

Opening Thoughts

Have you ever sensed the presence of evil? A sense of unreasonable dread or fear? If so, what was your response? In the end, what happened? What did you learn?

Time in the Word?

Read 1 Peter 5:8. What words or phrases stand out to you?

What does self-control have to do with facing an enemy?

How do you respond to a human who is an active, purposeful enemy? How do you respond when the powerful entity is Satan?

What do the words *prowl* and *looking for someone* communicate to you?

Discussion Questions

What does the acknowledgement of Satan mean to someone? What other truths

must be accepted if you agree to the reality of Satan?

What are popular images of the devil? Evil? How have these influenced our culture?

What are some of the subtle methods Satan uses to deceive believers? Are they worse than the more obvious/blatant methods?

How can a believer be vigilant to guard against Satan's evil?

Homework

How comfortable are you reaching out for help or encouragement when you are under attack? If the concept of being intentionally targeted by Satan or asking another believer for help is challenging for you, why? This week, pray and seek God's wisdom as a resource in your ongoing battle with the prowling lion.



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Our Purpose
why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values
how we do it

Worship - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Connect - living in community, loving and supporting one another
Grow - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
Serve - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
Reach - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

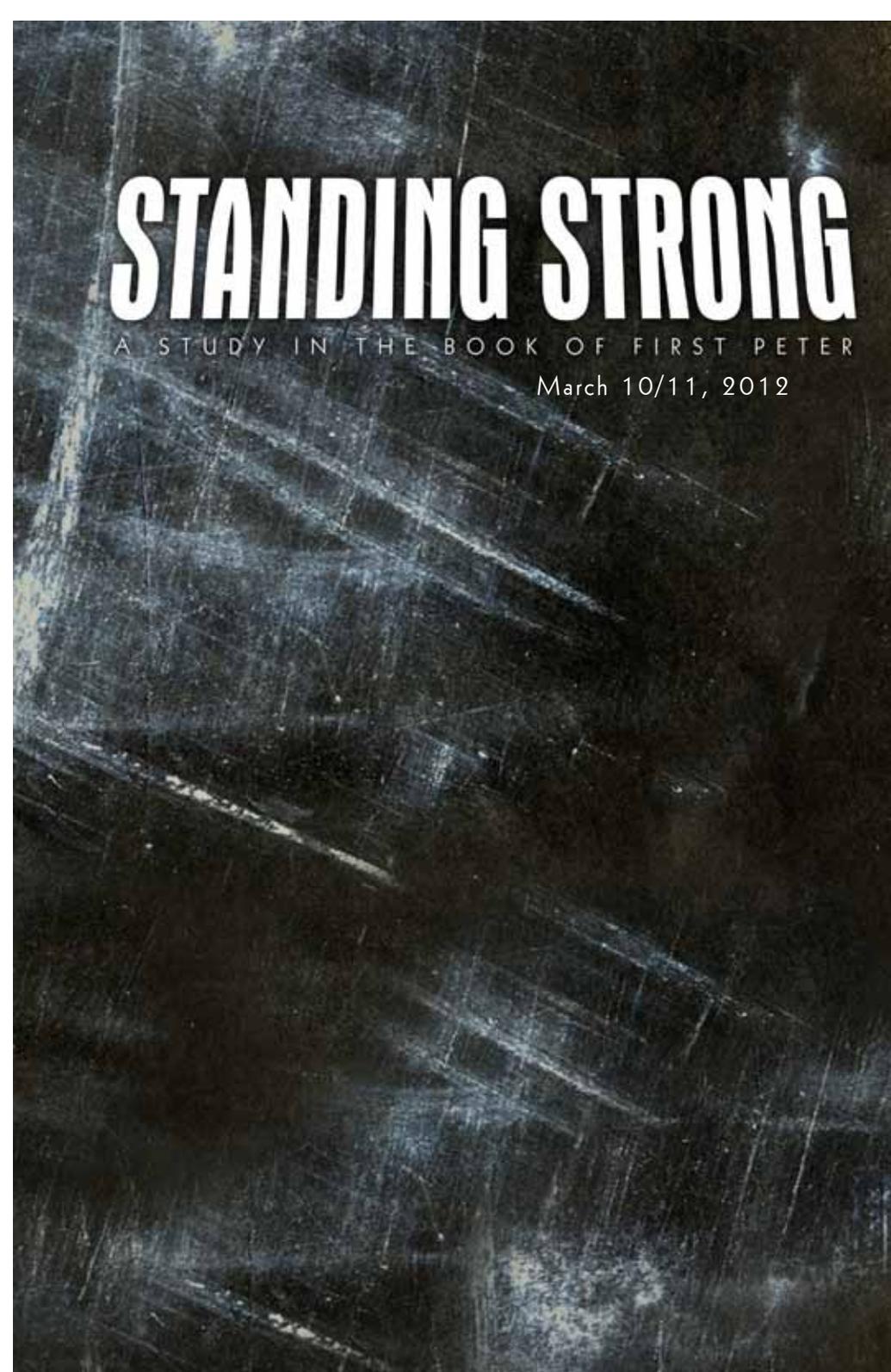
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Sermon Notes

STANDING STRRRRONG

The 4 Rs of 1 Peter 5:8-14
Pastor Bobby Fisher

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

1. The _____ of Satan

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
Genesis 3:1 (NIV)

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
Revelation 20:7-10 (NIV)

Recognize him – he's the world's _____.

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:44 (NIV)

Respect him – he is a _____.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

If it's not in line with the Bible, it is _____.

2. The _____ of believers

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings

. 1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)

Resist him... "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."
Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)

Stand strong in the _____.

3. The _____ of God

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.
1 Peter 5:10-11 (NIV)

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
Romans 8:18 (NIV)

Give glory to the _____.

4. The _____ for writing

With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.
1 Peter 5:12-14 (NIV)

We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.
1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 (NIV)

Give _____ to one another and hope to the lost.



Memory Verse

My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.

1 Peter 5:12b (NLT)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

From the sermon outline and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, how have you been deceived by Satan as he has masqueraded as an angel of light? How has that experience better equipped you to recognize and resist his attacks?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. From verses 8-9 with Matthew 26:36-46, what might Peter have learned about staying alert in this situation with Jesus?

To what is Satan compared? What does this tell you about him? What danger is there in underestimating his destructiveness? Why should we also not overestimate his power?

Why are believers to be self-controlled and alert? What are some useful things you can do to be self-controlled and alert? How could this change your circumstances in the long run?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. From verse 10, who is making the promise and to whom is it made?

What is promised? What comes before restoration?

How can this be an encouragement to you or to someone you know who is struggling?

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. From verses 12-14, what is the connection between Peter's opening greeting in chapter 1 verses 2-3 and his closing benediction in chapter 5 verse 14?

How would you describe a faithful brother (verse 12)?

Read Ephesians 6:11-17. List each piece of armor and its practical use in your life.

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

In the last two weeks, what is the most important lesson you have learned from 1 Peter 5?

Why might it be hard to trust God in times of trouble?

Does the fact that God cares for you help calm your fears? If not, why?

Personal Reflection & Application

How are the purpose of your life and the purpose of Peter's letter similar (verse 12)?

In what way has suffering brought you into a more mature relationship in Christ? See Romans 5:1-5, 8:18.

Reaching Out

Identify and share with someone the encouragement and practical hope you have received from this lesson.