



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 27th February 2022

Standing firm in faith. 1 Peter 5

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

1 Peter 5:8-14

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Comment

Charles De Gaulle addressed his country on 18th June 1940 urging the people of France to resist the Nazi occupation and collaborating Vichy government. In our reading Peter is also calling us to be resistance fighters and take up the fight against the Devil's occupation of this world. He calls us to be alert and vigilant, gathering information to help us plan our strategy of prayerful resistance. We are to be sober, calm and collected, temperate, not drawing attention to ourselves but working under the radar. We are to learn the tactics of the enemy who roars to bring fear and display his power, ready to devour any who fall for his ploys. But he is a defeated foe, the cross and resurrection has the victory over him. But just as the D-Day landings signalled the end of the war, the final victory was still a few years away until the allies reached Berlin. So, it is with us, we are living between the Cross and second coming of the Lord. We take up the fight against our enemy by not fighting against flesh and blood but against the powers and principalities pulling the strings behind the scenes. We make our stand, resisting the enemy with the belt of truth around our waist, breast plate of righteousness, feet shod with the gospel of peace. Putting on the helmet of Salvation, taking up the shield of faith, and wielding the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Praying always with every kind of prayers and requests. One of the most important roles for the resistance fighters was providing safe passage to those stuck behind enemy lines. We too have this role, seeing to the poor, setting the captives free and healing the blind. We are the resistance, freedom fighters of the Lord stand firm!

Questions

1. What do you find most encouraging about this passage? What do you find most challenging?
2. How does this passage inform our response to global events like the Crisis in Ukraine?
3. In what ways does the devil roar and devour people?
4. In what ways can we see the Kingdom of God advancing?
5. Should Christians always be optimists? When is it right to be pessimistic or warn of danger?
6. How can we encourage one another to stand firm in the faith?

Pls pray for our brothers and sisters around the world as we navigate uncertain times.

