

IGNORE THE ROAR

Do not be paralyzed by the devil's roar: continually resist him and he *will* flee.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ An expert says the following of the king of the beasts: Lions...are not particularly known for their stamina.... Although they can reach speeds of 81 km/h, they only can do so for short bursts, so they have to be close to their prey before starting the attack. They take advantage of factors that reduce visibility; many kills take place near some form of cover or at night.
- ❖ Most of the time the lion is very quiet about its work—until it has succeeded in destroying its prey. When it has eaten and is quite full, then it is free to give a mighty roar.
- ❖ Peter tells us the devil goes around like a roaring lion, but there's a big difference between what he does and what a real lion does. The lion roars when it is full; the devil roars while he's still hungry, *seeking* whom he may devour! (See 1 Peter 5:8.)
- ❖ In other words, the devil is roaring on an empty stomach, hoping to have us think he's really powerful.
- ❖ Amos asked the question: "Will a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den, if he has caught nothing?" (See Amos 3:4.) The devil does. He roars while still seeking his prey.
- ❖ Everyone has their favorite delicacies, things they like to eat above all else. The devil is no different.
- ❖ What the devil wants to consume—his *delicacies*—are Christians, but rare delicacies such as Christians come at a very high price and cannot be caught at will.
- ❖ In fact, to get the greatest prize of all, none other than the Christ of Christianity, Satan was willing to give up everything he had. He went so far as to show Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, saying, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:8-9).
- ❖ His strategy has not changed: he stalks us, looks for weak points to attack, and seeks to instill fear through his roar to immobilize us and make us an easy meal.
- ❖ However, Peter gives us the means and the method by which we can thwart the devil's attack: "RESIST HIM, steadfast in the faith"! (See 1 Pet. 5:9.)
- ❖ The apostle James joins in with the same instruction: "RESIST the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Ignore the roar!
- ❖ The Lord wants us to follow His example and defeat Satan everywhere, every time. He wants us to do exactly as He did—condemn sin (and consequently Satan) in our flesh (Romans 8:3).
- ❖ The quote above says, "[Lions] take advantage of factors that reduce visibility; many kills take place near some form of cover or at night."
- ❖ The devil hates light. So, let's keep the Word of God, our light source, constantly shining in our lives. "The entrance of Your words gives light" (Psalm 119:130).

KEY SCRIPTURES: 1 Peter 5:8-11; Amos 3:4; James 4:7; Romans 8:3

- “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105).
- ❖ “Lions sneak up to the victim until they reach a distance of approximately 30 meters or less. They usually target the closest prey.”
- ❖ The closest prey is usually the one who's wandering away from the herd. The lion loves to attack the young, the old, the sick, the weak, the rebel, etc. Those who are simply not staying abreast of what's happening around them.
- ❖ The satanic lion would not dare get too close to the “Lion of the tribe of Judah,” but if we wander away, we put ourselves at great risk.
- ❖ When the lion feels the time is right, “The attack is short and powerful; they attempt to catch the victim with a fast rush and final leap. The prey is usually killed by strangulation. Smaller prey... may simply be killed by a swipe of a lion's paw.”
- ❖ What kind of target are you? How does the devil look at you? What would it take for him to defeat you? Are you so close to Jesus that you are totally protected?
- ❖ The expert continues: “[Lion's] numbers are going down.... Although the cause of the decline is not fully understood, habitat loss and conflicts with humans are currently the greatest causes of concern.”
- ❖ That's the reality we *should* see being played out in the spirit realm. The devil's power and influence *should* be declining the longer he deals with us! His greatest concern *should* be contact with the child of God!
- ❖ Let him roar. Let him try to defeat the people of God. Through Christ, we are MORE than conquerors (Rom. 8:37). Ignore the roar. Go forward in victory!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. The lesson asks the following: “How does the devil look at you? What would it take for him to defeat you? Are you so close to Jesus that you are totally protected?” What is your response?
2. James 4:7 says to resist the devil and he will flee. What methods can one use to make this possible?
3. Provide scriptures from the Word of God—our light source—that can help us ignore the devil's roar and go forward into victory.

Prayer Time

“On the winning side, I'm on the winning side, I'm on the winning side with Jesus; Though hot may be the fray, My soul can boldly say, I'm on the winning side with Jesus.”

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What animal do you most identify with? What are the aspects of this animal that best describe you?