

Slide 1

We Are People Who Are Protected By God's Power

1 PETER 1:3-5

Introduction

1. In the last chapter of Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus, chapter 6, there in verses 10-11, he tells them to do two things:

Slide 2

- a. "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (v. 10).
 - b. "Put on the full armor of God" (v. 11).
2. He then tells them why:

Slide 3

- a. "... so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes [tactics] of the devil" (v. 11b).
 - b. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (v. 12).
3. You and I are participants in a great spiritual battle which has been going on, almost since the beginning of time.
 4. The good news comes in two parts:
 - a. First, on the last day, when all is said and done, Satan will have lost — no longer will he be free to wreck havoc in God's creation.
 - b. Secondly, those of us who are Christians are on the winning team — we are protected by God's power and will be the recipients of "a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5).

5. Tonight, as we consider again the significance of our lives as Christians, I would like for us to examine another aspect of our faith, that we are protected by this power of God.
6. There are three things I would like for us to consider:
 - a. What are Satan's intentions for us?
 - b. What is it that God desires on our behalf?
 - c. What responsibility to we have in this struggle?

Slide 4

I. Satan Is Intent Upon Our Destruction

A. HE IS OUR ADVERSARY

1. The apostle Peter compares him to a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8).

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, ESV)
2. He often disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” (2 Corinthians 11:14, ESV)

 - a. Paul also adds that we shouldn't be surprised “if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:15).
 - b. However, he reassures us that their “end will be according to their deeds” (2 Corinthians 11:15b).
 - c. Paul paints a grim picture, explaining these servants will seek to mislead God's people through their false doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

Slide 5

B. AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST BE AWARE

1. Because of Satan's predatory nature, Peter exhorts us to be “alert” (NASB),

“watchful” (ESV), “vigilant” (NKJV).

2. In Hebrews 3:12, the writer cautions us to guard against “an evil unbelieving heart.”

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,” (Hebrews 3:12–14, NASB95)

- a. Such a heart may cause us to “fall away from the living God” (v. 12).
- b. If we aren’t careful, our hearts may also be “hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (v. 13).
- c. Satan is the one, who according to Revelation 12:9, “deceives the whole world.”
- d. The apostle Paul wrote of his fears for the Christians in Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:3)

“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3, ESV).

- e. In John 8:44, we find Jesus telling certain Jews in Jerusalem that the devil “was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is not truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
3. Because the danger which faces us is very real, Peter tells us that we must “resist him” (Satan) who seeks our destruction.

Slide 6

4. The good news is that we are not alone in our efforts.
5. In 1 Peter 5:10, Peter assures us that “the God of all grace, who called [us] to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

Slide 7

II. God Is Intent Upon Our Salvation

A. HE IS OUR HELPER

1. He provides Jesus Christ who is our . . .
 - a. Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,” (1 Timothy 2:5, NASB95)
 - b. Advocate (1 John 2:1,2)

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1–2, NASB95)
 - c. Our merciful and faithful High Priest (Hebrews 2:17-18)

“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:17–18, NASB95)
2. It is Jesus' blood that cleanses us from all our sins (1 John 1:7-10).

“but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” (1 John 1:7–10, NASB95)

Slide 8**3. Along with Jesus, there are other things which God provides to keep us safe:****a. His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NASB95)

b. Prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6–7, NASB95)

c. Our mutual edification (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25)

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:12–13, NASB95)

“and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NASB95)

Slide 9

4. He provides us a way of escape, which . . .
 - a. In some cases, helps us to avoid temptation altogether (Matthew 6:13; 26:41).

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:13, NASB95)

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41, NASB95)

- b. In other cases, helps us to bear up and overcome temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13, NASB95)

Slide 10**B. HE IS OUR VICTOR**

1. It is His power, not our own, which gives us confidence (Philippians 4:13).
2. The power He provides is greater than any which Satan can muster (Ephesians 3:16, 20; 1 John 2:13-14; 4:4).

“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,” (Ephesians

3:16, NASB95)

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,” (Ephesians 3:20, NASB95)

“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4, NASB95)

Slide 11

III. Ultimately, It Is Our Responsibility To Remain Faithful

A. THE NATURE OF OUR SECURITY

1. No one can snatch us out of God's hand (John 10:28-29).

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.” (John 10:27–29, NASB95)

2. As we have already seen, though we are believers, it is possible for us to become unbelievers (Hebrews 3:12).

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.” (Hebrews 3:12, NASB95)

Slide 12

B. THE NATURE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY

1. We must not neglect God's admonitions:

Slide 13

- a. Exercise caution (1 Corinthians 10:12)

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:12, NASB95)

b. Remain vigilant (1 Peter 5:8).

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, NASB95)

c. Discipline ourselves (1 Corinthians 9:27).

“but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” (1 Corinthians 9:27, NASB95)

d. “Put on the full armor of God” (Ephesians 6:11)

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11, NASB95)

e. “Stand firm in the faith” (1 Corinthians 16:13)

f. Resist the devil (James 4:7).

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Slide 14

2. Make time for those activities which strengthen your faith:

Slide 15

a. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

“With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments” (Psalm 119:10)

b. Study God’s Word regularly (Psalm 119:9, 11)

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to

Your word.” (Psalm 119:9, NASB95)

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, NASB95)

- c. **Use every opportunity to associate with fellow Christians** (Acts 2:44).

“And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;” (Acts 2:44, NASB95)

- d. **Make regular attendance in worship and Bible study a priority** (Acts 2:42).

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42, NASB95)

- e. **Put your gifts and talents to work in the Lord’s kingdom** (1 Peter 4:10).

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10, NASB95)

- f. **Learn to accept correction. Repent when necessary.** (Proverbs 19:20)

“Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days.” (Proverbs 19:20, NASB95)

Conclusion

1. Let us never forget that, as Christians, we are guarded by the power of God.
 - a. Though we are engaged great spiritual warfare against “the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12, NIV84), we can “be strong in the Lord and in the power of

His might" (Ephesians 6:10, NKJV).

- b. As you and I "resist" the devil, we can know that God "will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish" us (1 Peter 5:9,10, NASB95).
2. Most importantly, do not lose sight of the importance of your faith:
- a. Your ability to resist Satan's schemes requires that you remain "firm in your faith" (1 Peter 5:9).
 - b. It is "through faith" that you "are protected by the power of God" (1 Peter 1:5).

Slide 16

- 3. Remember what our Lord said to the church in the city of Smyrna, some 35 miles north of Ephesus, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).
- 4. Have you made it your goal to remain faithful until your last day?
- 5. Do you need our help as your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- 6. Have you yet to begin that journey?
- 7. If, we can help you to either start of finish your journey, please come and let us know.