Dear Open Door Family,

With our new president taking office we need to remember that our responsibility as good citizens and as Christians is to pray for him. Many have speculated that things are getting worse. Certainly the economic situation does not look good. However, if we truly believe that God is Sovereign we will pray for our president and our political leaders as God's Word tells us. Though we do not know what the future may bring, one thing we know for sure is that we are always in a SPIRITUAL battle. I love the honesty, the challenge, and encouragement in these verses.

1 Peter 4:7 *(ESV) The end of all things is at hand; therefore be SELF-CONTROLLED and SOBER-MINDED for the sake of your prayers.*

1 Peter 5:8 *(ESV) Be SOBER-MINDED; be WATCHFUL. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

James 4:7 *(ESV) SUBMIT yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

No matter what you believe about the end times, one thing is clear. We are closer to them than we have ever been before. The answer is to be self-controlled and sober-minded so that we can PRAY. We are also called to be sober-minded and watchful because Satan wants to destroy us. Carol wrote me this thought about this verse. *"It is sobering to think that undisciplined, drowsy Christians have a bull's-eye on their backs. It makes me want to exercise Spiritually."* Amen. I love the solution to it all. To completely and totally surrender to the Lord Jesus and then Stand up and Resist the devil. Yes, we need to be awake and alert to see him coming but if we are alert, if we seek God's strength and help, He will give us the ability to Resist the devil. And when we do Satan knows it is not us but God himself standing there resisting him and he will flee. That is a promise from God. PTL!

PRAYER: Lord God, thank You that You have vanquished Satan completely. You have already won the war. Thank You that through Your power helping me to resist him Satan has no chance at all. Please Lord God, may I learn to submit more and more to You and Your hand in my life.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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