

1 Peter: "Humble Vigilance"

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Scripture

1 Peter 5:5-11

"You younger men, likewise, **be subject to your elders**; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore, **humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God**, that He may exalt you at the proper time"

"**casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you."

"**Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** But **resist him, firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."

"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Last Week

We looked at Peter's call to the leaders of the various house churches to be shepherds of their flock

We discussed the role of the shepherd and how they need to lead with grace and be an example for them

This Week

We discuss our adversary, the devil, and how he seeks to attack us

We speak about having the humility necessary to trust in God for our protection

We look forward to the future perfection we will have when the Lord returns

A Herd of Bison

Wear Humility Well

After writing to those who lead -> the older, mature shepherds of the house

Peter turns his attention to the younger men who could be rising into leadership roles

1 Peter 5:5-6

"You younger men, likewise, **be subject to your elders**; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore, **humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God**, that He may exalt you at the proper time"

"**be subject to your elders**" -> willingly submit to the direction of the Elders – *presbuteros* in the Greek

Don't try and run the show and take over everything -> **don't think you're invincible**

"all of you" -> everyone in the various congregations

clothe yourselves with humility toward one another -> "wear" humility as putting on a shirt

God doesn't want arrogance in leadership of the church

God doesn't want someone coming in, making his own rules, attempting to overturn everything

Instead, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE" -> **Proverbs 3:34**

He is repeating something he mentioned earlier in his letter:

1 Peter 3:8-9

"To sum up, all of you **be harmonious**, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and **humble in spirit**; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult but giving a blessing instead."

Peter was writing to husbands and wives to be submissive to one another -> then applies to everyone

Now he is on to those who are rising in spiritual maturity -> be humble -> and applies it to everyone

"Therefore, **humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God**"

Voluntarily, be humble, knowing that God is the one that controls your rise into leadership

"that He may exalt you at the proper time" -> when you are ready, God will move you up into a leadership role

Have that example of Jesus in front of you:

Philippians 2:3-7

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men."

Some younger pastors are not ready for a leadership role, they need seasoning and experience

Often, though, they desire a senior role even though they are not prepared for that yet

Peter tells them to wait their time; God will bring them forward when they have the right experience to serve

Delegate Anxiety

Peter then discusses how his audience should deal with the anxiety of being persecuted

1 Peter 5:7

"**casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you."

Anxiety is "the fear that God is going to get it wrong"

Bitterness is "the belief that God got it wrong"

Being anxious or bitter shows a lack of knowledge about who is in control and a lack of trust in God

Peter reminds us that God is in control of our circumstances

If you are experiencing anxiety, Peter says to cast that anxiety on God

Casting means "to place something on someone else", like putting a blanket over a child

So, we are called to place any anxious thoughts on God's able and strong hands rather than dwell on it alone

Too often, we try and take on all the troubles of our lives and solve problems ourselves

God wants us to give up these burdens and rely on Him

Why?

"because He cares for you" -> We were never programmed to deal with high levels of anxiety

And yet, the highest selling drug on the planet over the last two decades is, most likely, XANAX

People worry about everything -> and most of these are events they cannot control

Instead, we should simply trust God

Isaiah 26:3

"The steadfast of mind **You will keep in perfect peace**, because he trusts in You."

Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

Proverbs 30:5

"Every word of God is tested; **He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.**"

Simply trust the Lord in whatever situation you find yourself in -> trust in His goodness and in His care

If you've ever said, "I'm not sure how much more I can take", it's time to give it to Him

Instead of being anxious about things to cannot control, Peter writes about what we should do:

Resist the Devil

1 Peter 5:8

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert" -> we are to be watchful, on the alert, vigilant for what might come

Instead of anxiety of what may come, we are to be vigilant -> meaning that we are calm and under control

The watchman was always looking from his post for an attacking army to warn the people

Who should we be on alert against?

"Your adversary, the devil" -> devil means "a deceiver and slanderer" -> someone who maliciously maligns us

He is the accuser of the brethren

Revelation 12:9-10

"And the great dragon was thrown down, **the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world**; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.**"

What does the devil do? -> his number one attack is accusation -> "You're not chosen; you're not a believer!"

"prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"

He is on the prowl looking to reclaim those that were under his control but have been rescued by Jesus

Colossians 1:13

"He has **rescued us from the dominion of darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son."

We have been pulled from Satan's clutches by God

Not surprisingly, Satan does not like that and wants to wreck our lives

While being watchful, if he attacks us, what should we do?

1 Peter 5:9

"But **resist him, firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."

"resist" means "to set oneself against, to withstand, or to oppose" someone

Take a stand against the devil

How do we do that?

We first need to understand our enemy

I remember hearing a few people yelling out loud at Satan and rebuking him -> "I rebuke you, Satan!"

Anyone heard someone do that before?

Is that what we should be doing?

No!

The archangel Michael is God's chosen protector of Israel

Daniel 12:1

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince **who stands guard over the sons of your people**, will arise."

He is a powerful angel

In **Daniel 10**, he comes to rescue another angel who was sent to give Daniel an interpretation

And yet, when there was a fight between the devil and Michael over Moses's body:

Jude 9

"Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, **did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'**"

Michael delegated that rebuke of the devil to "the Lord" -> If the most powerful of angels doesn't do it...

Incidentally, why would the devil fight over the body of Moses?

The devil is the deceiver, wanting to keep people away from the truth about God

He wants to get them trapped into a false religion -> worshipping someone other than Jehovah-Yahweh

God did rebuke Satan and took care of the body of Moses, personally:

Deuteronomy 34:5-6

“Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day.”

No one knows where Moses is buried because if the Jews knew where he was buried, they would have built a religion around visiting his burial place

Muslims travel to Mecca -> Mohammed's body

Instead of rebuking the devil, we resist him by staying:

“**firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

Staying firm in your faith means abiding in Jesus -> **John 15:1-5**

Remaining focused on Jesus and Him alone

Ephesians 6:14-17

“Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** in addition to all, **taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.** And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**”

We learn from Peter that suffering comes from the devil

We withstand the suffering and remain firm in our faith to resist him and trust in God

God will strengthen us to withstand anything that comes at us:

Being Strengthened by God

1 Peter 5:10-11

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, **will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.**”

Even though we may suffer “for a little while” we know that God will be gracious to us

He “called you to His eternal glory in Christ” -> we are chosen by Him

He will “perfect us, confirm us, strengthen us, and establish us”

Revelation 3:12

“He who overcomes, **I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.**”

Prayer - Benediction