

**THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING**  
**1 PETER 5:8-9 / 12-11-19 / WED**

**I. WHAT ARE CHRISTIANS TO DO TO BE READY IF PERSECUTION COMES?**

- A. Peter suggests two courses of action.
1. First, be alert— **“v.8 Be alert”**.
    - a. Alertness describes the action of being on the look out for danger of any kind.
    - b. In other words, don’t get caught off guard when Satan attacks.
  2. Second, be sober— **“v.8 Be of sober mind”**.
    - a. Sober means to be serious.
    - b. In other words, take Satan’s attacks seriously.
- B. The language Peter is using here applies to soldiers.
- C. However, Peter’s words are also fitting for Christians.

**II. SECOND, WHO IS THE SOURCE OF PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING?**

- A. Peter uses three words to describe who we are facing.
1. First, he is the **“enemy”**—v.8. Satan isn’t our friend, he is our enemy.
  2. Second, he is the **“devil”**—v.8. Devil means slanderer or accuser.
  3. Third, he is a **“lion”**—v.8.
- B. Peter makes at least three deductions from the word lion to describe the devil and his tactics.
1. First, he is our **“common”** enemy—v. 8 **“Your enemy”**. This is a collective pronoun indicating that Satan is the enemy of all of us.
  2. Second, he is a **“cunning”** enemy—v. 8 **“prowling around like a lion”**
  3. Third, he is a **“cruel”** enemy—v.8 **“looking for someone to devour”**.

### III. THIRD, HOW CAN WE FACE OUR ENEMY?

- A. First, we should “resist” the devil—v.9a “**Resist him**”.
  - a. Resist is a positive not a passive action. We must do something, not just sit back and wait.
  - b. Oliver Cromwell, an English military commander, once said, “**Trust God and keep your powder dry.**” It’s appropriate to trust God but also appropriate to take necessary precautions.
  
- B. Second, we should stand firm in our faith—v.9b “**Standing firm in the faith**”.
  - a. We must make sure we are “in the faith” if we hope to face the devil.
  - b. We must also be sure we “know” our faith too.
  
- C. Third, we should stand together with other Christians—v. 9c— “**Because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.**”