



- Peter writes to the elect exiles
 - They have God's power, grace and the hope of salvation, mercy
 - They are God's chosen people
 - abstain from passions of the flesh
 - subject
 - They are going to suffer for following Christ, and need to entrust their souls to God
- Peter concludes his letter by reminding them of who is behind their suffering and how to resist him



- 1 Peter 5:8 Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - In some ways, we may have ridiculed and mythologized Satan so much that we fail to be truly concerned about him
 - A cartoon figure
 - A song character that plays a fiddle
 - The ruler of hell
- Maybe without really thinking about it, we've dismissed him as unreal and unimportant
- Maybe, if we're not careful, we end up cuddling up to him.



- 1 Peter 5:8 Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- Adversary
 - enemy, opponent
 - Satan (adversary)
 - accuser (Revelation 12:10)
 - deceiver (2 Cor. 11:3; Revelation 12:9 — whole world)
 - liar - (John 8:44)
 - murderer (John 8:44)



- What is the Devil's desire for us?
 - 8) Devour: eaten up, destroyed, consumed
 - 9, 10) Suffering; suffered a little while
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV) 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
 - 7) Anxieties: casting all your anxieties on him
 - (entrusting your soul to a faithful creator (1 Peter 4:19))?



- The suffering, trials, and struggles we face are not just arbitrary (for being a Christian, anyway)
 - It's not just evil men.
 - It's not your own fault.
 - It's not God punishing or chastising you for your sins.
- Jesus faced this adversary in a variety of ways too
 - temptation in the wilderness
 - Peter's rebuke
 - Judas
 - Family
 - Religious leaders



- Resist Him (9)
 - Don't over estimate Satan (he's not deity, nor does he have unlimited power or knowledge)
 - Don't under estimate Satan (not myth, allegorical, imaginary)
 - Serpent, Dragon, Lion
 - Is Satan still active?
 - Active in the NT times, but no longer active?



- How do we resist the Devil? How do I resist the Devil?
 - So many allies — powerful in their own ways
 - As in Peter: the government
 - Society, the World (they think it's strange ...)
- Jesus has dominion
 - 1 Peter 4:11 To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - 1 Peter 5:11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.



- Resist Him
 - withstand, oppose
- Firm in your faith (v. 9)
- Firm in the grace of God (v. 12)



- Firm
 - strong, immovable
 - (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged - Little Kittel)) In 1 Pet. 5:9 believers are to be steadfast in their faith, resisting the devil. The stress here is on faith; the word *stereós* strengthens the exhortation to resist. The term is always positive in the NT.
- Stand Firm
 - Persist, endure



- Faith
 - We often emphasize the importance of our faith (properly)
 - Hebrews 11:1-2 (ESV) 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.
 - Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.



- Abraham's faith was based in how he trusted that God was able to keep his promises.
 - Faith is about who more than anything else.
 - Romans 4:20-21 (ESV) 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.



- Grace

- We often don't bring this up at all
 - defining "grace" as "undeserved favor" how is that something we can stand firm in it?
- We're missing the point about grace, and forget that we can depend on God's grace
- Just like Abraham's faith
 - Romans 4:16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,



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- Romans 4:16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,
- Romans 5:2 (ESV) 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.



- Ephesians 2:4-8 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.
- We can rely on God's grace in our lives

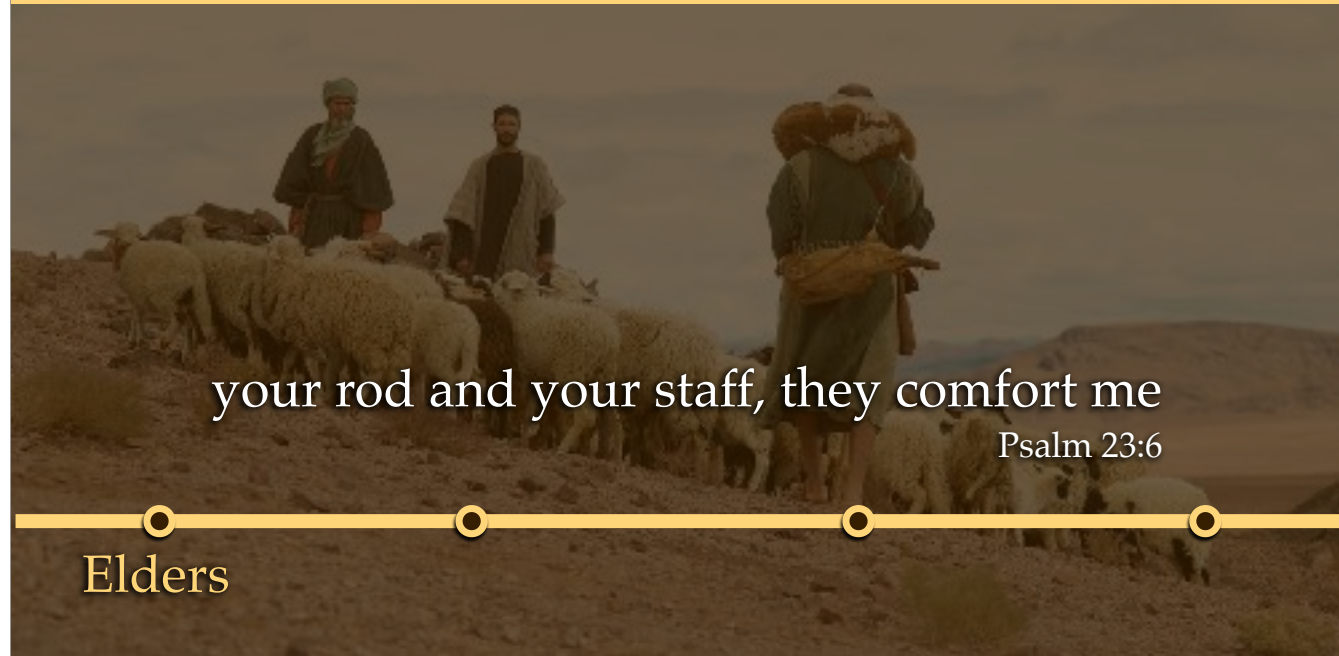
Firm in FAITH — RESIST — Firm in GRACE

- We can Resist the Devil
 - Firm in your Faith
 - Standing Firm in the Grace of God
- These are very powerful
- Four Specifics
 - Elders
 - Humility
 - Soberminded & Watchful
 - Called to Eternal Glory

Firm in FAITH

RESIST

Firm in GRACE



your rod and your staff, they comfort me

Psalm 23:6

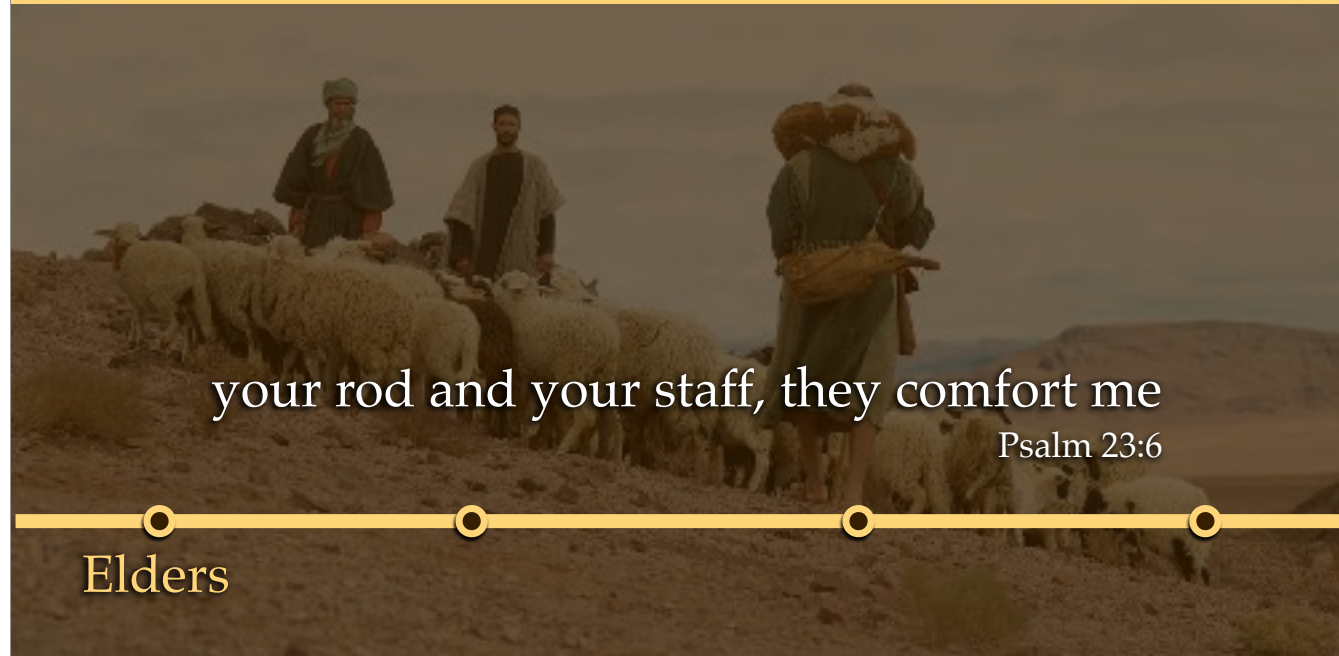
Elders

- Elders who Shepherd the flock (1-4)
 - Oversight
 - willingly, eagerly, examples
 - Shepherd
 - Feed and Care for the flock, tend
 - Acts 20:29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;
 - Psalm 23:6: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Firm in FAITH

RESIST

Firm in GRACE



your rod and your staff, they comfort me

Psalm 23:6

Elders

- When struggling with Satan, where can you turn to find someone who cares about your soul?
 - Who's ready to protect you?
 - Who stands beside you?
 - Who gives you comfort?
- We aren't very comfortable with our shepherd's yet.
 - There are relationships to be built and trust to be gained.

Firm in FAITH — RESIST — Firm in GRACE

I have calmed and quieted my soul

Psalm 131:2

Humility

- Humility (5-7)
 - God gives grace to the humble!
 - Stand firm in God's grace.
 - Clothe yourselves:
 - to make your essential characteristic
 - always a part of your conduct toward others
 - 5: younger to elders
 - 5: toward one another
 - 6: God

Firm in FAITH

RESIST

Firm in GRACE

I have calmed and quieted my soul

Psalm 131:2

Humility

- It seems almost counterintuitive to us
 - Warriors who resist know their strength, are courageous and determined
 - But God wants us to humble ourselves before him, since he is our warrior, savior and deliverer

Firm in FAITH — RESIST — Firm in GRACE

I have calmed and quieted my soul

Psalm 131:2

Humility

- Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (ESV) 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Firm in FAITH — RESIST — Firm in GRACE

I have calmed and quieted my soul

Psalm 131:2

Humility

- Psalms 131 (ESV) 1 O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. 3 O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

Firm in FAITH — RESIST — Firm in GRACE

I have calmed and quieted my soul

Psalm 131:2

Humility

- 1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, **under the mighty hand** of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
- 1 Peter 5:11 To him be the **dominion** forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because **he cares for you.**

Firm in FAITH

RESIST

Firm in GRACE

we would not be outwitted by Satan;
for we are not ignorant of his designs

2 Corinthians 2:11

Sober-minded
& Watchful

- 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful.
 - Sober-minded: dealing with reality, thinking clearly
 - Not swayed by fear of devil, world
 - Not deceived by Satan, society
 - Watchful
 - alertness, awareness, mindfulness
 - Not just what is happening, but aware of what might happen
 - Prepared

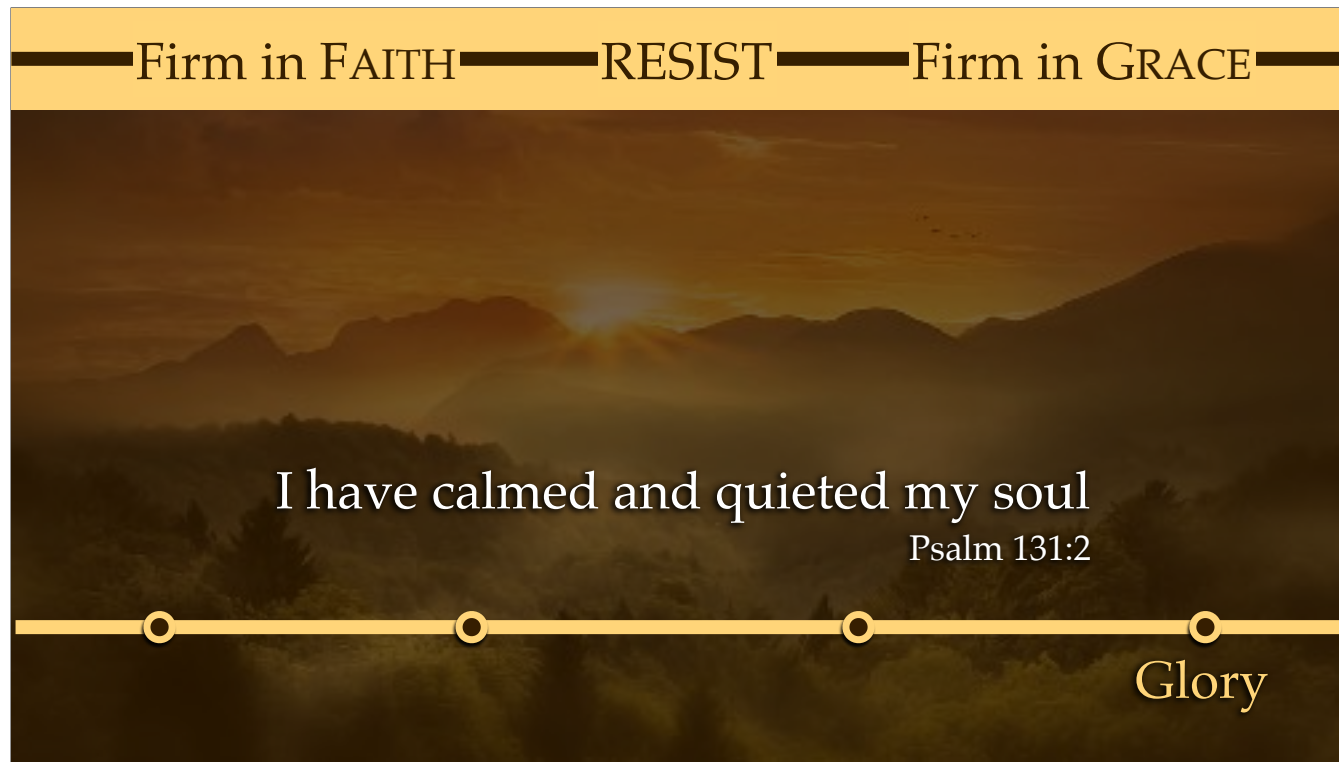
Firm in FAITH — RESIST — Firm in GRACE

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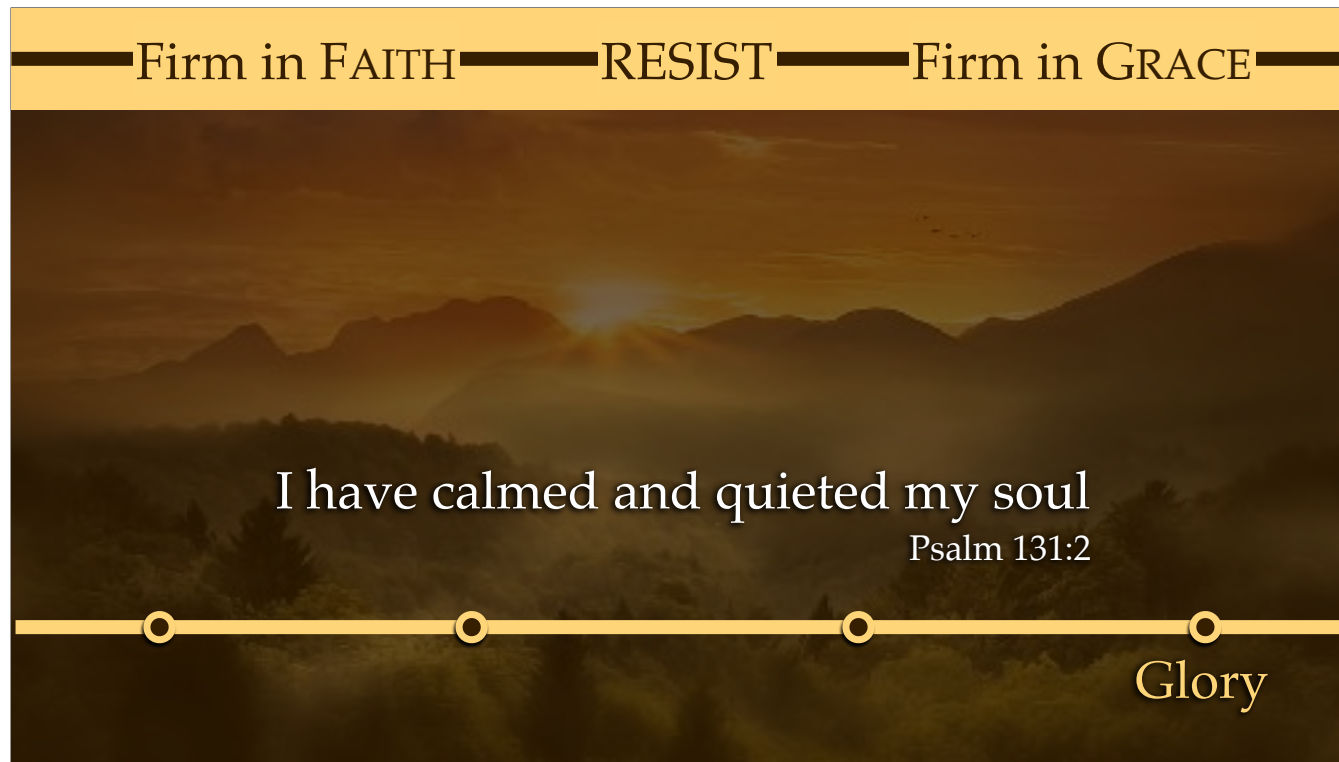
2 Corinthians 2:11

Sober-minded
& Watchful

- 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (ESV) , 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.
- Ephesians 4:25-27 (ESV) neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.



- 1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
- In the midst of such suffering, and the attacks of the Devil
 - The God of All Grace
 - Called to Eternal glory
 - (He didn't call you to suffering?)
- Looking forward to the fullest expression of God's grace
 - We will be glorified
 - And it doesn't feel like it now at all.
 - Glory awaits



- Destination matters:
 - Don't be distracted by the side sights
 - Satan is very good at distraction
 - Life, eternal life, hope, salvation
 - glory
- But what does that mean? (vs. 10)
 - restore (you've lost things, he gives more)
 - confirm (your life feels out of control, he stabilizes)
 - strengthen (the constant struggle makes you feel weak, he gives you strength)
 - establish (you shaken, he gives you a firm foundation)



- 1 Peter 5:12: I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.
- We do face struggles — faith and grace
- We have an adversary — faith and grace
- Victory in Jesus and Eternal Glory

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Firm

1 Peter 5

Synopsis: As Peter concludes this letter to the elect exiles, in the face of so much suffering, he reminds them that they do have a powerful adversary, but they can resist him. Four aids in resisting the Devil are the elders, humility, being sober minded and watchful, and focusing on eternal glory.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”