



How Is Satan Trying to Devour Me?

1 Peter 5:8: (NASB) *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*



Most Christians are very aware of Satan's influence in our world today. We know he is opposed to God and His will at all turns, and as the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4), he will ferociously fight to keep all that he has laid claim to. What we do not often think about is how we, as individual Christians, fit into the intensity of Satan's raging against God. The Scriptures tell us that his objective was and continues to be to usurp the authority for himself that ultimately belongs to the Most High God. Anyone and anything that in any way, shape or form stands in the way of Satan's fight over his perceived authority

is fair game for his unrighteous anger. As Christians, we love God supremely and seek to daily walk in the footsteps of our Lord Christ Jesus. This blessing means we are also Satan's prime targets. What now?

The Apostle Peter sets the stage for the dramatic battle Satan wages upon the followers of Jesus:

1 Peter 5:6-11: (NASB) *⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ¹⁰After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. ¹¹To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

We will refer to 1 Peter 5:6-11 throughout this entire podcast and unfold this battle against the roar of Satan.



(Source: <https://wildexplained.com/why-do-lions-roar/>) Roaring and making sounds are a vital part of lions' interaction with each other and other animals. A lion's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away. They use different types of roars to communicate different things. While a fierce roar is a warning sign to intruders, they are using other types of sounds with their pride members.... Do lions roar when hunting? We have seen in the movies that lions roar when hunting. Like many things in Hollywood, this is just dramatization and has no connection with real life. Lions do not roar when hunting.

(Source: <https://www.scienceabc.com/nature/secret-behind-lions-roar.html>)

Male lions roar for various reasons - a lion may roar to scare off an intruder, another lion or a predator. It could also roar to warn its pride of imminent danger.

If lions do not roar when hunting, what does it mean that like a roaring lion, the devil is *seeking someone to devour*?

Devour: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2666 *katapino*; to drink down, i.e., gulp entire (literally or figuratively)

The King James Version translates this word as devour, drown, swallow (up)



Here are two examples of where this same word is used:

Matthew 23:24: (KJV) *Ye blind guides (Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees), which strain at a gnat, and swallow <2666> a camel.*

1 Corinthians 15:54: (KJV) *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up <2666> in victory.*



Seeking someone to devour is not looking for a meal to eat; rather, it is seeking to completely consume or obliterate someone or something.

If Satan is not hungry, why does he fiercely roar at us?

Because we follow Jesus, who came to take the kingdoms of the world from Satan:

Luke 4:5-8: (NASB) *⁵And he led him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to him, I will give you all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore if you worship before me, it shall all be yours. ⁸Jesus answered him, It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.*

Here is the line in the sand: Jesus will only worship his heavenly Father! Satan pronounced the world belonging to him. He sees us as predators and intruders on his territory, as we serve the *Lion that is from the tribe of Judah*.

Jesus is identified as that Lion:

Revelation 5:5: (NASB) *and one of the elders said to me, Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.*

It is not about a meal. For Satan, it is about dominion or protecting his domain from Jesus who has overcome and is coming to remove *the kingdoms of this world from him*.



A lion's roar is said to be as loud as 114 decibels, which is the equivalent to 25 gas-powered lawn mowers. At 120 decibels, hearing damage can potentially occur.

Satan's roar is saying: GET OFF MY TURF OR YOU WILL REGRET IT - YOU ARE IN MY WAY!

The lion's roar is big, powerful and scary! Going beyond hunger, Satan as a lion is protecting what he perceives to be his.



(Source: <https://wildexplained.com/why-do-lions-roar/>) Regarding hunting techniques: The primary way is by stalking its prey. Lionesses would stay hidden for as long as possible and then approach the target. When they get close enough, they would charge and chase the prey. The secondary tactic is reserved for hunting larger prey. The pride would corner the animal and come at it from different sides. In this scenario, male lions also join the hunt.

While the lionesses do most of the hunting, when there is a larger target, the entire pride is gathered to destroy the prey. It is interesting that a group of lions is called a "pride." Satan's "pride" is very powerful. When lions in a pride hunt together, they are formidable and dangerous.

These scriptures describe Satan's pride - his army:

Ephesians 6:10-12: (NASB) ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For 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.

Satan's pride consists of those under his control. Our struggle is *against the rulers (plural), ...powers, ...world forces, ...spiritual forces, ...in the heavenly places* - all plural. This describes Satan's army that is ready, willing and able to surround anyone crossing the line onto his turf.

As Christians, we are targets. We need to pay close attention to Peter's words about how Satan *prowls around like a roaring lion*.



For Satan to neutralize us, he is going to disrupt the path we are walking. His object is to destroy our heavenly victory. He wants us out of the way at any cost.

Being a follower of Christ is to be living our lives in the middle of a spiritual rebellion with Jesus at our side.

The powerful, paralyzing and fear-invoking roar of Satan comes to us in many ways. How do we prepare?

Staring down this battleground we find ourselves on can be daunting, to say the least. It is so important to remember we are standing where we stand because God through Jesus has arranged it so. Our Father knows we can be victorious as long as we are spiritually armed and ready to stand for truth!

Our theme text gives us four ways to internally prepare for the lion's roar and his attack:

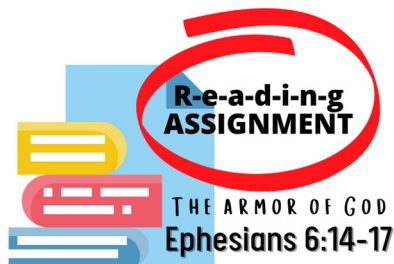
1 Peter 5:6-8: (NASB) ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

INTERNAL PREPARATIONS

1 HUMBLE YOURSELVES 2 CAST YOUR ANXIETY 3 SOBER SPIRIT 4 BE ON THE ALERT

We are warned that the lion will roar, but God tells us how to counteract the attack. As a soldier of Christ, we learn to be armed for battle on the inside, not just the outside.

These four ways to stand against Satan's intimidation can and should be personal for each of us. In the last segment, we touched on wearing the whole armor of God.



Check out our CQ Kids videos:
WHAT IS THE ARMOR OF GOD?
christianquestions.com/youtube



Think about the armor protecting us from the outside in:

Ephesians 6:13: (NASB) *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.*

Interestingly, it does not say to take up only the sword, or the shield, or the breastplate of righteousness, but *the full armor of God*, so that we can *stand firm*.

Wearing this armor enables us to stand and fight the godly battles before us. If we ever try to fight those battles without God's armor, we are doomed. We have to be armed from the outside in.

In addition, we need to be sure we stand and fight for what is holy:

1 Peter 1:14-15: (NASB) *¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;*

If we are sanctified with God's spirit within us, we are supposed to be holy, set apart for God's purposes. This means wherever we go and whatever we do, the fully-armed Christian soldier is walking on holy ground.

On Episode 1220: "Can Faith Take Me From Failure to Victory?" we went over the account of Joshua getting ready to battle for the city of Jericho. This was the first city to conquer as they entered the Promised Land. An angel of the Lord came down to talk to Joshua and told him to remove his sandals because he stood on holy ground. Where God's influence is, the ground is holy.



Joshua was standing just outside the walls of the pagan city of Jericho, but because God's angel was there, that ground was holy. Therefore, wherever we go with God's spirit and when we are doing God's work, that ground is also holy. This is why Satan wants us out of the way so badly - we bring holy ground wherever we go!



DO remain dedicated



DON'T disengage

Think about the four preparedness steps as protecting us from the inside out. When applied, they validate us as "armored up" soldiers of Christ.

1 HUMBLE YOURSELVES 2 CAST YOUR ANXIETY **3 SOBER SPIRIT 4 BE ON THE ALERT**

1 Peter 5:6: (NASB) *...Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God...*

Satan sometimes aims his roar at a central source of our human need for security.

This source of our security can be things like strong and reliable friendships, our home or anything that gives us a sense of security. Sometimes in our experiences that source of security is protected, and we merely suffer temporary inconvenience. That source is challenged and it hurts, but we can get through it. But sometimes that source of security is damaged or even destroyed, leaving us feeling vulnerable.



Am I humbly keeping all of my true security in God through Christ?

When a soldier is unsteady and insecure in his or her position, they become weak and easier to overtake. When we do not feel secure and circumstances go beyond what we perceive as our ability to cope, we get anxious and depressed. In such a state we are easier to overtake. The question is, *am I going to fall apart when something or someone I depend on goes away?*



I was really shook up at the beginning of the pandemic when no one really knew what was happening or even how COVID-19 was transmitted. I love food and am sad to admit that I have taken food security for granted. When I saw empty shelves at my grocery store after waiting an hour to get in, I broke down and cried out of fear and disbelief. This was new to me. I felt like grabbing the animals and hopping into the Ark! I don't take this for granted anymore. My prayer now is: "Thank you, LORD, for all the times I had food available at the speed of thought." I have to ask myself, how will I react if this becomes a regular occurrence like it is now in many parts of the world?

Looking at Julie's experience, we can see her sense of food security was put under trial - Satan ROARED at her over this just like he roars at any of us when what makes us feel secure is challenged.

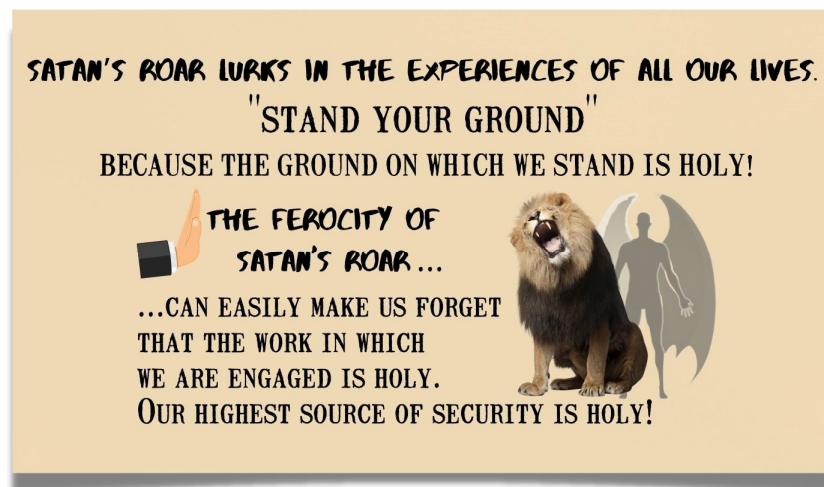
Would we desert the Lord because we cannot find our next meal?

1 HUMBLE YOURSELVES

1 Peter 5:6: (NASB) *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.*

It is easy to take our earthly sources of security for granted. Satan knows this and the ferocity of his roar can sometimes be focused on redirecting all our attention towards the preservation or replacement of that security. Our fear of loss is now positioned to compromise our spiritual security. We panic and try to get our security back.

When our security is challenged or damaged, are we humble enough to look at this experience as within the realm of God's providence so that we can keep moving forward? Or, does the regaining of that security become the only important thing in our life? Can we only hear his roar (fear caused by the loss of our security) drowning out what else we are supposed to be doing? Satan's roar is there to intimidate us.



Even doing the mundane things of life can be holy work. Going to work and stocking shelves can be holy work. It is a place and a way to let our light shine. As we go about our daily lives, we must maintain the focus that we are about God's holy work and not get overrun by the fear of losing our security.

Whether we have lost a source of our human security or not, how do we step back and view our circumstances?

Philippians 3:8: (NASB) *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.*



The Apostle Paul was an accomplished Pharisee. He was well-known, well-educated, intelligent, aggressive, disciplined and passionate. He knew the word of God. He had all of this going for him. Remember, as he was on his way to destroy Christians, he was stopped by Jesus and called to become his follower.



Check out our CQ Kids videos:

WHAT HAPPENED
ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS?

christianquestions.com/youtube

Once Paul came to Christ, he looked at all of his amazing accomplishments *as but rubbish* - it was all garbage - *so that I may gain Christ*.

He still had to make a living, so instead of a lofty teaching job as a Pharisee, he preached the gospel and supported himself as a tentmaker. This was holy work. Everything from the past was trash. If we want a good example of someone whose security was interrupted, we need only look at the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. Talk about ripping the security out from under someone with a complete life interruption!

In contrast to the ferocity of Satan's roar of threat and destruction, let's go back to Jesus, *the Lion of the tribe of Judah*.

Here is his invitation to his followers:

Matthew 11:29: (NASB) *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart...*

While Satan roars to intimidate us regarding our earthly security, here we see in contrast how Jesus calls us to work alongside him in the holy work he himself was called to do. What a privilege!

Notice the gentleness, the care with which Jesus calls us - Satan is a roaring lion seeking to devour and Jesus is the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the rightful king. Jesus says, *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart...* we can trust in that. Can we trust in Satan? Not even close! Jesus is meek and humble in his lion-like authority, a completely different picture than we have from Satan.



DON'T let the lion's roar **disengage you through whatever interruptions might happen with your sources of security.**



DO remain **dedicated to continuing in service to your holy Father who is the true provider of eternal security.**

When it comes to our sources of security, we have choices to make between humbly accepting God's providence in our lives or listening to Satan's roar.

We love all those people and things that make us feel secure, and yet we need to see them as God would have us see them.



**We know Satan goes after what gives us security.
How much further is he willing to go to beat us down?**

Because this is a desperate spiritual battle being fought by Satan, we can unfortunately be assured that he will not stop at anything in his attempts to usurp God's authority. We need to understand that his highest value targets at this end of the age are those who have God's spirit and do God's will.

There is a battle and the assurance that if we are a Christian walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we WILL be attacked. We WILL be intimidated. Satan WILL seek to not only knock us off the path, but to put us out of commission wherever possible.



1 HUMBLE YOURSELVES 2 CAST YOUR ANXIETY 3 SOBER SPIRIT 4 BE ON THE ALERT

1 Peter 5:7: (NASB) *Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

Satan sometimes aims his roar at our hearts - our very core.

Our hearts carry the deepest of all our human attachments. These can include parents, children, spouses, extended family and our most powerful friendships. Sometimes things - serious things - happen to them. Sometimes we get through such things, and sometimes our hearts are crushed by unfathomable tragedy. Either way, the question remains:

Am I holding my own anxiety or am I whole-heartedly handing it over to God through Christ?

2 CAST YOUR ANXIETY Sometimes we suffer traumatic loss through death, divorce, betrayal and sickness. This causes massive anxiety. Do we maintain ownership of our anxiety because that is the way humans are built?



If I look at my anxiety like a piece of property, who holds the deed? Do I own the deed to my anxiety in my own name, or have I signed it over to the LORD through Jesus?

To "cast" does not mean to just casually lay it down. It means to throw it away from you.



When casting a fishing line, you throw it out and you miss...you reel it back in, then you throw it out there again...wrong spot again; it takes all this work - then finally! It lands in the right spot...YES! The pressure is off and you finally have peace.

Casting all your anxiety on Him is easy to say when it is not our spouse who is dying. We are not walking hundreds of miles with a suitcase and a baby trying to cross a border to get to safety. *Casting anxiety* are just words. How do we make them real?

Here is help to link us to that reality:

1 Peter 5:9: (NASB) But **resist** <436> him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Resist: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #436 *anthistemi*; to stand against i.e., oppose

Satan's roar is a ferocious challenge and warning to those who follow *the Lion of the tribe of Judah* to leave Satan's territory or else be overwhelmed or consumed. Coping with the loss or tragedies of our loved ones can be debilitating, time consuming and discouraging. During such time, it is a great comfort to realize that our brotherhood is also standing, fighting and overcoming the ferocity of Satan's roar! It can be done.

The Apostle Peter understood this in a profound way. When he describes the roar of Satan coming to devour, destroy and obliterate us, he adds into the context the encouragement to resist - stand against - because the ground on which we stand is holy. We know the same experiences which we have *are being accomplished by your brethren*, wherever they may be.

How do we make those experiences real? Engage in the experiences of the brotherhood - fellowship, communicate and feel what they are going through while sharing what we are going through. Mutually bear each other's burdens, protect each other, walk together.

We may not be the one walking hundreds of miles with just a suitcase like so many are now with the war in Ukraine, but we can put ourselves in a position where we can be supportive. We may not be able to feel it like they are feeling it, but we can be a part of their experience and they can be a part of ours. The apostle is telling us we need each other. It is not a one-on-one battle. It is not just Rick in his armor, standing there facing Satan. It is Rick standing with Jonathan on his right side, Julie on his left, and all the other brotherhood surrounding him so that we can all stand together.



SATAN'S ROAR LURKS IN THE EXPERIENCES OF ALL OUR LIVES.

"STAND YOUR GROUND"

BECAUSE THE GROUND ON WHICH WE STAND IS HOLY!



DO NOT EVER FORGET...

**...THE WORK OF OUR LIVES IS HOLY WORK.
HOW ARE WE DOING AGAINST THE FEROCITY
OF HIS THREATS WHEN HE COMES AFTER
OUR VERY HEART, THE THINGS DEAREST TO US?**





One of my Christian friends recently lost her husband to an unexpected heart attack in his sleep. She and their 16-year-old son are devastated. Everyone reacts in different ways - some might curse God and run away from their faith, but she is trusting the LORD will care for them and has redoubled her efforts to study and be close with our church group. They are still deeply grieving. We do not want to minimize in any way the grieving process.

Standing your ground does not mean forgetting the grief and being tough or moving on immediately. No, standing your ground is to experience appropriate grief. It does hurt - we need to work through all of the stages of grief. These are needed and valuable for our mental health. Grief can be a growing experience, especially if we go through the process knowing the providence of God is guiding us. Then we can grow through that grief. Standing your ground means going through that grief and handing it over to God, giving it into His hands when the time is right.



In contrast, rather than ferocious threats, let's look at the approach of Jesus to all of humanity:

Matthew 11:28: (NASB) *Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*

If you are resting, you are not anxious. If you are anxious, you are not resting.



Many times when I am finished with a project and supposed to rest, I am rest-less. If I am restless, it means I am anxious and have not let go enough. This is a challenge for me.

While Satan may roar at us *over* the deepest matters of our hearts, Jesus beckons us to come to him for rest *from* the deepest matters of our hearts. Satan wants to derail us using these deep matters of our hearts. Jesus wants to give us rest so he can get us through these experiences.

We could have called this episode, "How to Not Fall Apart When Things Go Really Wrong." A lot of that is doing what we are doing here - preparing, steadying ourselves, learning and breathing deeply in between the difficulties. This reminds us of the word "resilience."





A soldier on the outside looks pretty strong, all armed and ready to go. But what does that soldier look like on the inside? Here is where the roar of Satan will get to us. We can have our armor on but will still shake when we hear that roar. Are we prepared *on the inside* to manage that roar?



DON'T let the lion's roar **derail** you because of your hurting heart.



DO stand **disciplined** in the grace of God, knowing He supplies **ALL** our needs.

Resist. Be more prayerful every time Satan is more active. He will soon give it up, if he finds that his attacks drive you to Christ. Often has Satan been nothing but a big black dog to drive Christ's sheep nearer to the Master. - 19th century English preacher C.H. Spurgeon

Am I allowing Satan's roar to push me away, to derail me? Or, am I using the roar to get closer to the Father? It is His providence which will guide and protect me because I have His armor on the outside, and I am *casting my anxiety on Him* on the inside.

Imagine the lion roaring at us, lined up together as soldiers with our armor on. The reason we can be successful is because we are standing on holy ground with the giant Lion of the tribe of Judah standing behind us! *If God is for us, who is against us?* (Romans 8:31)



**COMBATING
THE LION'S ROAR**



DO remain **determined**



DON'T be **distracted**

(Editor's Note: This has been corrected from the audio)

**1 HUMBLE YOURSELVES 2 CAST YOUR ANXIETY
3 SOBER SPIRIT 4 BE ON THE ALERT**

Now for our third way to internally prepare for Satan's attack:

1 Peter 5:8: (NASB) *Be of sober spirit...*

Satan sometimes aims his roar *at the sources of our personal stability*.

This roar can be particularly frightening, as our ability to be firmly established to care for ourselves is usually at the heart of our ability to serve God. Sometimes we have protections that can keep us going or ways to temporarily plug our stability holes. But other times we may end up losing everything as a result.



Am I with a sober spirit facing the disruptive and financial challenges before me, knowing that the very hairs of my head are all numbered?

Examples of this might be losing our job, not having a retirement pension, our alimony ends - how will we make ends meet? Financial uncertainty is consistently ranked as one of the top stressors in the United States.

3 SOBER SPIRIT According to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, to *be of sober spirit* is to be "calm and collected in spirit, to be temperate, dispassionate and circumspect." It means we need a clear direction for our focus. Through all of these trials and scary challenges and heartaches, we cannot lose sight of our true direction in life.

If we put down our spiritual armor, we become too vulnerable to Satan's attacks and he wins.



I think of this like we have to be "spiritual Weebles." Weebles were a little egg-shaped toy I played with as a child. They were designed in such a way using a weight and gravity that they couldn't tip over or stay on their side - they would always right themselves. The slogan was "Weebles wobble, but they don't fall down." We might wobble in any one direction for a time, but want to right ourselves back to the center of our personal stability. Be the Weeble!



SATAN'S ROAR LURKS IN THE EXPERIENCES OF ALL OUR LIVES.

"STAND YOUR GROUND"

BECAUSE THE GROUND ON WHICH WE STAND IS HOLY!



**THE FEROCITY OF
SATAN'S ROAR ...**

**...CAN EASILY MAKE US FORGET
THAT THE WORKS OF OUR HANDS
ARE TO SUPPORT THE WORKS
OF HOLINESS IN OUR LIVES.**



It is God's providence and direction - and sometimes redirection - that brings the challenge to the faithful followers of Jesus. Satan will try to misdirect us.

In contrast, rather than ferocious threats, let's look at how Jesus calms our lives:

Matthew 11:29: (NASB) *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... and you will find rest for your souls.*

While Satan roars to instill serious doubt when the personal stability of our lives is either threatened or interrupted, Jesus promises that working alongside him will give rest to our souls.



DON'T let the lion's roar **distract** you through major disruption of your personal stability.



DO remain **determined** to rest in Jesus and clearly focus on the big picture of God's providence unfolding for your highest benefit.

Be *determined* - not *distracted* - even though we feel that roar all throughout our being. Satan's attacks on our lives can be deeply personal. Always be awake, aware and wearing the armor of God!

Satan attacks our personal security, our very hearts and our personal stability. What is left?

This conversation is to focus us on the fact that when trials happen in our lives, we can be sure of two things:

- 1) Satan will inevitably attack to try to thoroughly intimidate us and shake our faith.
- 2) Most importantly, we can be sure of God's care and guidance to get us through these experiences!

Satan attacks - God cares. God's providence is more powerful than Satan's attacks as long as we stay with God's providence.



DO remain **devout**



DON'T be **devoured**

CHANGING JUST ONE LETTER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!



devout = standing strong
devour = we are gone!

We cannot let this subtle detail change us. We must STAND DEVOUT in faith.

1 HUMBLE YOURSELVES 2 CAST YOUR ANXIETY
3 SOBER SPIRIT 4 BE ON THE ALERT

The fourth way to prepare internally for the lion's roar:

1 Peter 5:8: (NASB) ...*be on the alert*...



Satan sometimes aims his roar *at our physical beings*.

This roar can be upsetting on the deepest of levels as it can cause us to see how fragile and terminal our lives can be. When looking at my life through the eyes of it ending, the capacity for regret, insecurity and fear can dramatically escalate, all of which creates greater liability to be devoured by the adversary.

To hear more on how to be strong during difficulty, listen to our friend Vicki's courageous battle with cancer on this episode:



Examining what the "fruit of the Spirit" really is



Two months ago, unbeknownst to me, I had several blood clots form in my legs and travel to my lungs. They were accumulating there while I thought I had other issues, since other health issues were going on. On the January 24, 2022 episode, I could barely string two sentences together without getting out of breath.

My wife was aware that something was wrong. She complained to our daughter, an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), who made me check my blood oxygen. My blood oxygen level dropped through the floor while exercising, and I was in the emergency room the next morning. Several doctors told me very plainly that our daughter saved my life. Apparently, one lung was pretty much not working and the other was on its way out. They said I was in line to just drop dead because the clots were accumulating uninhibited. This caused me to stop and reconsider everything about my Christianity - things that had been done, things that had not been done. Asking the Lord, if it is my time, please take care of my beloved wife and family. Satan tried, but God's providence was bigger. By God's grace, I lived to breathe another day. We have to look at these experiences and realize that while Satan's roar tried to get me at every turn, God's providence provided a very attentive wife and a very alert daughter to literally give me a second chance.

Sometimes we have cures and treatments that can bring us back to health and full energy. Other times, these issues can lead to years of pain and suffering, and even the end of our Christian walk.

Physical pain, especially when it is long-term, is a very difficult trial. When we are in pain, we can think of little else other than trying to get relief. We have to really redouble our efforts to remember that we cannot be both resentful and grateful at the same time. We have to consciously choose gratitude - sometimes it is a moment-by-moment choice.

Some preachers of the so-called Prosperity Gospel say that we can pray for healing and if we are a good Christian, only positive things will happen to us.



The how and why of early Christian healing and its place today



Do Rick's blood clots mean he sinned somewhere along the line and was being punished? According to Hebrews 5:8, Jesus *learned obedience from the things which he suffered*. Why would we expect any less? This is how we learn heart reliance on God. It is not about being punished as much as it is about being taught. Our experiences teach us and often alert us to a better path on which to travel.



I looked at that experience as the providence of God. I needed a "wake-up" call, so by God's grace, He gave it to me. He literally allowed me to wake up and continue to live another day to work further in His service. Trials and difficulties are supposed to happen. Just understand that when we suffer, the roar is loudest.

Am I with an alert heart and mind facing my physical issues knowing that God's grace and blessing will never leave me as long as I persevere?

4 BE ON THE ALERT

To be on the alert is to be vigilant, meaning to be awake and giving strict attention. This implies that we remain focused on the most important thing (which is our call to sacrifice and follow in the footsteps of Jesus) while handling all our earthly responsibilities.

How many times have we driven some place where we have gone regularly? We find ourselves on autopilot, not remembering how we got there. Then suddenly a bicyclist jumps out and we were shook up because we were not expecting it. We need to be constantly on the alert, expecting that dangerous lion to be lurking around the corner waiting to devour us. We cannot go through our Christian lives on autopilot because Satan's roar will **devour**. Instead, we need to stand in a **devout** way!



SATAN'S ROAR LURKS IN THE EXPERIENCES OF ALL OUR LIVES.

"STAND YOUR GROUND"

BECAUSE THE GROUND ON WHICH WE STAND IS HOLY!



DO NOT EVER FORGET...

...THE FEROCITY OF SATAN'S ROAR CAN EASILY MAKE US FORGET THAT OUR BODIES ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD'S OWN HOLY SPIRIT.

WE BELONG TO THE FATHER AND TO HIS HOLY WORK.

THE ROAR OF SATAN HAS NO PLACE IN THAT — DO NOT LET IT IN!



In contrast, rather than ferocious threats, let's look at how Jesus encourages our sacrificial lives:

Matthew 11:30: (NASB) *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*



What an incredible difference between the attempts to obliterate us versus the soft-spoken power and might of the Lord Jesus, *the Lion of the tribe of Judah*. While Satan's roars can amplify our physical challenges, the message of Jesus is simply that he will never leave us or forsake us. His yoke FITS my life. His burden is not heavy; it is blessed! This is what we need to remember when the roar of the lion comes to shake us up so that we can be devoured. Stand your ground!



DON'T let the lion's roar *devour* you through the physical maladies of life.



DO remain *devout* in your working alongside our Lord Jesus, knowing that every ounce of our physical strength is sanctified to the very end of our lives.

It is all in the hands of God, but Satan is allowed to attempt intimidation, fear, derailment, second-guessing, anxiety, depression and more. But God's providence is still always there.

In conclusion, RESIST Satan's roar. All of us as a body must work together to resist his roar:

1 Peter 5:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰*After you have suffered for a little while,*

After you have withstood the roars of the adversary...

After you have held each other up and served our Lord Jesus and each other in this most holy work of our lives...

the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,

The Almighty Father who created this magnificent plan of salvation and invited you to it...

will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. ¹¹To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The lion's roar IS all about dominion! The Apostle Peter, as he finishes this letter, reminds us that it is, was and ever will be about God's dominion.

Let that lion roar; WE STAND OUR GROUND!

He is going to roar - Satan is desperate! We are armed on the outside and need to be armed on the inside in order to withstand the roar. The roar is not a physical roar; it is a mental and emotional battle.

Who wins? We live at the end of the age, and we know the world is crumbling. This is a life and death battle.

The Apostle Paul subtly and eloquently lets us know how this battle will turn out:

Romans 16:20: (NASB) *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*



When we look at the picture of the body of Christ, the “feet members” are the final part of the body. There is no more body after the feet. It is an illustration for the end of the age. Satan will be crushed because God will put him under our feet. The Father puts his soldiers in the right place at the right time. As soldiers, how can we help? By remaining faithful to the things that we know and are called to do. We need the external armor and the internal preparedness to make sure the armor is used appropriately.



- Satan sometimes aims his roar
at a central source of our human needs and security.
- Satan sometimes aims his roar
at our hearts - our very core.
- Satan sometimes aims his roar
at the sources of our personal stability.
- Satan sometimes aims his roar
at our physical beings.

What will we do when these attacks happen?

God's providence is a conquering power as we stand against the roar of the lion:

Romans 8:35-39: (NASB) ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written, for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These scriptures sum up the battle we have been talking about. God's providence is ever-present in the lives of true Christians. Satan's roar is *also* ever-present. His objective: To devour, to obliterate, to knock us out and take us away from our mission to serve our LORD God Almighty. Make the choice to stand armed on the outside and armed on the inside!

True Christians follow Jesus because he came to take the government of this world back from Satan. As individuals, we are helping to accomplish the will of God through Christ.

STAND YOUR GROUND!

*So, how is Satan trying to devour me?
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Join us next week for our podcast on April 4, 2022
Ep. 1223: Does the Bible Tell Us How the World Will End?

Bonus Material and Study Questions

Quotes on the lion's roar in context:

(Source: <https://wildexplained.com/why-do-lions-roar/>) Roaring and making sounds are a vital part of lions' interaction with each other and other animals. A lion's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away. They use different types of roars to communicate different things. While a fierce roar is a warning sign to intruders, they are using other types of sounds with their pride members. Besides roars, lions vocalize several different sounds, like grunts, growls, snarls, meows, moans and more.

Do lions roar when hunting? We have seen in the movies that lions roar when hunting. Like many things in Hollywood, this is just dramatization and has no connection with real life. Lions don't roar when hunting. It would be counter-productive for lions to roar when hunting - they need to be stealthy. Lions mostly hunt using two different tactics. The primary way is by stalking its prey. Lionesses stay hidden for as long as possible and then approach the target. When they get close enough, they charge and chase the prey. The secondary tactic is reserved for hunting larger prey. The pride corners the animal and come at it from different sides. In this scenario, male lions also join the hunt.

(Source: <https://www.scienceabc.com/nature/secret-behind-lions-roar.html>) Why Do Lions Roar? Just like humans, animals communicate among themselves, albeit in languages that we don't understand. Lions are very social as far as large carnivores are concerned, which is not surprising, as they live in 'prides' in the wild, i.e., a group of lions, lionesses and cubs.

Male lions roar for various reasons—a lion may roar to scare off an intruder, another lion or a predator. It could also roar to warn its pride of imminent danger. Or it could roar to simply 'show off' in front of other lions, which obviously has an advantage in the wild when it comes to mating!

Next time you hear a lion roar, just think about how rapidly their vocal folds are vibrating to make that much noise, yet still withstanding all that stretching and shearing stress. Or, you could just do what a 'regular' human being does, and... you know, be terrified.

Definition and uses of the word for *devour*:

Devour: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2666 *katapino*; to drink down, i.e., gulp entire (literally or figuratively)

The King James Version translates this word as devour, drown, swallow (up)



All uses of this word:

Matthew 23:24: (KJV) *Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and **swallow <2666>** a camel.*

1 Corinthians 15:54: (KJV) *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is **swallowed up <2666>** in victory.*

2 Corinthians 2:7: (KJV) *So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be **swallowed up <2666>** with overmuch sorrow.*

2 Corinthians 5:4: (KJV) *For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be **swallowed up <2666>** of life.*

Hebrews 11:29: (KJV) *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were **drowned <2666>**.*

1 Peter 5:8: (KJV) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may **devour <2666>**.*

Revelation 12:16: (KJV) *And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and **swallowed up <2666>** the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*



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WHO IS SATAN?

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Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1222: How Is Satan Trying To Devour Me?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1222-satan-devour/>

See:  **CQRewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. Why do you think Peter equates Satan with a lion? What aspects of lions seem to apply to Satan? Why do literal lions roar? Why does Satan roar at us? What is Satan's domain? (See 1 Peter 5:8, Genesis 4:2, Job 1:6-12, Matthew 23:24, 1 Corinthians 15:54, Luke 4:5-8)
2. Which animals represent Jesus? What aspects of both animals are shown in Jesus' character? Why is Satan so upset with Jesus? Why is he so upset with us? Describe Satan's "pride." Why is it important for us to know this? (See Luke 4:5-8, Revelation 5:5-6, Ephesians 6:10-12)
3. What are the four ways we can internally prepare for the lion's roar? What protects us on the outside? What is special about the ground we walk on? (See 1 Peter 1:14-15, 5:6-8, Ephesians 6:13)
4. Explain the first step of internal preparedness. What do you rely on for security? How do we protect ourselves from this kind of attack by Satan? How did Paul view the complete life interruption in his circumstances? How does the Lion of the tribe of Judah call to us? (See 1 Peter 5:6, Philippians 3:8, Matthew 11:29)
5. Explain the second step of internal preparedness. What experiences have you had where Satan has roared at your heart? What can we do to relieve the anxiety of these attacks? How does knowing that our brethren around the world are fighting the same battles help us with our battles? How can you reach out today to be a part of their experiences? What does Jesus offer us to counteract our anxiety? (See 1 Peter 5:7,9, Matthew 11:28, Romans 8:31)
6. Explain the third step of internal preparedness. How have you faced financial or other disruptions in your life? What helps us keep a "sober" or "calm and collected in spirit" in these situations? How does the image of the Weebles toy help with this concept? (See 1 Peter 5:8, Matthew 11:29)
7. Explain the fourth step of internal preparedness. How has Satan aimed his roar at your physical being? When we experience reverses in health or in fortune, are we being punished? For what are we to "be on the alert"? How does Jesus encourage our sacrificial lives? What support does he offer? (See 1 Peter 5:8, Matthew 11:30)
8. What is the conclusion - how will this battle end? How can you make sure that Satan won't be able to separate you from the love of Christ? (See 1 Peter 5:10-11, Romans 8:35-39, 16:20)