Daily Devotion #225

You Are Not Alone

**1 Peter 5:8-9 (NASB)** *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world*.”

Most people are terrified of being alone. They can’t stand the thought of being by themselves for any length of time because they feel the effects of isolation. Isolation is one of those things that makes people start thinking about all the people and events of life or about all the things they could be doing or should have done or whatever. In fact, there have been stories told about people who spent time in isolation, due to some mishap or purposefully put in isolation by the authorities, who have literally gone crazy. They lose their minds because God built us to be around people and need one another. That is why solitary confinement for prisoners is so effective. To put a person alone, without human contact, is one of the worst treatments there is for a person. We also know that children, who spend their early development years without the soothing caresses of their mother and or father or some loving caregiver, develop physical and even emotional distress that often affects them for life. I remember visiting an orphanage overseas where a child was only two feet tall at ten or twelve years old. The doctors believe she was hindered in her growth due to a lack of care from people.

So knowing how effective isolation can be, Satan works overtime to get us to be alone, either by self will or by some outside circumstances. That is one of major damages COVID-19 is causing. It forces people to be isolated from human contact or at least the kind of human contact God built us to need. So depression is on the rise, suicide is on the rise, family frustrations are on the rise, and pornography is on the rise - because people are isolated from others by this dreaded virus. And again, Satan knows that. He will stop at nothing to destroy us, not only because He hates us, but mostly because he hates God and all God does.

So Peter says to the saints who are having to leave the comforts of each other for safety from Nero to not let Satan dupe them through all the negative things that come from being alone. He tells them that they must stand on the promises of God - mainly that He will never leave them or forsake them. (Hebrews 13:5) He says the same things to us. We must resist him by standing firm in our convictions, convictions that come from knowing the truth through God’s Word. That means that we must stay in the Word of God daily. We must fill ourselves with the Word of God as our source of strength mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Paul said it this way, **Ephesians 6:11-17 (NASB)** *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*.” With these weapons, we are fully capable, with God’s help, to resist all that Satan throws at us. But as much as we put our faith in God to protect us, we must put on the armor. Every day. We must make sure we are guarded by the spiritual weapons that God has give for us to use in battle. The idea is that we would never take it off, and we never take it off because we are never out of the battle in this life.

Hear what our dear brother Peter says through the power of the Holy Spirit. You are not alone! All over the world, right now, as in Peter’s day, Satan is working to persecute or cause some means of distress for God’s people. Pray for each other, and when it’s all said and done, you and I and the saints of this world will still be standing. Why? Because we are not alone! We have God and we have one another. You can bank on these truths.