



# *I Peter*

## **THE HUNGRY LION**

### **I Peter 5:8-11**

#### **Study Guide**

1. Suffering saints need imperatives from God. But they are not without compassion and provision for carrying them out. Peter tells his readers to “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.” Here are two commands (aorist tense in the Greek) that give direction to Christians “living in spiritual conflict.” Compare the command regarding a sober spirit to 1 Peter 4:7. Why do you think it is so important for the Christian to exercise good judgment in times of suffering? What is there about pain and suffering that can disorient us? How does this command relate to what Peter has just said about casting all our anxieties upon God (v. 7)?
2. The command to be watchful is a call for spiritual alertness. What is taught elsewhere in Scripture regarding watchfulness (Matt. 26:38, 40-41; Acts 20:31; Col. 4:2; Rev. 3:2, 3; 16:15)? What would spiritual drowsiness be like? Describe such a Christian. Satan may be crouching in the bushes of testing ready to pounce. What are some of the ways in which Satan attacks Christians: Jas. 4:7; Gen. 3:1-6; Rev. 12:10; Job 1:11; 2:5; Zech. 3:1; Lk. 22:31; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 13:38, 39; Eph. 6:11, 12; 2 Cor. 11:14-15; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; Rev. 2:24?
3. Another command is given. Christians are told to “resist” the Devil (v. 9). How is the believer to do combat with him (Eph. 6:10-18)? Briefly define each

part of the Christian’s armor. Satan is a strong foe. Is our defeat by him inevitable? Peter adds the words “firm in your faith.” What can be done to make sure this happens?

4. How does the reminder of the suffering of others encourage Christians? Do you know of Christians who are suffering persecution for their faith at this present time? Look on the back of the Berachah May or June Prayer Calendar. Take some time to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
5. Do you think the words “for a little while” (v. 10) may have given comfort to Peter’s readers? What word does Peter use later in verse 10 that would stand in contrast to “a little while”? The words “perfect,” “confirm,” “strengthen,” and “establish” represent what God would do for His people after they have suffered. By using a good Bible study tool (e.g., a commentary, a study Bible), explain briefly how these words offer comfort to hurting Christians.
6. Peter offers a brief doxology (v. 11). What is there about this doxology that Peter is highlighting? As you answer this keep in mind the always pressing problem of evil in this world. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!