

Title: "Avoiding Satan's Snares"

Scripture: I Peter 5:8

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Evening Service

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I Peter 5:8 – *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

You may claim to not be afraid of the devil, but is the devil afraid of you? During the life of Paul, he turned the world upside down for the cause of Christ. After his death, Satan was probably happy because he finally had Paul out of his way. We should never underestimate the power of Satan. We shouldn't overestimate him either. He looks for the weaknesses in our lives. We need to be careful not to give him avenues to work through in our lives because he can do things that might cause us to lose our testimony. When we look at the life of Peter, we can see how Satan was involved in it. There were several times where Peter's mouth got him in trouble in situations with Christ – he spoke without thinking, and we do it often.

- a. In Matthew 16:15-16 *"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."*
- b. Matthew 16:23 *"But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."*
- c. Luke 22:31 *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat."*
- d. Matthew 26:75 *"And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."*

Peter uses two very interesting words in I Peter 5:8: sober and vigilant.

Sober means to show a very serious attitude.

Vigilant means alertly watching; especially to avoid danger.

Four Things about Avoiding Satan's Snares:

1. **Don't Stray:** Psalm 119:67 says *"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."* One of the most dangerous and haphazard words in the Christian life is neglect. Neglect means that we fail to take care of or pay attention to. There are a few things that happens when a Christian begins to stray:
 - a. Neglecting to study the word of God. We find strength, help, and guidelines for living. When we begin to lay it aside, our lives begin to fall apart.
 - b. Neglecting to pray. Prayer is what holds our days together. It's our communication with Christ. It's what keeps our relationship with him alive.
 - c. Neglecting to attend church. A Christian who fails to attend church is one who has lost the desire to serve and worship with fellow believers.
2. **Don't Strut:** Proverbs 16:18 *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."* In John 12:43 it gives an account of the Pharisees being prideful. In this scripture it says *"For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."* When we seek the praise of men we are behaving just like those Pharisees. James 4:10 says *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."* In the book *Mere Christianity*, the author C.S. Lewis said "A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."
3. **Don't Stoop:** Romans 12:21 *"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."* This world is overcome with evil and things of Satan. People don't blush anymore – even Christians. TV shows are getting worse and worse.

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Violence is over-taking streets and neighborhoods. Fornication and adultery are accepted as normal. Drug and alcohol abuse are destroying lives and families daily. We have got to stick the standards in the word of God. In order to avoid stooping as Christians, we must refuse to do the things that the world accepts as normal.

- 4. Don't Stop:** Matthew 24:12-13 *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."* Many Christians start good but stop bad. It's a sad fact. Someone once said: "Satan's business is to attract, distract, and attack in crafty ways." God is greater than any enemy that we may face. I John 4:4 says *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."* In Romans chapter 8 we are given promises from the Lord. Nothing can separate us from the love and power of God. Satan has many snares, and we must avoid them.