



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:8-11

Enemy #1 - Satan

Have you ever wondered why life seems so hard? Why school doesn't seem fun? Why your relationships are filled with highs and lows? Why it seems no matter what you do, you can't do anything right and you just feel terrible about yourself? Have you ever wondered why everything your parents tell you not to do seems so much more enjoyable than what you are supposed to do? Have you ever wondered if it seems like there is some force that is constantly working against you and tricking you?

It's not just an unseen force, it's an evil force that is very real. His name is the devil, and he will do anything he can to devour you.

The apostle Peter warns us about the evil and the danger of the devil. He's not just some force of evil. He's not some goofy figure dressed in red with pointy horns and a pitchfork. He's not something unseen that won't do you harm. No, he is a real being. He is looking to devour you. The goal of the devil is to rip your focus and your attention away from Christ. He will do whatever he can because he doesn't want you to be with Jesus in heaven.

The hard part is that the devil doesn't show himself—just like a lion hiding in the long, tall grass, waiting and watching so that he can pounce and then devour you. He doesn't come to you looking like the most evil man in the world. Instead, he comes to you like a friend and as someone who seems to care about you. He gives you beautifully wrapped gifts. But as you unwrap them, it ends up being nothing but a box of worms.

Peter tells us, "Stand firm." You don't have to fall victim to the devil. You can say "No" to the devil. "Resist him!"

Why can you do this? Because God, the God of grace, makes you strong. He restores and forgives you when you fall. He gives you the strength and the ability to stand firm. In his love and mercy, he will keep you safe from the devil's attacks.

One way he does that is simply by warning you about the devil. He also does it through his Son Jesus, who removed the lion's teeth and made his bite nothing. Jesus crushed the power of the devil on the cross and when he rose from the dead. To him be the glory!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help me flee from the attacks of the devil. Keep me strong and focused on you. Amen.