

## Sleepwalkers Get Run Over (1 Peter 5:8-11)

There is another dimension to the universe that science cannot study or know about through the natural human senses even if high powered technology is used.

It can be known and studied only with spiritual sense informed by Biblical revelation.

Ephesians 6:12

Daniel's testimony: Daniel 10:12—14.

And the Bible's disclosure of the reality of the spiritual conflict in the unseen dimension warns us that we have adversaries who are brilliant beyond human intellect under the direction of Satan who work to undermine the work of Christ in our material dimension.

### 1. The call to sober-minded watchfulness, verse 8.

The term "sober-minded" is the same idea as "self-controlled".

It describes the opposite of drunkenness or surrender to driving passions.

(1:13, 4:3-7)

The opposite of this sober watchfulness is a spiritual drowsiness in which one sees and responds to situations no differently than unbelievers, and God's perspective on each event is seldom if ever considered.

Christians are likely to fade in their sober-mindedness and watchfulness when:

- new or young in the faith and untaught about spiritual conflict.
- we begin to feel self-sufficient, often due to good health and a good financial situation and lean away from a firm grip on God
- we get busy and neglect our need for community with other Christians
- you think, "I'm loaded up with enough Bible teaching for the next while"
- we have an imbalanced view of the sovereignty of God and neglect your responsibility to develop your maturity

### 2. Why this call to sober-minded watchfulness, verse 8?

A. Because the Devil stalks people to devour them.

He has his foot-soldiers--demons (1 Tim 4:1-2)

**How** does he stalk?

He deploys his demon subordinates to prop up false teachers (2 Corinthians 11:12-14) who propagate his false philosophies (2 Corinth 10:3-5).

He enables unbelievers in educational and cultural institutions like music, fashion, sports, government, and religion to promote ideologies contradictory to the Bible (Ephesians 2:1-2).

It seems most likely that Satan himself, does not directly afflict many individual Christians. He directs his subordinates in the demon hierarchy to do that (Daniel 10:12-13)

### 3. Who does the Devil stalk? Who does he look for?

A. He does **not** stalk **non**-Christians. Why? Because he already controls them. (2 Tim 2:25-26; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

B. He stalks Christians who are easy to take down:

- Those who are isolated or too independent to commit themselves to others who could challenge them.
- Christians with **no** consistent development of their understanding of the Bible.
- Christians **not** cultivating godly convictions.
- Christians so **busy** pursuing the concerns of life leaving little time for reflection on what is true and what is deceptive in the things they listen to or pursue.

### 4. What means does the Devil use to devour people?

- his primary method is deception (2 Timothy 3:12-13)
- God may allow him to afflict us with suffering (5:9b, 10a).
- he will test your confidence in God with threats of loss,
- he will separate you from supporting relationships by gossip.

**What is the Devil's objective?** He aims to get Christians to hide what they believe, to compromise their convictions, or quit.

**Is there a remedy after being "devoured"?**

Absolutely! Deep repentance before God and open confession before fellow believers and any offended non-Christians.

Consider King David after his sin with Bathsheba (Psalm 51).

### 5. What is the Christian's responsibility when attacked by the Devil's forces, verse 9?

**Resistance** means standing firm in **THE** faith. **The** faith is all the teaching of the doctrines of the Bible. If you want to be firm in the Faith, you need to know it. You have to be able to discern deception and temptation before you can resist it.

Let us take our stand against temptations to back down from THE faith.

Don't buckle when challenged about what you believe.

**Resistance** means leaning on **God's calling** to THE faith. You rest secure in the redemptive work of Christ, not your own spiritual and moral performance.

**Resistance** means you trust in the promises of God to deliver you to glory regardless of how difficult your life in this world may be (1 Peter 4:19).

**Resistance** means remembering, you are not alone. Others suffer just like you and perhaps worse but remain faithful (2:12; 3:16; 4:4)

### 6. What will be God's response when He sees his children suffer unjustly?

At the right time, He will restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you, **verse 10**.

**Doxology, verse 11.**