

I Peter 5:8-14

Being Prepared for Victory

- > In light of the devil's schemes, what two commands are we given in verse 8? Be self-controlled and alert.
- > How are we to respond to Satan's attacks according to verse 9? Resist him, standing firm in the faith.
- > How is it helpful to know that other believers are going through the same issues we struggle with (v. 9)? We are not alone, others are being victorious-so can we. We can help each other.
- > How is the work that God is accomplishing in our hearts described (v.10)? He will perfect (restore), confirm, strengthen, and establish us as we endure challenges and trials.

Application

It would be great if suffering and temptation was no longer part of life. But on this side of heaven, they are realities, and they reveal our continued need for Christ. The devil can use these to damage our faith, so consider these truths:

- We must recognize Satan is at work around us. We do not need to be overly focused on Satan or paranoid (see I John 4:4!), but a realization and awareness of his desire to attack should cause us to be prepared for what he might send our way.
- We are told to "resist" Satan. We are not told to take the offensive against him, but rather to stand firm by Christ's strength and refuse to submit to his attacks. This demonstrates the victory Christ has already won! When we do this, we are told that Satan will flee from us (James 4:7).

Peter concludes his letter by reminding us that no matter what struggles we may face in this life, we are not alone. We can depend on Christ and His strength to carry us through!

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