

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST THE DEVIL

1 PETER 5:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. In an active shooting scenario, how would you react?
2. What do you do to protect against the fiery darts of the devil?

I. BE PREPARED

A. 1 Peter 5:8: “Be sober”

1. A security team is prepared for possible threats.
2. Sober (nepho): Literally, be self-controlled.

B. The word of God provides the preparation we need.

1. **Psalm 119:11:** “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”
2. **Psalm 1.1,2:** We are prepared when we “*delight*” and “*meditate*” on the word of God.
3. **Hebrews 5.14:** We are prepared when we use scripture to know what is good and evil. (cf. Matt. 3.12)

II. BE ALERT

A. 1 Peter 5:8: “Be vigilant”

1. A security team has its head on a swivel.
2. Vigilant (gregoreo): be on alert.

B. Knowing the devil will provide what we need.

1. **2 Corinthians 2.11:** The devil has devices.
2. **Romans 1.18-27:** What are the devices of the devil?
 - a) He changes our view of God. (vs. 19-23)
 - b) He changes our view of God’s word. (vs. 24,25)
 - c) He changes our view of our behavior. (vs. 26-28)

III. BE CONNECTED

A. 1 Peter 5:8: “Be sober, be vigilant”

1. Sober and vigilant are in the form of imperative plurals.
2. **1 Peter 5.9:** “*the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*”

B. Being connected is what we need. (Heb. 3.13; 10.24,25)

CONCLUSION: How will you respond to the threat?

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

-Mark 16.15

September 21, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

“We Just Live Together”

How common is it for couples to live together outside the commitment of marriage? It has become so common that the term “significant other” has become part of our vernacular. We cannot address couples as husband and wife, for it is a very real possibility and likelihood that couples have never married but are just living together. In the eyes of God, the only sexual relationship that is honored is marriage (Heb. 13.4). So why do so many reject marriage and settle for just living together?

Some couples live together because of convenience. In the middle ages, kings would offer to marry off their daughters to facilitate an alliance between kingdoms. It was a marriage not because of love but convenience. Couples today often bypass marriage and move in together for reasons of convenience. They can share the bills, the household responsibilities, and even their bed. They even decide to have children together. They enjoy all the benefits of a family without the commitment.

God designed the home in which couples who live together are married (Gen. 2.21-24). Sadly, most couples do not understand that when they go against the will of God, they not only put their souls in jeopardy, but they put their relationship in jeopardy by trying to form a bond in a way in which it was never designed.

God’s ways work (Isa. 55.8-11). When two people love each other and commit themselves to the will of God in all aspects of their marriage, there is a 100% chance of a successful marriage. CLP

JESUS IS EVERYTHING

Acts 4:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The apostles were witnesses of Jesus through which we can learn some things about Jesus. (Acts 1.3,8)
2. In Acts 4, the apostles paint a picture of Jesus as One who empowers us to do great things.

I. STANDING BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

- A. There is a confrontation.
 1. **Acts 4.1,2:** The Sanhedrin was *“greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus”*
 2. **Acts 4.3,4:** Peter and John were arrested.
- B. There is an interrogation.
 1. **Acts 4.5-7:** *“By what power or by what name...?”*
 2. **Acts 4.7-10:** This was by the authority of Jesus.
- C. There was a reaction.
 1. **Acts 4.13:** The Sanhedrin saw the boldness of Peter.
 2. **Acts 4.13:** They were astonished that such *“untrained and uneducated men”* could be so bold.
 3. **Acts 4.14:** The Sanhedrin had no answer.
 4. **Acts 4.15-17:** The Sanhedrin threatened the apostles but could not silence them.

II. STANDING WITH THEIR BRETHREN

- A. How did these brethren see God?
 1. **Acts 4.23,24:** They saw God as Creator.
 2. **Acts 4.25,26:** They saw God as Revealer.
- B. How did these brethren see Jesus?
 1. **Acts 4.27:** They saw Jesus as holy, separated from sin. (1 Pet. 1.22; Acts 3.14; James 1.14; Heb. 4.15)
 2. **Acts 4.27:** They saw Jesus as a servant. Literally, a submissive Son. (Matt. 3.17; Heb. 5.8)
 3. **Acts 4.27:** They saw Jesus as Savior. Jesus - The One who saves. (Matt. 1.21)
 3. **Acts 4.27:** They saw Jesus as the Anointed One, consecrated to serve. (Acts 10.38; cf. Luke 4.18)

CONCLUSION: These untrained and uneducated men could not be silenced, because Jesus was everything to them.

The Heart of Saul of Tarsus

Every conversion is important. Every soul that is saved is significant. However, it is of great interest to me that the conversion of Saul is recorded for us three times in the book of Acts. On three separate occasions, the Holy Spirit felt it necessary to share with us the conversion of Saul. In each conversion, there is a unique perspective with a specific lesson to be drawn. Examining Acts 9, you will find the heart of Saul that led to his obeying the gospel.

Acts 9 begins by describing how Saul felt about followers of Jesus. In verse 1, we are told that Saul was *“still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord”* (Acts 9.1). To breathe in the sense it is used here is to breathe inward. It is the idea of someone taking a deep breath just before they throw a punch. To understand the word *“murder,”* you might look at 1 John 3.15 where we are told that *“he who hates his brother is a murderer.”* Murder is more than just taking a life. It is hating your brother. Saul hated the disciples of the Lord, and he wanted their death (Acts 26.10). This is how much he hated Christians.

If you keep reading this chapter, you come to verse 6 where something changes. Jesus appears to him and questions him. In verse 6, we read his reaction: *“so he, trembling and astonished said, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do?’”* (Acts 9.6). The word *“trembling”* carries the idea of being scared to death. The word *“astonished”* comes from the Greek word that conveys the idea of someone who is frozen in place. Here is a man who thought he was serving God by persecuting those who were Christians (Acts 26.9). Jesus appears to him, and he realized he was wrong. This left him frozen in fear. Keep reading, and you will find that he refused to eat and drink (Acts 9.7-9). What you are reading about is Saul’s contrition. Further into the chapter, Saul comes to Damascus, finds Ananias, and is baptized. Why was Saul baptized? Back in verse 6, Saul asked, *“What do you want me to do?”* Jesus replied that in Damascus, he would be told what to do. He came to Damascus and was told to be baptized. In verse 18, he did as he was told, and was baptized. The emphasis of Acts 9 is the heart of Saul and how he felt leading up to his conversion in baptism.

Here is the point that we need to apply. It was not hard for Saul to obey the gospel because of the condition of his heart. When a person realizes that they are not right with God, they are compelled to do whatever it is that they must do to be right with God. To be converted, one needs to have a change of heart. CLP