

STEADFAST IN THE FAITH

Pastor's Desk – September 5, 2021



1 Peter 5:8-9 *“(8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”*

These writings indicate that there is little room for negligence. We are called upon to be thoroughly self-controlled and alert. Why? Because the enemy aims to impair our confidence, sow discord, and get us to stop believing and revert to carnality. Those are the directions in which he will attempt to drive us.

Peter records, "Whom he may devour." "May" means permission is granted. He can spiritually devour us, but it does not have to happen. Putting the advice in verse 8 into a more familiar expression instead of saying, "Be sober," we could say, "Keep your head screwed on right," "Keep cool," "Try to keep calm about this," "Don't be timid," or "Don't lose your temper," "Don't lose your presence of mind."

Additionally, he also instructs us to "Be vigilant," meaning "to watch." This same expression is used about prayer. Our responsibility, in part, is to pray that we do not enter into temptation. It is part of being vigilant.

The combination of all these things - the roaring lion, the resisting, the trials, distress, persecution, perfection, and strength - are linked as parts of processes that fulfil God's plan for us. We have to begin by comprehending that the enemy - despite his cleverness, and influence - is still yet a puppet in God's hand to bring about His purpose. The Lord is far more powerful than the enemy, "...*because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" 1John 4:4.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos