

STANDING FIRM: The Church's Response to Evil

Andy Deane · 7/14/2024 · 1 Peter 5:5-9

GOSPEL LIVING: (1 Peter 5:5-9)

1 Peter 5:5-9, 5 *In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*
6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.* 7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* 8 *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* 9 *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

Every command Peter gives also has a gospel promise to motivate us:

1. Humble yourself: *clothe yourselves with humility* (5-6)
 - Who: Everyone (*all of you*), but this can be especially hard for those who are *younger*.
 - Why? *God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.*
 - Why? We can trust our lives *under God's mighty hand*.
 - Promise: *that he may lift you up in due time*
2. Trust God with your worries: *Cast all your anxiety on him* (7)
 - To cast means to "throw" or "hurl", like a fisherman would cast a net away from him.
 - Anxieties can sometimes reveal areas of our self-reliance that we are not fully trusting God to help us with.
 - What is it you worry about? Because that's where you don't think God can handle it and so you have to.
 - Promise: *because he cares for you*
3. Watch out for temptation: Be alert and of sober mind (8)
 - *prowls...roaring lion*: This teaches us: Satan is: predatory, hungry, dangerous, & yet detectable (*roaring*).
 - But remember, it says that Satan is "like a roaring lion", while Jesus is the Lion: Revelation 5:5.
 - Promise: *your enemy* (if you are his enemy that means you are on God's team)
4. Resist the enemy: Resist him... (9)
 - How can we go about *standing firm in the faith*? With prayer.
 - Prayer is like returning a nuclear bomb for Satan's fiery darts.
 - Promise: *family of believers* (you are not alone in this!)

Jesus obeyed each of these four commands Himself: Philippians 2; Mark 1; Matthew 26; Matthew 4.