

A Winning Strategy!

1 Peter 5:8-9

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Chess as the ultimate strategy game
- Military planning and strategizing
- Our real enemy—the devil

A Winning Strategy!

A. Be SOBER, that is, “cool, calm, collected”

1. Importance of keeping one’s cool
2. Peter’s early calls for sobriety
 - a. In the face of persecution—1:13-15
 - b. In light of Christ’s soon return—4:7
3. No need to panic when under attack by the devil

B. Be VIGILANT, that is, “keep a close watch”

1. Peter’s own failure to watch—Luke 22:31-34; Mark 14:38
2. Our advantage: “Not ignorant of his devices”—2 Cor. 2:11
 - a. Casts doubt on God’s character and truthfulness of His Word.
 - 1) Happened in the garden of Eden—Genesis 3
 - 2) Happens through false teachers—1 Tim. 4:1-3
 - b. Lures us away through allurements of this sinful world
 - 1) Generally, three points of temptation 1 John 2:15-17
 - 2) Specifically, sexual temptation—1 Corinthians 7:1-3, 5
 - c. Seeks to “divide and conquer” relationships through...
 - 1) Unresolved anger—Ephesians 4:26-27
 - 2) Unforgiving spirit—2 Corinthians 2:10-11
 - 3) Narcissistic pride—1 Timothy 3:7

C. RESIST HIM, that is, “take a stand against him”

1. Nowhere are we commanded to rebuke or bind Satan
 - a. An apostolic power not given to us
 - b. Only Christ can rebuke or bind Satan
2. Commanded to Resist or Stand Against
 - a. Put on the whole armor of God—Eph. 6:10-14; 1 Thess. 5:6-8
 - b. Be firmly grounded in God’s Word—1 Pet 5:9
 - 1) The “faith” is the “once for all” scriptures—Jude 3
 - 2) Pastor’s teaching helps lay the foundation—Eph. 4:12-14
 - 3) Jesus’ use of Scripture in resisting the devil
 - c. Stand together with others against Satan’s attack
 - 1) The conflict is universal—1 Peter 5:9
 - 2) The benefits of being part of a group of believers.
Hebrews 10:23-25

BOTTOM LINE: We can be overcomers! 1 John 2:14; James 4:7