

A Lively Hope In Troubled Times
Our Adversary
1 Peter 5.8-11

In the book of First Peter God was writing to a Church going through the worst possible kinds of persecution. In writing to these Christians our Lord was seeking to give them hope in troubles times.

Where do you find your hope when you face troubled times. Our Lord Jesus Christ can give everyone hope when troubled times come their way.

A. Our Adversary

The Seven Offices of the Devil. He is,

1. The Adversary (1 Pet 5.8) – Our Text

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

As a roaring lion our Adversary want to devour you.

This lion is loose and hard at work. He is loose,

- **In your life** – The devil is your adversary and wants to devour you.
- **In your home** – The devil wants to destroy your home, your marriage, your family, your children. Look at homes in your community today and tell me the lion is not loose.
- **In our schools and universities** – The lion is working hard in our education systems to convince people they are smarter than God and don't need God or His Word in their lives.
- **In our communities** – The lion is working to devour our communities through drugs and alcohol, through government and politics. He is the primary cause of chaos in our communities.
- **In our nation** – The lion seeks to devour every God fearing nation and to make sure that the laws of nations do not establish the truths of the Word of God.

- **In our Churches** – The Lion is not opposed to religion, he is the father of many religions. This lion seeks to devour true faith in God with false religious systems.

Make no mistake about it. You have a Spiritual Adversary, the Devil, and he like a lion is seeking to devour you.

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A. Our Adversary – The seven offices of the Devil. He is,
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2. The Tempter (1 Thess 3.5; Luke 4.1-2; Gen 3.1-5)

1 Thess 3.5

In the Word of God we find that one of the reasons First Thessalonians was written was in case the tempter has tempted those Christians and caused them to stumble.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 - *For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.*

Gen 3

Our Adversary seeks to stir up the inordinate sinful desires within you to cause you to fall into sin and rebellion against God.

We find in the Word of God that our Lord was tempted of the devil.

Luke 4:1–2 - *And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.*

If your Lord Jesus Christ was tempted then do not fail to understand that you too will be tempted.

In his temptation the devil is subtil. He seeks to seduce you into sin with his subtle temptations. Look at the devil's dealings with Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1 - *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

Genesis 3:2–5 - *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

“The lie of the ages is that people can be as gods!”

Make no mistake about it this is the tempting lie of the devil with mankind even today. Most Americans, including many that call themselves Christian, deep down in their hearts think they are their own God’s. People think they know better than God to the point that they will excuse away and explain away the Word of God. Many preachers and pastors do this very thing with the Word of God in our day.

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The Devil uses such subtly in his temptations that people believe with all their heart that they are doing the right things while they are rebelling against God. People often really believe in their heart that God will say “well done my good and faithful servant while they live in rebellion towards God by living contrary to the Word of God.

The Devil is the great subtle tempter.

3. The Deceiver (2 John 1.7; John 8.44; Rev 20.10)

Rev 20.10

A person that is deceived is a person who thinks he is right while he is wrong. He is wrong because he believes a deceptive lie.

The difference between a deceiver and a liar, in most, cases is a liar knows he is lying. Often a deceiver believes he is right. Although the Devil knowing that he is a liar seeks to deceive you by convincing you that wrong is right.

The Word of God warns us with,

2 John 1:7 - For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. **This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**

Now listen to,

John 8:44 - Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and abode not in the truth,** because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar,** and the father of it.

Without any doubt our Lord warned us that the devil is a liar. If the devil is speaking he is lying. The Word of God goes on to warn us that the devil is not just an all out liar he is also a deceiver.

Revelation 20:10 - And **the devil that deceived** them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

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In the case of the devil the devil knows he is a liar, but he will seek to convince you that his lies are true and trustworthy. When you have have been deceived by the devil you will doubt God and the Word of God and will believe something is true that is contrary to the Word of God.

1 Thess 2.18 The devil is the worlds preeminent deceiver!

4. **The Hinderer (1 Thess 2.18)**

1 Thessalonians 2:18 - Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; **but Satan hindered us.**

As our hinderer the Devil seek to slow down and even stop the work of God by hindering the workers for God.

Your adversary will hinder you by,

- Distracting you with meaningless and what often seems like meaningful tasks that distract you from the more important eternal work of God.
- Consuming you with enough debt to cause you to have to work more than you ought so you don't have time for the work of God.
- Disturbing you with enough useless worldly worry that you can not focus and think about the work of God for your worldly cares.

The Devil will hinder you with anything that you allow to hinder you from the work of God.

Let the devil discover that you will not come to church if its raining outside and it will rain every week just for you, just to hinder you from Church.

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2 Cor 12.7

5. The Buffeter (2 Cor 12.7)

*2 Corinthians 12:7 - And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, **the messenger of Satan to buffet me**, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

Notice here that Paul was buffeted by devil through a thorn in his flesh. Oh, for the number of Christians that will go to work with a sniffle that will not come to church because of a sniffle. Or perhaps you are buffeted by some ache or pain. When you are aching you will go do everything in the week that **you want to do** but you will not come to God's House for worship with the same ache.

Let the Devil, that old roaring lion, discover that you can be buffeted out of honoring God in worship or Church service and you will ache and pain for the rest of your life.

Let that old subtle lion discover that some emotional heart ache will keep you from the work of God or the worship of God and he will buffet you with that trigger as long as you live.

2 Cor 11.4

6. The Impersonator (2 Cor 11.14)

*2 Corinthians 11:13–15 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; **for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

The Devil and his deceivers, whether they be demons (fallen angels) or deceived people, never come to you as who they are, but they will come to you impersonating the Holy Spirit of God or faithful God loving people but they are impersonators.

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Rev 12.10

They transform themselves and impersonate Godly persons and beings for the sake of deceiving you into believing a lie.

7. The Accuser (Rev 12.10)

*Revelation 12:10–11 - And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.***

Your adversary the devil will stand before God, much as is seen in the book of Job, and will falsely accuse you before God. Your adversary has access to God night and day. He has not one good thing to say about you. He wants nothing less than your presence spiritually, then physically, and eternally in the Lake of Fire and brimstone under the judgment of God.

But the answer to the devil is right here in the next verse,

¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came, in part, to destroy the works of the devil. Our Lord and Savior does this by saving you and me.

B. God's Answer for the Devil

1. Resist the Devil (1 Peter 5.9)

*1 Peter 5:9 - **Whom resist steadfast** in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

James 4.7

We are to resist the devil.

- Resist the devil's lies and deception.
- Resist the devil's hindrances.
- Resist the devil's buffeting
- Resist the devil's temptations

Resist the devil! How?

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Notice that if we resist the devil he must flee from us. **This requires a conscious and intentional resistance.**

In resisting the devil properly we must also **Submit unto God.**

You are not really resisting the devil until you are submitting unto God.

2. Be Sober, Be Vigilant (1 Peter 5.8)

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; . . .

To be Sober is to have your mind about you, to be thinking rightly.

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To be Vigilant is to be passionately intentional.

These teach us to realize that we are in a Spiritual Battle, all day, every day and we must be engaged in this battle. We will not gain the victory by accident.

If you are anything less than sober and vigilant then the devil will gain the victory over you, he will devour you.

In order to engage in this spiritual battle you must first be born again. You must be saved and a member of the family of God. Otherwise you belong to the devil already.

CrossRoads Baptist Church, March 21, 2021

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