

Paul agrees with Peter regarding the dangers of the devil. We must not take Satan lightly or give him any foothold. Paul says...

"Neither give place to the devil." (Ephesians 4:27)

Peter says Satan is LOOKING for those to devour. Paul says, give him no place to LOOK!

We must be led by the Holy Spirit so closely as to be unappealing prey for the lion! As mentioned above, being effective in the applications of the Armor of God will give us victory against the devil. Attentive prayer is a critical element of God's Armor!

*"(11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil...**(18) **Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"*

(Ephesians 6:11, 18)

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### How We Become Prey

*"And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for **truth is fallen in the street**, and equity cannot enter. (15) Yea, truth faileth; and **he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey**: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment." (Isaiah 59:14-15)*

Jesus is the truth, and when we stand for truth and depart from evil... we make ourselves the enemy's prey.

As genuine believers, we don't have a choice. Once we receive Jesus, we become Satan's enemy. Once we proclaim truth... lovers of darkness launch their fiery darts.

**Our choice lies in how well prepared we want to be when evil attacks.**

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Conclusion:

Diligently watch, pray, take God's Armor, and train with it! **PREPARE FOR BATTLE!**

Satan is a powerful adversary who wants to destroy us, but...

*"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.**" (1 John 4:4)*

The **Holy Spirit** in us is infinitely more powerful than Satan.

Transformed Living Messages by Robert Dallmann
ChristLife
PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Ph: (716) 622-7320
E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net
Visit us at www.Christ-like.net



By: Robert Dallmann

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*"Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your **adversary** the devil, as a roaring **lion**, walketh about, seeking whom he may **devour.**"*

(1 Peter 5:8)

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Sobering Thought

This verse should be sobering for believers. Jesus warned Peter that Satan had sought to sift him, and Peter is now warning us.

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:" (Luke 22:31)

Peter knew what Jesus was talking about, so we should seriously consider what he has written for our benefit. Satan is like a lion hunting its prey.

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### Pray In Sobriety

# DO PRAY - DON'T BE PREY

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Peter tells us to "be **sober**." Paul echoes the same message from the Holy Spirit.

*"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let us **not sleep**, as do others; but let us **watch and be sober**. (7) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. (8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:5-8)

The apostles tell us we are "children of light" and should live as in the day. Evil flourishes in darkness. During the night, people get drunk, commit crimes, and drop their guard. To avoid becoming Satan's prey, we must be **soberly prayerful and live in the Light of Christ**.

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Watch And Pray

Watching is a common theme ascribed to followers of Jesus. We saw Paul teaching us to "watch and be sober" in the previous section, and now we see Jesus and Peter stating the same critical message. **WATCH and PRAY**.

*"**Watch ye and pray**, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." (Mark 14:38)*

*"But **watch** thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5)*

*"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and **watch unto prayer**."
(1 Peter 4:7)*

If something is in the Bible one time, it is essential. The topic of prayerful watching is repeated often in Scripture. It must be crucial!

In just the few verses above, we can learn many things about ourselves and the essential aspects of watching and praying. Here are some of the things we can glean from these passages:

- * Watchful prayer helps us avoid temptation
- * Our flesh is weak
- * We must carefully watch and validate our life/ministry in Christ
- * We are in the end times, requiring sobriety and prayerfulness
- * Diligent, alert praying helps us when afflictions come
- * Evangelism and ministry require attentive prayer

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## Be Vigilant

Peter tells us to be vigilant in the opening verse of this message. Paul also uses the same Greek word in the following verse, which is translated as "watch."

*"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch and be sober**." (1 Thessalonians 5:6)*

Vigilant means to keep awake. Stay alert. Be aware of what is going on. When Satan comes as a hungry lion...we should not be surprised. We must be prepared. And how are we supposed to prepare? Paul tells us two verses later:

*"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation**."  
(1 Thessalonians 5:8)*

We must be putting on the Armor of God and training with it! A study of the Armor of God reveals much regarding spiritual warfare. We cannot delve much into it in this brief teaching. We must diligently work with our godly armor and become familiar with its use.

*"But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment **trained by constant practice** to distinguish good from evil." (Hebrews 5:14)*

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Adversary

Peter warns us of Satan seeking whom he may devour, similar to a lion seeking its prey.

So, what is Satan seeking to do to the believers Peter is writing to? **Devour!** This is serious business! Those of us walking with Jesus have an intensely focused enemy. Devour means "to drink down, i.e., gulp entire (literally or figuratively)."