

**PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY:
ALERTS AGAINST THE DEVIL AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL GLORY**

Houses of Light Church • July 1-2, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 5:8

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Last time we talked about turning all our anxiety over to the Lord and the ways the enemy attacks and how we can resist him by standing firm in faith. **Today we are going to delve into what it is to be sober and what it is to watch because it is necessary to recognize if our life is characterized by sobriety and being vigilant.**
- B. A sober person can see things as they are; when someone is drunk he is not fully aware of reality. On the other hand if you fall asleep, you totally lose your senses. So what Peter is telling us is that by all necessary means we are alert so that our spiritual senses are not dulled, while we see reality. He tells us: **Do not dull your senses, keep your perception of reality awake, sharp, clear and alert.**
- C. The context of this exhortation is that there is an adversary who prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. So you and I need to be sensitive to this reality; we must know how he operates, what his tricks are to devour people. Being sober includes knowing the kinds of tricks, lies and evil that he can use to destroy our faith and what are the strategies by which we can resist him.
- D. **Our sobriety is tied to the voice we are hearing and how we process what is happening. The devil used lies to seduce Eve and she lost her sobriety and came to believe that bad was good and good was bad.**
2 Cor. 11:3 "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds [senses] may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
- E. We don't spend our days looking under every stone to see if the lion is trying to eat us, rather we reverse our focus making sure we are hearing God's truth and not the devil's lies, as well as preparing our minds for action. filling us with the promises of God that give us hope through which you can defeat the evil one.
1 Pet. 1:13 "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- F. Peter introduced his letter talking about how God has given us glorious promises; as He is going to keep us to give us a glorious inheritance and then Peter says **"Therefore"** that is, since we have all those promises, prepare your minds to go into action and be sober, placing your hope completely in the grace that will be brought to you when Christ be revealed.
- G. **Also Peter uses the word "sober" in this letter three times and adds that we must be sober for the sake of our prayers.**

1 Ped. 4:7 *"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers."*

- H. This teaches us that when we are sober we can see things as they really are and then we can pray accurately and aware of the reality of what is happening, of God's promises as well as God's willingness to hear and respond; so we cry out for his help at all times. By being sober and vigilant we really know what is going on:
1. **The danger is real:** We have an enemy looking for someone to devour through intimidation and deceit.
 2. **God's promises and truths are faithful and are what sustain clarity, faith and hope in Christ.**
 3. **God is there and answers our prayer (Heb. 11:6).** This is a perceived awareness of assurance that He hears, responds, and sustains us.
- I. A vigilant life of sobriety is not an anxious life, rather it is an anxiety-free life that is aware of what is really happening, of the promises that sustain our faith, and that stands in prayer to resist the devil.

II. LEARNING FROM THE LIFE OF PETER IN THE GOSPEL

- A. The gospel shows us the life of Peter and helps us to deepen and clarify what the apostle writes in his letter:

Mk. 14:37-38 *"And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?" ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Lc. 22:31-34 *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³ Peter[*e*] said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."*

- B. The devil wanted to squeeze Peter's faith by sifting him like wheat and thus causing the other disciples to stumble as well, but Jesus had already prayed for him that his faith would not fail. How glorious to know that Christ anticipates what is going to happen to him and intercedes for him and for us!
- C. In this event from Peter's life we learn about how the power of God kept him through Jesus' prayer so that Simon's faith would not fail; and although it failed momentarily, it was not a definitive failure because Jesus' prayer was so effective that he told Peter: *"when I return, strengthen your brothers."* Jesus knew that his prayer to the Father would release his power to keep Peter for final salvation.

1 Ped. 1:5 *"who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

- D. The power of God is keeping us from being destroyed by the lies of the devil and by this power we can persevere until the end. Peter had to learn that he was not

as ready as he thought and that it was not just his own strength that was going to keep him in God's love. It is like Jesus said to Peter: *'You are going to fall and I am going to teach you that I am going to pray for you and it is going to be the power of the Father that is going to keep you so that later you can write it in your letter.'*

E. So what we learn by looking at the gospel is that:

1. **Jesus knew that Peter was going to fail.** He warned him what was going to happen, He was not surprised or dismissed Pedro, rather He anticipated the solution. This is what Jesus does for us.

Heb. 7:25 *"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost[b] those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."*

2. **Jesus knew that his prayer for Peter would help him come back.** He assured him *'when you return confirm your brothers'* Jesus knew that Peter had a place of influence for others.
3. **That is why Peter can say with confidence that: "we are kept by the power of God"** because he lived it in his own flesh.

F. Therefore we understand that:

1. **Christians can temporarily fail.** Our faith may fail us but it does not mean that we are discarded.
2. **We are definitely dependent on the power of God to keep us.** We do fight the good fight of faith but it is the power of God that empowers us to continue in the fight.
3. **Therefore we can resist the devil firm in faith, trusting in God.**

III. WE SUFFER A LITTLE WHILE

1 Pet. 5:10-11 *"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

- A. Suffering is a horrible thing, it's easy to talk about but so hard to bear. When he says that the suffering is for **"a little while"** this can have two dimensions: **the seasons of trial and later the affirmation of God during this life, but this phrase is also in contrast to the eternal glory that is the total end of suffering.**
- B. This final restoration, affirmation, strength, and establishment is the hope that enables us to continue, persevere, and effectively resist the devil. Eternal glory begins when this little time of our lives is over.

1 Ped. 1:6-7 *"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

- C. After you have been through a lifelong season of suffering, God himself, **the God of all grace**, will restore you, affirm and establish His own forever..

2 Cor. 4:17 "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

- D. **"the God of all grace"** refers to all the grace we need to reach eternal glory in Christ Jesus; and this "call to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus" is so effective that it makes us come to him and his sovereign grace makes this call come true and will allow us to reach his eternal glory. The question is whether we enjoy being called.

1 Ped. 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"

- E. God's call is His action to bring us out of darkness into His amazing light, which began with the new birth and will culminate in the glory we will experience when He returns.

Rom. 8:30 "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. According to these Scripture texts, what does it mean to be sober and watchful?
2. Do you consider that you are someone who is sober and awake? Explain
3. What do we learn for our lives from the way Christ responded when Peter fell?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We will have a fundraiser for Holy 58 at "UBATUBA" on Wednesday, July 5 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2. Corporate Prayer this Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) is from July 10 to 14 for children from 4 to 12 years old. The last day to register is July 7th. Please sign in at the children's ministry office in the building across the street.
4. Level 3 in Spanish online of the Effective Parenting Course begins on Wednesday, July 19. Please register at the report desk or at housesoflight.org
5. The Passion For Jesus Conference and Leadership Summit offer a discount for those who register early, ending July 10th. Please register today at www.nhop.la