



Study 15: How to Stand in Trials by Grace

(for online sermons, visit:
www.hopechurch.org.nz)

Scanning

Main Texts: 1 Peter 5:5-11

Other Texts: Ephesians 3:7-11; 6:10-13; 2 Kings 6:8-23; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Readings: Sinclair Ferguson, "The Christian's Conflicts", in The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction
Chip Ingram, "You Have a Personal Enemy" and "Cultivate an Invincible Faith", in The Invisible War: What Every Believer Needs to Know About Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:10

In 1 Peter 5:5-11, Peter describes two final enemies against which we must take our stand during times of trial: (1) the enemy on the inside: pride (v5-7), and (2) the enemy on the outside: Satan (v8-9).

Group Discussion: Do you tend to think of the biggest problems in your life being internal (coming from your own heart and mind) or external (trials, stresses, the world, the devil)?

Going Deeper

1. What is pride? How does pride show itself in your life?
2. We often don't think our anxiety is sin. How is worry a form of pride, and why does God stand opposed to worry?
3. What does it mean that Satan is a roaring lion, seeking to devour Christians?
 - Review: In your "practical" theology, how do you think of Satan in comparison to God? Is Satan omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent?
 - Do you think you give Satan too much credit, or not enough credit? Why?
4. What strategies does Peter give us to resist Satan and his servants of deceit? (Note: "the faith" is an expression referring to "the truths of the faith", cf. Jude 3)
 - List some gospel truths that you must know well, and love, and use against both enemies of pride and the evil one.

Applying

5. Think back over this entire series. What are the big life lessons that you will take with you?
6. This book is a kind of discipleship manual for us. Peter, the original disciple, has been making disciples of us. How do you plan to use what you have learnt to now disciple someone else?
7. Peter finishes this book with an anthem of praise to God (v10). Spend some time in prayer as a group, doing the same.