

The Battleground  
By Rick Ezell

“Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him” (1 Peter 5:8-9 HCSB).

Lions in Africa prey on weak, unsuspecting animals who have wandered away from the protection of the herd. Likewise, the devil prowls around to deceive and devour those unsuspecting, weak Christians who have wandered off from other believers. Believers who refuse to be accountable and protected by other believers find themselves isolated and defenseless—delicious prey for the crafty deceiver.

The Christian life is not a playground, but a battleground. Every day, every hour, every minute we are under attack. We are in a war. It is an invisible, yet, real war. We are fighting a foe with highly organized strategies, tactics, and battle plans. If we do not understand these facts we will lose the battle.

Peter informs us of three decisive actions: Be self-controlled which is actually Christ’s control. Be alert by always being on guard and watchful. Resist Satan. Once we have Christ in control of our life and we are alert to Satan’s tactics, then, we resist him. Notice carefully, Peter *doesn’t* say to resist temptation, which, by the way, the Scriptures never instructs. Oscar Wilde was right when he said, “I can resist everything except temptation.” We are to resist Satan, the Tempter not the temptation. The failure to understand and employ this strategy is where many believers stumble and fall.

We can only resist Satan in the power and through the presence of Jesus Christ. We don’t have to be clever or strong, but rely on the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

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