

Training Children in Self-Defense - I Peter 5:1-9 – Txt 8-9

Cranston, Vincent, Gray, TSK, Handfuls, GreekLexicon, Gill, Calvin, Geneva, JFB, INT, Robertson, PNT, Henry, Spurgeon, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, facing the Devil is not an easy task...so this task must not be treated lightly. The Devil is strong, he has a strong army. And he and his army know how to fight – they have been doing it for years. Those who take the Devil lightly are walking on dangerous ground. Why? Because you and the Devil are perpetually battling - fighting... Some people deny the fight exists...but it is real and that is dangerous... This battle with the Devil has life consequences. And in light to this baptism today, with two more children marked by God in holy baptism, we want to examine this battle so children can be trained to fight the Devil and bring glory to Jesus Christ. Their training must begin while they are young and at home. No soldier goes to war to get training.

Our headings are: **Evil Devil**, and **Equipped Christians**.

Our goals are: **That you learn not to minimize (减到最小) the Devil but realize the danger the Devil poses**, and that you **become equipped to fight him and equip others to fight him as well**.

Evaluate the Danger of the Devil

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary (敌人) the devil walks about like a roaring lion, (咆哮) seeking whom he may devour. 谁吞食

1. The **Devil is your dangerous enemy!** If he weren't Peter would not warn about this. No good person jokes about life and death issues.

2. But first: Who is the Devil? The word "Devil" is a Greek word "diablos." It means "accuser" or "slanderer." 诽谤 He was the leader of the rebellion in heaven against Jesus Christ and he and a third of the angels were thrown out by Jesus Christ.

3. The Devil is a slanderer?

a. "Slander" is a legal word used in court. It is literally one who accuses another of breaking the law.

The Devil pleads that justice might take place and punishment might be inflicted (put on) on you. He daily accuses you before God of sinning. He is not your friend. And he is very diligent about his task. He wins many cases. He first traps you by luring whispers in your ears...then he accuses you when you follow his suggestion. Consider a few examples of how this in the Bible.

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."

b. The Devil has no shame! The Devil accuses man to God. The Devil accuses God to man...as he did with Eve. He knows he is lying, but he can't help himself. He is a liar from the beginning.

c. He was there when Jesus was in the wilderness when Jesus was hungry...he will be there when you are weak also. Count on it. He will use your friend...as he used Judas. He will use your wife...as he used Jezebel against her husband. He will use religious people...like the Scribes and the Pharisees... corrupt(腐败) ministers...and those who pretend to be Christians.

4. The Devil is a devourer. (谁吞食)

a. The goal of the Devil is to consume... "Consume" means to ferociously 凶猛 eat...to attack the food. The Devil is not out to harm you, but to destroy you and your children completely.

b. The Devil is your devourer (谁吞食) as an angel of light. An Angel of Light...refers to being a good person...kind...sweet...small...But it is all a pretense. The worse enemy is the one who pretends

to be your friend.

2Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

This is particularly important warning for children. They are easily fooled by shiny things!

c. The Devil also appears as a roaring lion trying to devour (谁吞食) you. The lion is a symbol of strength, rage (great anger), malice (毒心), and cruelty (惨暴), which he daily breathes out against the saints of God. And Peter himself faced this roaring lion...and was almost devoured by him. Matthew 16:21ff. The Devil was using Peter.

Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

But Jesus prayed for him...for the Devil wanted to make him like chaff (谷壳)...useless.

Luke 22:31ff – Satan has desired sift you as wheat...but I have prayed for you.

More, Jesus strengthened him and gave him a job to protect His sheep and lambs. This is what you have to be aware of...you have to fight to protect your children and new Christians. And as a lion, the Devil is seeking...looking...trying to find. The Arabs call him "the busy-one." He will destroy whomever he can...just as a lion would. He was not hesitant 犹豫 to fight against the Lord Jesus himself...he will not hesitate to fight you. You are much weaker than Christ.

5. While the Devil roams the earth as a roaring lion, the Devil is also a sneak who comes on you when you least expect him.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

The only place the Devil will not be will be heaven. Prepare to wait for heaven...but be ready to fight against him now...

6. The Devil will often give you what you want when it is in his power to do so. He will give sweet to the one who wants it...and sour to the one who wants it. But he gives you pleasure at a price, just like he told Jesus that he would give him the whole world if he would bow down and worship him.

Equipped Yourself to Fight the Devil

1. Be Sober against the Devil. Be sober - controlled. This is repeated from 1 Peter 1. Repetition is not to waste words but used in order to emphasize something. "Being sober" is not really speaking of the opposite of being drunk...from drinking too much wine...though that is included. "Being sober" refers the need of being in control of all characteristics given to you by God. Sober means being of sound, alert mind. Sober means being awake. You have probably seen the drunk on the Police TV shows trying to walk on that white chalk line. Then they argue that they are doing in right, but they are falling down.

2. Be Vigilant against the Devil. So be on the look out. This depends on being sober; for if you are not sober you cannot be vigilant. Even Jesus learned the need to be vigilant.

Matthew 26:40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

3. Resist the Devil

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Fight...for this is a military term. You are to defend the city. You are not fighting for the victory 胜利...that was accomplished 成功 by Christ. You are not fighting for the city, you are in the city that has already been capture. Your deliverance is wrapped up in the power of Jesus who came to destroy the works of the Devil and set the people given to him by his Father. Further, the Devil

cannot control you...but you can yield yourself to be used of the Devil. Look at the way Christians can fight against each other...They are yielding to him.

4. How might you fight the Devil? Faith is your offensive weapon; faith is your Savior.

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

There is sufficient strength in faith – which comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. So don't lose your faith...as a soldier is defenseless if he loses his shield. And you use the armor of God. Be strong in the Lord...and put on the whole armor of God...as God told Joshua.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

This is how you are able to withstand against the arrows of the Devil. James: Resist the Devil and he will flee (run from) from you. So much for the "Let go and let God." (Reformed people's excuse: It is God's will.) That type of nonsense is destroying churches. This is an excuse for being weak in faith and in the knowledge of God's Word. This is an excuse for being lazy.

5. The struggle is to stop fighting against your neighbors – and learn to fight the Devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

6. Be steadfast 坚定不移 Against the Devil. Be Determined, stubborn, unmovable. As opposed to being drunken and staggering, stand firm.

7. Other Christians are facing the same thing. You must endure your attacks without murmuring, and with patience 耐心 and cheerfulness 高兴. This is the Christian life...you will always have attacks. Use you time, energy, and wisdom to fight...not to murmur or to be disappointed.

8. Know that you will win.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain (position), but left their own abode (home), He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Conclusion

The Devil is real. The Devil is dangerous. He has been accusing the children of God from the beginning. He is a slanderer. He hates you but pretends to be your friend. He will come as an angel of light or as a roaring lion. And his goal is especially to target the church-Christians, as you can see from society today. There are many lures he sets in front of children. He sets traps for married couples. Even Pastors fail. His goal is your and your children's destruction. He will not stop doing so till the end of the world.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Don't minimize the Devil's danger, but equip yourself with God's Word and his Holy Spirit to fight off the Devil...just as Jesus did. And don't give the Devil ammunition 弹药 with which to accuse you. Fight with God's Word and God's Holy Spirit, be on guard, and be determined. Inoculate your children with the whole Bible. And Camilo and Mariana, be ready to die to save your children from his grasp. But be encouraged too. Know that others are facing the same things and winning...and you can too...because you are the redeemed of God. Know that you are not alone in this battle. You belong to Christ, and as his children he will keep you. He didn't save you and adopt you to let you die. More, know that the Devil will be destroyed in the end. He and his friends will be cast into an eternal lake of fire.

If you are not a Christian you have no defense against the Devil. Only the kindness of God can keep you from being totally destroyed. You have no Word...or shield to defend you. You have no Holy Spirit to preserve you. You are truly in danger. You must come to Christ and come to him today. As a roaring lion the Devil will destroy you at his earliest convenience...You may not have tomorrow.