel” like this is happening?
10. What is the place/purpose of suffering in the life of a Christian, and why is described as being “a little while”?

### Thoughts for prayer:

- Pray that we would wake up to the reality of the devil and be watchful for the attacks of the devil in our lives, our families, and our church.
- Pray that we would resist Satan, firm in our faith.
- Thank God that He will complete His good work in us.