



“The flesh inclines us more to believe a temptation than a promise.”
—Thomas Watson

1 Peter 5:8 says, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Isn't it funny that when you think of someone or something “prowling,” you may think of it as someone being sneaky and quietly coming upon you? However, it says that Satan is like a roaring lion.

We often think that Satan slowly deceives us until all of a sudden we are sinning with no clue how we got there. Granted, he does that, too, but he is often like a roaring lion.

Sometimes the things we are tempted by are calling to us so loudly that it is all we can hear. The desire is so obvious, and it is too easy to give in. It is so appealing that we forget everything else but fulfilling or giving in to that sin.

We start minimizing the sin in our mind. We believe that it would not be a big deal or give no thought to it at all. We forget where the consequences of sin will leave us and that sin only promises one thing: death. We forget the promises of God that gives us hope. We forget the commands of God that He has given us for our joy. God knows how forgetful we are and reminds us often to be on guard for temptation.

Questions:

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. After reading this passage, what lessons can we learn about temptation? [We have to be on watch. Resist and be firm. Be encouraged that we are not alone in our struggle.]

What are some temptations that are common for you and your friends?

Are there any temptations that are more difficult for you in the summertime? What are they?

What are ways to stand firm against temptation?

Pray that you would not fall in temptation (Luke 22:40; Matthew 6:13).

Realize there is an option *not* to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Renew your mind (Romans 12:1-2).

Guard yourself by memorizing God's Word (Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 119:9-11).

Another way to stand firm is to remind ourselves of who God is and what He has done for us. Pastor J. D. Greear writes, "As we see the beauty of God and feel His weightiness in our hearts, our hearts begin to desire Him more than we desire sin. Before the Bible says, 'Stop sinning,' it says, 'Behold your God.'" When was the last time you were still before the Lord in prayer?

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What does this passage tell us about the armor of God ?

What happens if we pursue these things? [We will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.]

List the armor of God. [Belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, sword of the Spirit (word of God), Shield of Faith, helmet of salvation and feet protected by the gospel.]

List the results of putting on the armor of God, according to this passage. [It can extinguish flaming darts of the evil one, we can stand firm, keep alert and persevere, have opportunity to pray for others and we can boldly proclaim the gospel.]

Challenge for the Week: This week, memorize one of the Scriptures from this week's lesson.

Verses for the Week: Take time each day this week to read over these passages. Journal them in a notebook or in your phone. What are the principles and lessons found in these verses? If you had to sum up those lessons in one sentence, what would it be?

Day 1 - Proverbs 23:17-18

Day 2 - 1 Peter 2:9-11

Day 3 - Ephesians 5:14-17

Day 4 - James 4:7

Day 5 - Ephesians 6:11

Day 6 - 1 John 5:21