

Title: Victory through Vigilance
Pastor: Fred May
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Time: 9h00



I Peter 5:8

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

1. The 'Times'

- "The end of all things"
- Vigilant / alert in prayers

I Peter 4:7 NIV

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

Matthew 24:42 & 44

⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Sober = self-controlled / disciplined; physical & emotional self-mastery, particularly in situations of intense provocation or temptation.

Vigilant = watchful alert; the state of being alert and expectant

2. War

I Peter 5:9 (Revelation 19:11-16)

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

- a) Kingdoms colliding – we occupy a war zone.
- b) Need (spiritual) protection - [I Thessalonians 5:6-8, 11; Ephesians 6:12-13]
- covering

Luke 7:6-8 [chain of command]

⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ or I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

- understanding authority and submission
- danger of lawlessness

Matthew 24:12 [lost love]

¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

John 14:23-24

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not

love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

- discipline of mercy required

Mark 11:25-26

²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

c) Armour

Ephesians 6:13-18

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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

(i) Truth / integrity

Psalm 51:6

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

II Thessalonians 2:10

¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

(ii) Righteousness (grace)

Philippians 3:8-9

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

(iii) Mobility & peace of heart

(iv) Faith covering spirit, soul, body, mind. Protection & deployment

I Peter 4:1 (worldview; attitude; knowledge)

¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

(v) Confession power (Holy Spirit led *rhema* word weapons)

(vi) Prayer arsenal / launch pad

3. His voice

- Intimacy

I Peter 4:7-8 AMP

⁷ But the end and culmination of all things has now come near; keep sound minded and self-restrained and alert therefore for [the practice of] prayer. ⁸ above all things have intense and unflinching love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].

II Thessalonians 5:11

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

- Opportunities for serving

Ephesians 5:14-18 NIV

¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

- To receive blessing

Psalms 130:5-6

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

Luke 2:25, 36-38

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Micah 7:7 NIV

⁷ But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.

4. Remnant

32 000 → 22 000 → 10 000 → 300: Gideon

Judges 7:4-7

⁴ But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go." ⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink." ⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. ⁷ Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

10 → 1: Blind (Luke 17:11-19)

Ezra 9:8

⁸ And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage.

Isaiah 6:13 – The tenth / remnant

¹³ But yet a tenth will be in it, And will return and be for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump."

Romans 11:4-5 RSV

⁴ But what is the divine reply to him? 'I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' ⁵ So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

Revelation 7:9 RSV

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.