

SUSTAINING YOUR SOUL PART IV
I PETER 5:6-9 & MATTHEW 14:30-31
SPEAKER: PASTOR MATT FRANCE
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I. YOU WERE BORN INTO A BATTLE

- I Peter 5:6-9, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...”
- Key: “The birth mark of a believer is a bulls eye.”
- Vs. 6 - “Mighty hand of God”
- What does that phrase mean?
- Vs. 7 - Casting all my anxiety on Him because He cares for you!
- Vs. 9 - “Resist him” – Two words, stand and against...stand against him. It doesn’t say “run” it says “resist”.
- It says for those of you under attack, resist means to come under the mighty hand of God.
- Truth: “God will often use discomfort to move you into your destiny.”

II. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON HIM

- Where is your focus?
- Fear keeps us from experiencing God’s power.
- Key: The solution is faith over fear. Faith is the only antidote to fight against fear, worry and the things we struggle with.

- Peter had a focusing problem? He took his eyes off Jesus.
- Remember you are “in His grip.” He has got me and you in His mighty hand of protection.

III. HE CAN GROW YOU IN THE BATTLE

- The goal isn’t to be without worry or fear or anxiety the goal is to grow.
- Vs. 10 – “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace...will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.”
- Confirm = establish you, firm you up
- Strengthen you = literally - To make you more able
- Establish you = to lay a foundation
- Focus on Him and you will grow. Don’t focus on external things that cause you fear and anxiety.
- It’s easy to focus on those things right now?
 - Work? Finances? Church? School? Kids? Marriage? Friendships? Health? Sports? Government? Life disappointments?
- Luke 8:14, “The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”
- What chokes out the heart of God?
- Worry
- Cast your cares on Him because He cares for you!
- Philippians 4:6-7 NIV, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”