

# Discussion Questions for Sunday, May 3, 2015

## Peter: A Living Hope - Standing Firm in Christ, Pt. 3 (1 Peter 5:8-11)

1. Review the first 3 of 8 attitudes necessary for standing firm in Christ seen in 1 Peter 5:5-14.  
1<sup>st</sup>, Submission to God and others (1 Peter 5:5-6a).  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Humility before God and others (1 Peter 5:6b).  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Active Trust in God (1 Peter 5:7).  
Why are these so foundational to the ones that follow?
2. Discuss the 4<sup>th</sup> attitude: Watchful Care (1 Peter 5:8). 2 verbs: be sober and be watchful. Disciplined thought life and balanced priorities. Why should we have an eternal, heavenly perspective
3. Discuss the 5<sup>th</sup> attitude: Firm Resistance (1 Peter 5:9a). Discuss the 6 key activities based on Eph. 6:10-20:
  - i. Renew: Allow God to renew your mind via Prayer and God's Word.
  - ii. Reflect: On the negative impact to others that will be affected if you do not resist. Consequences.
  - iii. Relate: Gospel-changed Relationships. Friends/Mentors. People lovingly and firmly holding you accountable.
  - iv. Resolve: Decide what you will do in a given situation BEFORE you get into it.
  - v. Rebuke: VERBAL REBUKE OF THE ENEMY (Jude 9).
  - vi. Run: Run away from the situation physically if needed, like Joseph with Potiphar's wife. We are to flee unrighteousness (2 Timothy 2:22). How do you run away from sin mentally?
4. Look up and discuss the following references to Satan's schemes. Have group members pair up and look up the following verses, taking special note of the context and the verses preceding and following, and then come back together and share significant observations.
  - a) 2 Corinthians 2:11 We are not ignorant of his schemes. We know what he is trying to do.
  - b) 2 Corinthians 4:4 - he speaks what is false and hides truth.
  - c) 2 Corinthians 11:13 - masquerades as an angel of light. His servants too.
  - d) 2 Thessalonians 2:9 - power, signs, wonders.
  - e) Matthew 24:24 - to lead astray if possible the elect.
  - f) John 8:44 - a murderer in beginning and has nothing to do with truth.
  - g) 1 Thessalonians 2:18 - fights against / hinders evangelism and discipleship.
  - h) Revelation 12:10 - accuses Christians before God day and night.

5. Interact with the following: If you want to know God's will (John 7:17) and defeat Satan's schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11), use the Word of God and pray at all times (Ephesians 6:17-18).
6. The 6<sup>th</sup> attitude is Solidarity in Suffering. Talk about the fact that we are not alone. You are loved by the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and you have a family in Christ. Grace Orange exists glorify God through lives transformed by the gospel of Christ and be a Christ-centered community. We bear one another's burdens. We weep with the weeping, we rejoice with the rejoicing. We uphold the suffering. We comfort the grieving. How can we fold others in who aren't connected like this?
7. The 7<sup>th</sup> attitude is Hope-Filled Worship because of what God will do in glorifying His chosen ones. Read through the following together as a group and discuss the implications:  
We have an adversary (1 Peter 5:8) and an advocate (1 John 2:1). Our adversary devours and destroys, our advocate defends and delights. Our adversary steals and kills, our advocate secures and gives life. Our adversary degrades and demands, our advocate upgrades and understands. Our adversary accuses us and condemns, our advocate defeated him and defends. Our adversary hates us, our advocate loves us. Our adversary is the father of lies, our advocate is the Truth. Our adversary ruins, our advocate restores. Our adversary flees righteousness, our advocate is full of righteousness. Our adversary provokes, our advocate provides. Our adversary rejects, our advocate protects. Our adversary entraps and enslaves in sin, our advocate frees and forgives from sin. Our adversary is evil, our advocate is good. Our adversary is strong, our advocate is stronger. Our adversary is powerful, our advocate is all-powerful. Our adversary has been judged, our advocate is the Judge. Our adversary is defeated, our advocate is victorious. Our advocate is the prince of darkness, our advocate is the coming King. Our adversary is the devil, our advocate is Jesus Christ the righteous. Rest in Jesus and cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you. And, "...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4). Christ in you, your hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Beloved Christian, you are safe and secure in Christ.
8. Bottom line question, why should we take 1 Peter 5:8-11 so seriously?